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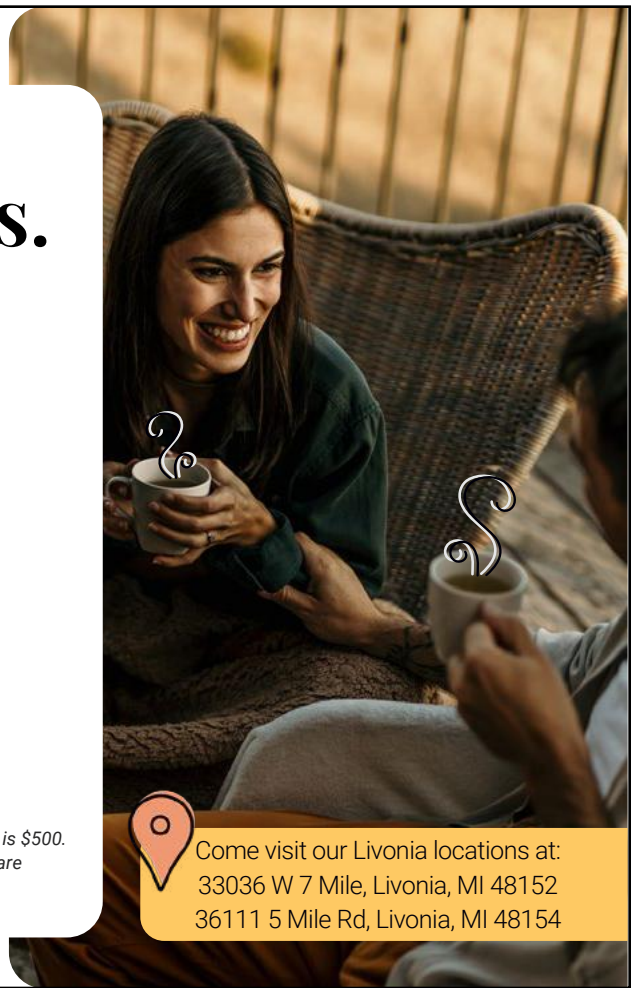
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From the MAYOR



Grateful For All We've Accomplished

As we close out another year in Livonia, I find myself reflecting on just how much we have accomplished together. We have much to be thankful for this year – and so much to celebrate.

We welcomed residents back to a newly renovated Jack E. Kirksey Recreation Center, giving families and neighbors new spaces to gather, play and stay active.

We broke ground on the $5 million reimagining of Shelden Park, bringing an exciting new destination to our community. We celebrated the ribbon-cutting for the new Rotary Park Pavilion, a beautiful space built through perseverance, partnership and the generosity of our community.

We unveiled the "Flowers at Play" mural at Ben Celani Play Area at Bicentennial Park through our partnership with the Detroit Institute of Arts, bringing color and creativity to one of our neighborhood parks.

Livonia residents also made their voices heard in August by overwhelmingly supporting the renewal of our Public Safety and Senior Services and Cultural Arts millages. With 72.5 percent voting in favor of Public Safety and 71.5 percent supporting Senior Services and Cultural Arts, residents demonstrated their commitment to the services and amenities that help make Livonia such a special place to call home.

We also welcomed Ladder 3, our newest fire apparatus, to Station 3 – a significant investment in the safety of our residents and the tools our firefighters rely on every day.

And then came the icing on the cake: 48154 was named the sixth-hottest ZIP code in the country. It is a wonderful recognition of what we already know – Livonia is a great place to live, work, raise a family and call home.

As we look ahead to 2027, I am grateful for all we have accomplished together and excited for what is still to come.

Maureen Miller Brosnan
Mayor





Livonia Public Library Welcomes Korinna Kasara as New Assistant Library Director



KORINNA began working in public libraries at age 16 as a page with the Kent District Library and knew then that working in libraries felt like home.

A degreed librarian since 2003, she has worked in a law library, Class IV and Class VI public libraries, and most recently as a department manager at Henry Ford College's Eshleman Library.

Here is a little Q&A, to get to know Korinna:

Tell us about yourself, and what led you to libraries?

"I knew early on that I wanted to be a librarian. My first job in high school was as a page, and then I worked in the interlibrary loan department all through undergraduate school before heading to a graduate program. The librarians and staff I worked with as a page were supportive, kind women who loved helping the public. This was hugely formative for how I view library staff."

Is there an aspect of libraries that you wish more people knew about?

"That individuals who work in libraries are inherently judgment-free. We want to help and are just so happy that you came into the library."

What are you looking forward to in your current role with the Livonia Public Library?

"I am looking forward to learning more about how the library staff supports the community's interests and needs."

What keeps you motivated, or inspires you?

"Finding opportunities for laughter and being silly keeps me moving through a world that can feel heavy."

Tell us about a book that you read recently that you really enjoyed.

"'Look' by Michelle Obama. A stunning book about a stunning woman and how she intentionally created an outward appearance for the world to see."

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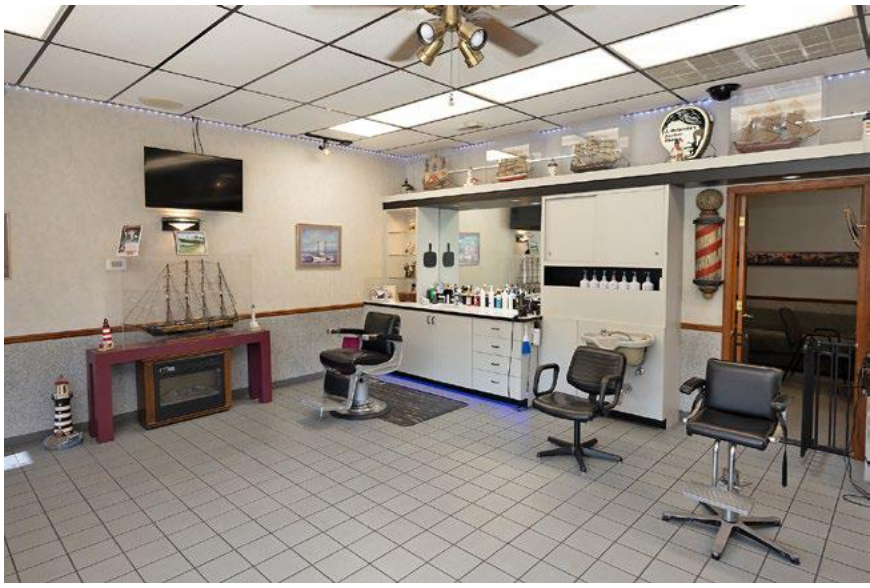
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A Cut Above: J. Orlando's Barber Shop

By Pamela MacIntyre

BARBERING has been part of Jim Orlando's life since he was a teenager. With both his father and uncle in the business, he was introduced to barbering at an early age.

Orlando attended barber college at 17 and began cutting hair professionally at 18, working in his father's barbershop. After eight years, he branched out on his own. Over the years, he has owned and operated several salons, building a long career in the industry.

J. Orlando's Barber Shop was established in 1995, and today Orlando is still behind the chair doing what he has enjoyed since he was 18.

Through the years, one thing has remained especially important to Orlando: his customers.

"The big thing is our customers are the most important thing that comes in these doors," Orlando said. "We want to make them happy."

Orlando has found his own way of keeping that service personal. He maintains a card for each customer with notes about how they prefer their hair cut, updating it whenever their preferences change. The system reflects the attention he gives to each customer and his commitment to providing the cut they want each time they visit.

J. Orlando's is strictly a men's barbershop, offering haircuts and hairstyling at prices Orlando has intentionally kept reasonable. The shop primarily works by appointment, but walk-ins are welcome when time allows.

Orlando also wants his customers to feel comfortable and enjoy their time at the shop. J. Orlando's is bright, open and clean, with plenty of friendly conversation. There is even a large-screen television where customers can catch a game or a show while they are there. It all adds to the relaxed, friendly atmosphere Orlando wants his customers to enjoy.



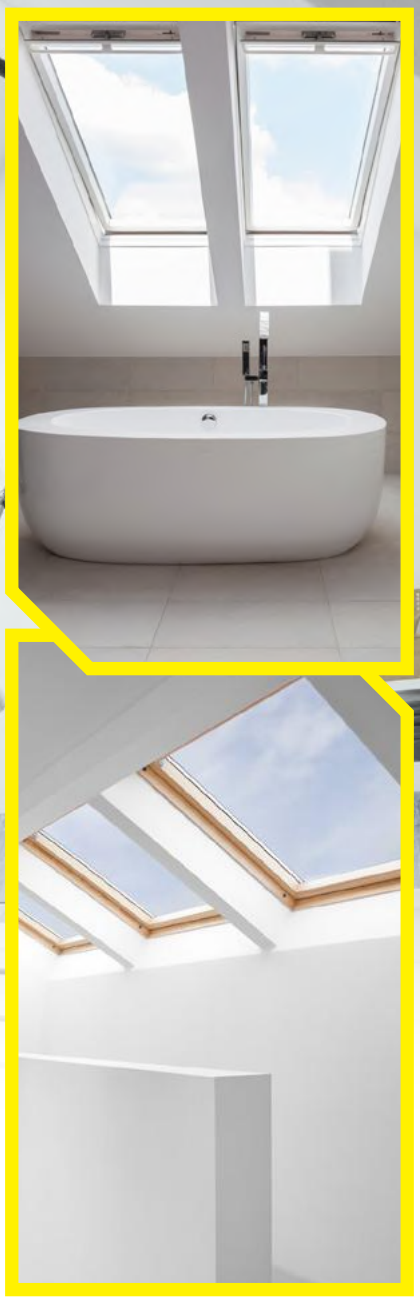
Another familiar face at J. Orlando's is Pepper, Orlando's sweet 6-year-old Australian Shepherd and Lab mix. She accompanies him to work each day and has become the shop mascot and a familiar part of the experience for regular customers.

Even after so many years in the business, Orlando still finds joy in his work, especially when a customer is happy with the results.

"It's a joy when somebody really likes my work," Orlando said. "How can it get any better than that?"

J. Orlando's Barber Shop is located at 27600 West Seven Mile Road in Livonia. Hours are Wednesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Appointments can be made by calling (248) 777-4247 (HAIR).

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A Trusted Partner

Hines Park Lincoln's Commitment to Community Goes Beyond the Showroom

THERE is omething special about a business that becomes part of a community's story. Not simply a place to shop or receive service, but a familiar name built on relationships, trust, and generations of doing right by people.

For families throughout Livonia and the surrounding communities, Hines Park Lincoln has worked to become just that. A place where customers are treated like neighbors, relationships matter, and a commitment to the community extends well beyond the showroom.

A Legacy Built on Trust

Long before today's vehicles, technology, and modern showroom, Hines Park's foundation was built on a simple philosophy established by founder George Kolb: Treat people with honesty, fairness, and respect.

"If it is the truth, honest and fair, then it is good for both of us and therefore the basis upon which our relationship can long endure."



Those words were more than a business philosophy. They became a guiding principle that has carried through generations of the Kolb family and continue to shape the way Hines Park Lincoln serves its customers today.

It's a commitment that goes beyond selling or servicing vehicles. It's about earning someone's confidence, standing behind your word, and building relationships that last for years.

Hines Park LINCOLN

A Connection to the Livonia Community

Livonia has long been a community where family traditions run deep, neighbors look out for one another, and people take pride in the place they call home.

From its established neighborhoods and strong schools to its youth sports programs, local businesses, and generations of families who have made Livonia their home, there's a sense of connection here that makes the community special.

Hines Park Lincoln shares an appreciation for those values.

For the dealership, serving Livonia families means more than helping someone find or maintain a vehicle. It means understanding the importance of trust, personal relationships, and being a dependable resource that customers can turn to year after year.

That connection is reflected in the generations of customers who continue to place their trust in Hines Park Lincoln. Parents who first visited years ago now return with their children. Longtime customers become friends, and familiar faces are welcomed back year after year.

These relationships are at the heart of what makes a family-owned business special, particularly in a community where personal recommendations and lasting connections mean so much.

Showing Up Where It Matters Most

The commitment to community is perhaps most evident in the dealership's belief that strong communities are built by supporting the people and organizations that make them thrive.

Hines Park Lincoln is proud to support Livonia's schools and many of its athletic programs, recognizing the important role they play in bringing families together, developing young people, and building community pride.

Whether it's students working toward their goals in the classroom or young athletes learning the value of teamwork, dedication, and perseverance, these experiences help shape the next generation and strengthen the community as a whole.

Beyond its support of local schools and athletics, Hines Park Lincoln also believes in giving back through charitable organizations such as the local United Way and The Pink Fund, helping make a difference for individuals and families facing difficult circumstances.

For Hines Park Lincoln, community involvement isn't simply about recognition or sponsorships. It's about contributing where it matters, supporting the people who make these communities special, and building relationships that extend beyond the dealership.

It's a commitment that reflects the same philosophy upon which the Hines Park name was built generations ago: When you take care of people, lasting relationships naturally follow.

Carrying the Family Legacy Forward

Today, the values established by George Kolb continue to influence the way Hines Park Lincoln serves its customers and community.

As George's granddaughter and Director of Operations & Administration, Alyssa Kolb Hemmelgarn is part of the third generation of the family helping preserve those traditions. For Alyssa, the family legacy is about more than the automotive business. It's about the relationships, reputation, and trust that have been built over generations.

"One thing my grandfather made very clear is that trust is something you earn every single day," Alyssa said. "It is not built on one transaction, it is built over time, through consistency, honesty and doing what is right."

That philosophy continues to guide the entire Hines Park Lincoln team, from the personal attention customers receive to the dealership's commitment to supporting the communities it serves.



While the automotive industry has changed considerably over the years, the importance of treating people fairly, keeping promises, and building lasting relationships remains as relevant today as it was when George Kolb first established the business.

More Than a Dealership. A Community Partner.

As Livonia continues to evolve and new generations of families make the community their home, Hines Park Lincoln looks forward to continuing the relationships that have connected it to local residents for years.

The vehicles will change. Technology will advance. And new generations will bring new opportunities.

But some things should never change.

A handshake that means something. A familiar face who remembers your name. A business that stands behind its word and believes in giving back to the people who support it.

For Hines Park Lincoln, that's not simply a way of doing business.

It's a family legacy, a community commitment, and a promise worth carrying forward.

A Familiar Face, A New Home



For many Livonia residents, Vicky Elias is already a familiar and trusted face. After spending many years serving customers right here in Livonia, Vicky has built lasting relationships throughout the community through her genuine approach, personal attention, and commitment to putting her customers first.

Now, Hines Park Lincoln is excited to welcome Vicky as its newest Sales Consultant, bringing her experience, familiar smile, and dedication to exceptional client care to a new home.

"For me, it's always been about the people and the relationships we build," Vicky shared. "I want every customer to feel valued, comfortable, and confident that their best interests always come first."

For the many Livonia families who have come to know and trust Vicky over the years, the familiar face and personal attention they've appreciated haven't changed. Only the location has.

Vicky looks forward to welcoming longtime customers and new friends alike to Hines Park Lincoln, where her commitment to exceptional service and lasting relationships continues.

CLERK'S OFFICE

2026 Year-in-Review

THE Clerk's Office is proud to share several important accomplishments from 2026 – each reflecting our ongoing commitment to integrity, service and community engagement.

Strengthening Election Administration and Transparency

This year, the Clerk's Office successfully administered two major elections, ensuring every process – from preparation to certification – upheld the highest standards of integrity, accuracy and transparency. Our team trained all election inspectors in full compliance with Michigan election law, providing them with the knowledge and tools needed to support secure and efficient voting for all residents.

Celebrating Professional Achievement



This year, our deputy clerk, Doris E. DeMarco, achieved an important professional milestone by earning state accreditation through the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks as a Michigan Professional Municipal Clerk (MiPMC). This designation reflects a high level of expertise, dedication and commitment to excellence in municipal service. We are proud of this accomplishment and grateful for the leadership and professionalism our deputy clerk brings to the community each day.

Expanding Community Outreach and Voter Education

Throughout 2026, we significantly expanded our community outreach efforts. The Clerk's Office conducted numerous voter education presentations across the community, helping residents better understand voting procedures, election law changes and available resources. These sessions fostered strong civic engagement and supported voters in feeling confident and informed at the polls.

Building Strong Partnerships and Securing Grant Funding

This year also brought a new and valuable collaboration with the University of Michigan, in addition to the established partnership with Madonna University. These partnerships allow the Clerk's Office fully funded college interns, gaining additional support while offering a meaningful learning opportunity for students interested in public service.

In addition, the Clerk's Office secured grant funding from the State of Michigan to help offset costs associated with operating the community's early voting site. This funding supports safe, accessible and convenient early voting options for all residents.

Welcoming New Team Members

Our department welcomed two new employees in 2026 through internal transfers, strengthening our team and broadening the skills and talents within the office. Additionally, recruitment is underway for a new elections coordinator, as a long-term team member prepares for retirement. We are committed to ensuring a smooth transition and maintaining the reliable election support our community expects.

Advancing Service Delivery and Community Support

The Clerk's Office continued to provide reliable and efficient service to the community throughout 2026. Staff successfully processed hundreds of vital records requests with accuracy and timeliness, ensuring residents received essential documents without delay.

Our team also issued more than 1,800 pet licenses this year, reflecting strong community compliance and engagement. The Clerk's Office completed all required city business licenses for local establishments, supporting economic activity and maintaining compliance with municipal code. Additionally, dog park pass sales were higher than last year, demonstrating increased use and appreciation of this valued community amenity.

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By Terry Jacoby

K&B Energy Solutions believes that trust is earned, and it's how they are building a legacy that positively influences the industry and communities they serve by setting the gold standard for premium heating and cooling services.

The family-owned business – mother, father, sister and brother are all part of the K&B team – turned on the light 10 years ago in Livonia and found a home from that very first day. They have grown to 15 employees in just their first decade.

"We appreciate every investment a customer makes into their homes and businesses," said owner Mathew Arcand. "By choosing K&B Energy, their own project's investment is also an investment of trust into K&B Energy. We value these investments, and we strive to earn them by delivering solutions that reflect high standards of craftsmanship and integrity."

A business doesn't stay in business for 10 years, let alone continue to grow, without satisfied customers. And K&B has earned the trust of many customers over the years.

"Accept no substitutes," said customer Bruce Mirto. "They are simply the best and most experienced Generac installers in my area. They installed my unit four years ago, and annual service and a recent warranty repair have been handled with competence and professionalism. Kudos to the entire crew at K&B. Peace of mind in an uncertain world is hard to find!"

Linella Stewart, another happy customer, agrees.

"My most recent experience with K&B Energy Solutions was during one of our hot days when the power went out and so did my house generator," Stewart said. "The company's repair men were able to resolve my problem with the generator, and I was soon feeling cool in my home again. I would recommend this company for their work ethics and efficiency in getting the job done."

K&B understands that the cost of an investment is not always an easy transaction to make.

"The cost of doing a great job is ultimately in the best interest of our customers, and that's why we approach every project with care, transparency and a commitment to long-term value," Arcand said.

When customers choose K&B Energy, they're not just paying for a service – they're essentially partnering with a team that treats their investment as if it were our own.

"We focus on brands which deliver quality products made with simplicity in mind that are American engineered, manufactured and assembled," Arcand said. "With our years of experience, we're not just another service provider – we're your trusted partner in maintaining a safe, comfortable space. Whether it's heating, cooling or electrical, we offer professional services tailored to meet the unique needs of home and business owners just like you."

To ensure a customer's property remains completely protected, K&B Energy Solutions service standards strictly align with residential infrastructure guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Energy. They pride themselves on delivering not just exceptional service but peace of mind, knowing "you can count on us to keep you powered, comfortable and worry-free – year after year."

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Finding Her Way Home

Lindsay Freda has built a life rooted in family, perseverance and gratitude

By Ryan M. Place



FOR Lindsay Freda, Livonia is more than the place she lives. It's where she discovered who she was, met her future husband and built the family life she treasures today.

Born in Detroit, Freda spent her early childhood there with her two brothers. Her parents divorced when she was 5, and her grandparents became an important source of love and stability in her life.

Her grandparents had an unusual love story of their own. After divorcing, they eventually remarried 37 years later, a remarkable reunion that became part of the family's history.

Freda moved to Livonia at age 12, attending Riley Middle School before graduating from Stevenson High School in 2000. She later attended Schoolcraft College. It was also at age 12 that she first met her future husband through the Livonia Junior Athletic League (LJAL) Eagles.

"He played football, and I was a cheerleader," she recalled.

Although their lives took different directions after high school, they reconnected five years later at a friend's party. The couple married at St. Mary's in 2008. Her husband's service in the U.S. Marine Corps took them to Quantico, Virginia, and Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, giving Freda an opportunity to experience life outside Michigan.

Today, they are raising two children, a 16-year-old son and an 11-year-old daughter, both hockey players.

Family has also shaped Freda's independence and determination.

Growing up, she watched her mother navigate life as a renter, an experience that inspired Freda's early interest in homeownership.

"My mom was always a renter," she said. "I wanted to help her break that cycle and get into a house."



Freda purchased her first home at 19 and her first investment property at 20, developing an appreciation for the security and possibilities that owning a home can provide.

While still a senior at Stevenson, she began working as an executive assistant to a mortgage broker. What started as an early opportunity eventually grew into a career in real estate and finance.

In 2020, after decades of origination, she established Hart Mortgage in Livonia, fulfilling a longtime dream of building a family business. Today, she owns the building where she works alongside relatives, including her mother, who helps at the reception desk three days a week, and her two sisters-in-law, one a real estate broker and the other a loan processor.

One especially meaningful family project involved helping her father purchase a Livonia home near Plymouth and Merriman roads. The property included an adjacent parcel where Freda later helped build a house during the COVID-19 pandemic, overcoming construction challenges and rising material costs.

Beyond work, Freda values the quieter moments of everyday life. She practices yoga and meditation, makes a conscious effort to cultivate gratitude daily and enjoys boating with friends on Belleville Lake.

She also appreciates the changing beauty of Michigan's four seasons and vacationing along Florida's Gulf Coast and among the red rock landscapes of Sedona, Arizona.

Despite having lived in different parts of the country, Freda's connection to Livonia has only deepened over the years.

For someone whose life has included unexpected reunions, new beginnings and the importance of family, home has always represented something more than an address.

"I view Livonia as my real hometown," she said. "Family-friendly neighborhoods, great parks and people. I became who I am here."

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Photo by Rena Laverty



New Ladder 3 Strengthens Livonia's Emergency Response Capabilities

By Fire Chief Robert Jennison

LIVONIA Fire and Rescue officially placed its newest fire apparatus, Ladder 3, into service during a traditional fire service push-in ceremony August 25 at Fire Station 3 on Seven Mile Road. The tradition dates back to the era of horse-drawn fire apparatus, when firefighters would unhitch the horses and manually push equipment back into the firehouse following an alarm. Today, departments across the country continue the tradition when welcoming new apparatus into service.

Delivered in July, the new Pierce Enforcer features a 107-foot aerial ladder, a 2,000-gallon-per-minute fire pump and 500 gallons of on-board water. The apparatus combines the capabilities of a ladder truck and fire engine, allowing firefighters to perform elevated rescue, fire suppression, ventilation and other emergency operations from a single vehicle.

Ladder 3 provides an important addition to the city's emergency response capabilities as Livonia continues to evolve. Firefighters protect nearly 95,000 residents across 36 square miles and respond to emergencies involving homes, multi-story residential buildings, senior housing, hospitals, hotels, schools and colleges, commercial properties, manufacturing and industrial facilities, and large developments throughout the community.

The risks associated with protecting the community have also changed. New construction, larger buildings, modern building materials and increasingly complex occupancies require fire apparatus capable of addressing emergencies well beyond the reach of traditional ground ladders. Ladder 3's 107-foot aerial provides Livonia firefighters with additional capabilities for rescue, roof access, ventilation and fire suppression, including the ability to direct large volumes of water from above when conditions require it.



Photo by Rena Laverty



Photo by Rena Laverty

Assigned to Fire Station 3 near Bicentennial Park, Ladder 3 also improves the geographic distribution of the department's aerial apparatus. With the addition of Ladder 3 and re-positioning of existing equipment, aerial ladder capability is now available from three of Livonia's five fire stations, providing coverage in the northern, central and southern portions of the city.

The new apparatus was made possible in significant part through a $1 million State of Michigan appropriation, along with city funding. The acquisition represents a partnership between state and local government to provide Livonia firefighters with modern equipment designed around the emergency response needs of the community.

Before entering service, Ladder 3 underwent final preparations and equipment installation, and Livonia firefighters completed training to become familiar with the apparatus and its operational capabilities.

The arrival of Ladder 3 is especially fitting during Livonia Fire and Rescue's 85th anniversary year. Founded in 1941, the department has seen tremendous changes in the community, emergency response and firefighting technology. Ladder 3 represents the latest chapter in that history and an investment in providing Livonia firefighters with the equipment needed to safely and effectively serve the community for years to come.

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TJ's Dog Toys

Local elementary student turns frustration into successful business

By Terry Jacoby

STARTING your own small business these days is a difficult endeavor that comes with many challenges, which is why 20 percent fail in the first year and half don't make it to five years. In other words, it's a dog-eat-dog world when it comes to running a small business.

TJ Stapleton-Moleski has already made it past the one-year mark despite facing some big challenges many small business owners don't have to deal with. For one, TJ has to go to elementary school – and, no, he's not a teacher. He also has to go to football practice after school. No, he's not a coach.

TJ is an 11-year-old student in the sixth grade at Cooper Upper Elementary School. He started his business, TJ's Dog Toys, because he was frustrated watching his dogs Nugget and August tear through their dog toys and he just couldn't let sleeping dogs lie.

"Our dogs would get bored with their toys or chew them up so I decided that maybe I could make them toys they would have fun with and would be safe for them," TJ said. "So, I tried. I made one and they actually really liked it. So I wanted to keep trying to make them better and better. And that's how it began."

TJ started his business two years ago and it's been a big hit – for both dogs and dog owners. TJ has made a wide variety of different kinds of dog toys since he started this project. Some of the more popular selling toys include rope toys and fleece ball toys.

"But our most popular toy is our fleece and sweet potato toy," TJ said. "We start by braiding. Then we can knot one side so that way the braid doesn't fall apart. We slide the sweet potatoes on the other side."

And making the sweet potatoes is a very long process.



"Yes, we have to dehydrate the sweet potatoes for around three days," TJ said. "And then we slide them onto the braid, we tie it up and we cut off some of the extra fleece. And that is how a fleece sweet potato toy is born."

TJ sells his toys at local craft fairs like the Wilson Barn. He also donates dog toys to local shelters and rescues like the Detroit Dog Rescue. Each toy costs around $10.

When TJ isn't running his business, he's busy playing sports. And he's tried a lot of them – from karate to gymnastics to snowboarding to basketball. He is currently a member of the Livonia Eagles JV football team.



"I play right guard on the offensive line and also play defense," TJ said. "This is my second year playing football and I really like it."

TJ's dads, Joe and Tony, are obviously very proud of their young entrepreneur.

"He's a great young man who takes great pride in what he does, and he enjoys being active in the community," Joe said. "This started out as a Christmas business but it's gone beyond that now. He attends different craft shows, has garage sales and passes out fliers. It's also been a lot of word of mouth. He's taking the money he makes and reinvesting it into the business."

"I am saving up for a 3D printer so that way I can make other things," TJ said.

If you're interested in purchasing a dog toy(s), contact Joe at moleskijp@gmail.com.















Merry & Bright Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting

Sunday, December 6 • 4 p.m.

Frost Middle School to Livonia City Hall

Line the parade route to cheer on 50+ local community groups, see floats, collect candy and wave to some special guests from the North Pole. The parade ends at City Hall, where Santa will help light the civic campus before visiting with families at the Bennett Civic Center Library.

Enjoy snacks, crafts and visits with both Santa and Mrs. Claus at the library from 5-7 p.m.

Contact Megan at mduby@livonia.gov to participate in the parade.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Filling a Need

School, community join to open free stores

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



THE shelves are stocked with food, the brown grocery bags await their fill and the staff is ready to assist their customers.

Across the hall, racks and shelves are filled with clothing for all ages, the shoes are neatly lined in rows, and even the children's snowpants are hanging and ready to hit the sledding hills this winter.

But, these two "stores" are unlike any others.

Garfield Garments and Garfield Groceries are housed in a wing at Garfield Community School, where Livonia Public Schools operates the Garfield Skills Center for students ages 18-26 who have disabilities.

All food and clothing are free, and students are learning valuable skills as they operate these bustling spaces that are open to the public five days per month.

Garfield Skills Center teacher Brian Karapuz said the practical skills that students are learning in setting up and operating the grocery and garments stores within the school setting is particularly important.

"They can learn at their own pace and make mistakes in a familiar, safe environment, which just makes it easier," he said.

Teacher Tina Tawes said her students are truly understanding the meaning of these spaces.

"It's absolutely beautiful to hear a student who says, 'I'm going to bring in some food.' There is so much confidence and pride," she said.

Garfield Groceries is the third Livonia food pantry supported by the local nonprofit Breaking Barriers for Kids & Families, which serves as a clearinghouse for financial donations and grants that are utilized to stock food pantries at Garfield and also at Franklin High School and Clarenceville Public Schools. They work with corporate donors to secure funding, then partner with Meijer stores for bulk food purchases.





Ann Owen, vice president of Breaking Barriers for Kids & Families and former Livonia Public Schools administrator, said her passion for this project and others in the community comes from a personal place.

While serving as a school principal for many years, she saw firsthand the effects of childhood hunger.

"Kids who come to school hungry cannot learn aptly," she said. "No one should have that barrier to ultimately succeed in life."

Garfield Groceries and Garfield Garments are housed in a wing that was recently renovated to accommodate the space needed, as well as serving the public. A separate entrance is located at Door #5 on the north side of the school, allowing the community to visit without compromising safety and security at the school.

Students gain valuable skills such as organizing, sorting, laundering, folding and hanging clothing; customer service, responsibility and communication.

"This place says so much about what we value and what is important for our district," said Superintendent Andrea Oquist, during the official ribbon cutting on October 6. "It says that we see our students not just as learners but as young people with lives and families and circumstances that matter."

Director of Student Services Maegan Sprow said the spaces not only serve a need in the community, they offer valuable skills for students' futures.

"What makes Garfield Groceries and Garfield Garments so special is that it brings together two things that are central to our work in Livonia Public Schools – supporting the needs of our students and families today while preparing our students for independence tomorrow," Sprow said. "These spaces do both. It's amazing."

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Wednesday: 5:30-7 p.m.

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'I'm Thankful For All the Opportunities'

Stevenson three-sport athlete rises to leadership, credits older students for success

By Terry Jacoby



THOSE early days of high school can be very transformative and impactful on a young person, and the lessons learned can help shape you and your personality for the rest of your life. So, it's important to surround yourself with good role models, and fortunately for Bristol Hammond, she didn't have to look far for inspiration when she first walked in the door at Stevenson High School.

Hammond, a standout three-sport athlete for the Spartans, gives a huge assist to her older teammates for helping her get out of the blocks in her first year of high school. That influence has been a key part of her amazing success.

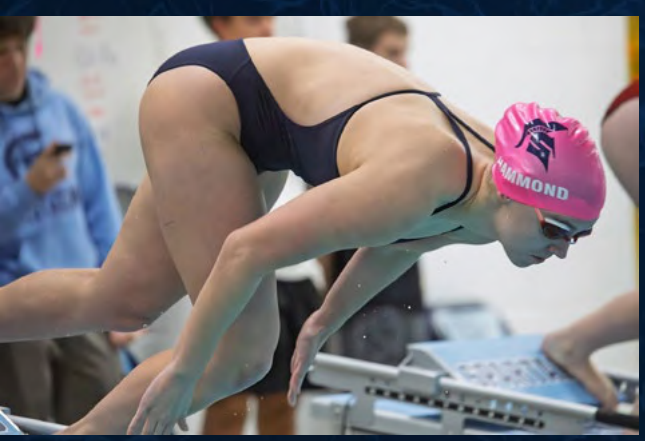
"When I arrived at Stevenson, we had three All-American swimmers, and another (McKenzie Siroky) that trained with us who may be in the upcoming Olympics, and our coach (Greg Phil) was the National Coach of the Year," Hammond said.

Fast forward three years later and the roles are now reversed. She is the one doing the teaching, and as the team captain for the swimming and diving team, it's a responsibility she cherishes.

"It is a great feeling being named a team captain after putting in all that work and seeing how far I have been able to come," she said. "I was so honored for the opportunity to represent such an amazing group of girls. I want to focus on helping my teammates have the best season possible and supporting them, just like the seniors did for me my freshman year."

Hammond is a four-year, three-sport athlete for the Spartans who swims, runs track and was a member of the Livonia United State Championship Girls Hockey Team.

"The thing that amazes me about Bristol Hammond is her time management skills," said Athletic Director Arnold Muscat. "She is involved in so many sports and activities, and she manages to do all of them at exceptional levels. On top of that she is the best teammate to all of her teams and is someone who I would hope Stevenson leaders aspire to."



Hammond is quite busy, on and off the playing field. The senior is class president, National Honor Society officer, GirlUp president, Link Crew leader and a member of Bible Club, DECA, SADD, Glamorgals, Student Senate, Class Council and Rotary Club. The daughter of Cliff and Colleen Hammond also has a 4.0 GPA.



One of her many athletic highlights was as a member of last year's Livonia United state championship girls hockey team.

"It was such a surreal experience winning states last March," said Hammond, who played center and scored the winning goal in triple overtime in the playoff game against Walled Lake to send the team to the finals. "The team worked so hard, and it was incredible to be a part of such an amazing program and play against such talented teams."

Hammond is looking forward to making a big splash in her final year swimming for the Spartans, and competing in track and field in the spring. She also will be spending time this year focused on her future.

"I have visited and toured several colleges and there are so many great options, but I have not made my final decision yet," she said. "I am interested in becoming a doctor, so I know my journey is just beginning. But I always wanted to be a Stevenson Spartan and that is where I am focused now. I am so thankful for all the opportunities I have been blessed with and I am so excited for my senior seasons."

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.

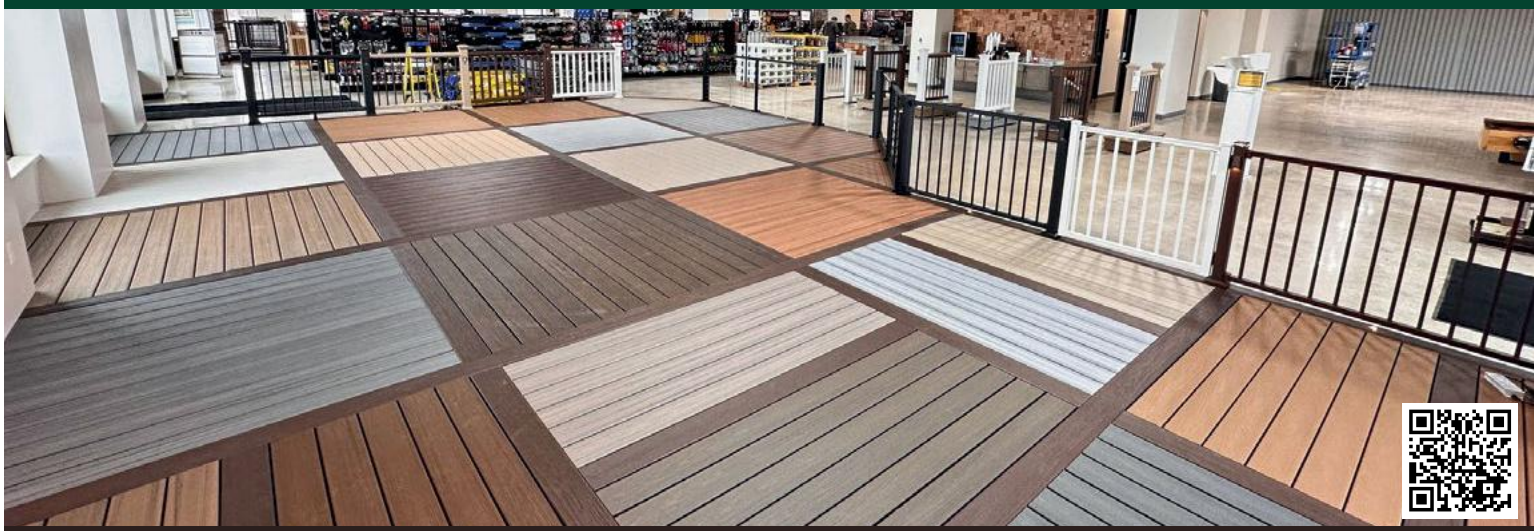
As Northville Lumber approaches its 200th anniversary, the company remains focused on serving the communities that have supported it for generations. With experienced employees, trusted products, lasting customer relationships and a new facility built for the future, Northville Lumber continues to grow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

DEC. 1–28
Deck The Rec*
During Business Hours
The Rec

FRI DEC. 4
Annual Holiday Craft Show
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
LSWC

SAT DEC. 5
Christmas Tea*
3-5 p.m.
Greenmead

SUN DEC. 6
Merry & Bright Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting
4-6 p.m.
City Hall/Library

FRI DEC. 11
Stories, Snacks and Crafts: Reindeer Games*
10-11:30 a.m.
Greenmead

SAT DEC. 12
12 Birds of Christmas*
9-10:30 a.m.
Greenmead

SAT DEC. 12
Lunch With Santa*
10:30 a.m. to noon
LSWC

SAT DEC. 12
The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*
1-2:30 p.m.
LSWC

SUN/MON DEC. 14& 22
North Pole Workshop*
Two dates available.
1-3 p.m. Dec. 14, 3-5 p.m. Dec. 22
The Rec

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THU DEC. 17
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LIVONIA TODAY'S Guide To Health & Wellness

TODAY MAGAZINES
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Aging In Place: Your Questions Answered

THE concept of aging in place, or older adults living independently, safely and comfortably in their own homes, can come with a lot of questions for individuals and their families.

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"Do I have to be ready to join?"

No. Start with your questions. We can talk about what would make life easier now, what concerns you have about the future and whether membership makes sense for you.

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Healthy Holidays

Finding Balance and Joy

As we enter the season of family gatherings, dinner parties and cookie exchanges, navigating through it all can be stressful. However, you don't have to choose between being healthy and enjoying your favorite foods. With a little planning and some moderation, you can make healthy choices and savor all the wonderful things the holiday season has to offer!

Practice some of these tips:

- **Choose balance over indulgence.** Enjoy your special foods in moderation.
- **Stay focused on the bigger picture.** Ask yourself, "Do my choices support an overall healthy me?"
- **Don't starve yourself.** Regular meals help prevent getting overly hungry later.
- **Eat the rainbow.** Build meals around protein, fiber and nourishing foods that help sustain your energy.
- **Take the edge off hunger.** Have a light snack before attending gatherings to avoid overeating.
- **Stay hydrated.** Keep water nearby throughout the day.
- **Pick your favorites.** Skip the foods you do not love and savor the ones you do.
- **Slow down.** Take smaller bites, enjoy the moment and notice when you feel satisfied.

The holidays are a time to celebrate, connect and enjoy favorite traditions. It is possible to do this without going down an unhealthy path. Stay mindful while making choices, keep it all in perspective and remember it's about balance. One celebration will not undo the healthy lifestyle you have worked so hard to maintain. ☀



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





THE ADVOCATE

The Conversation Nobody Wants to Have

IN past articles, I've talked about noticing small changes that make you wonder if an aging parent is really doing as well as they say they are.

Then comes the harder question: *How do I talk to them about it?*

After more than 30 years of helping older adults and their families, I've learned that these conversations are rarely easy.

Start with what matters to your parents.

Do they want to stay in their home? Are they afraid of losing their independence? Are they worried about becoming a burden?

Take the time to understand what your loved one wants.

Instead of saying, "Mom, you can't keep living here alone," try asking, **"Mom, what would help you feel comfortable and safe staying here?"**

Accepting help doesn't necessarily mean losing independence. The right support with meals, transportation, medications, personal care, or home safety may help someone remain independent longer.

And sometimes, senior living may be the right answer.

The goal isn't to convince someone to stay home or to move. **The goal is to understand their needs, wishes and options.**

Most importantly, don't wait for a crisis to start talking. You don't need to make every decision today. Begin the conversation, listen and keep talking.

The earlier families start these conversations, the more opportunity their loved one has to be part of the decisions about their own future.



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

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You're Not Alone This Holiday Season

By Diana Brda, MA, LLP



HOLIDAYS are not necessarily the "most wonderful time of the year" for everyone. For some, the holidays can be a reminder of grief, loss, loneliness, sadness, or anxiety.

Many holiday traditions center around activities with family, which can produce immense feelings of sadness and emptiness for individuals missing the person they once shared those traditions with. Loneliness can be caused by seeing others celebrate holidays together and can make someone feel especially isolated – evoking painful memories of those no longer with them.

Challenging family dynamics may produce distress for individuals during this time of year as well. Changes in family relationships such as divorce, separation, estrangement, relocation, or alterations in family roles can make familiar traditions feel different or less satisfying. For some families, conflict and difficulties during time together with family members can produce stress, tension and emotional exhaustion.

Extraneous factors can contribute to low mood and anxiety as well. For example, some individuals experience financial distress in regard to gifts, travel and hosting holiday events. Disrupted routines due to holiday plans can cause sleep disturbances and changes in work schedules, and shorter days and reduced sunlight may contribute to changes in mood and have a negative impact on emotional well-being.

Overall, remember that you do not have to feel joyful simply because it's a holiday. Give yourself grace and know that you can appreciate the holiday season but still experience it with difficult feelings.

Be sure to check in on others as well, as sometimes the greatest gift you can give someone is to simply remind them that they are not alone this holiday season.

Seek help at the Blackbird Counseling Center, located at 17197 N. Laurel Park Dr, Ste 110, Livonia, MI 48152. Call our office at (734) 744-7252 or email us at blackbirdcounselingcenter@gmail.com.

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At Your Clarenceville Schools...

WE'VE had a great start to our year! Here are the highlights:



Livonia Police received a grant for backpacks to give to our students for the start of the school year!



Our 2025 bond work has begun! New elementary playgrounds were revealed at Grandview and Botsford. Thank you, taxpayers!

We welcomed two new administrators to our district this school year. Welcome Rachel Strickland, principal of Grandview Elementary, and Amy Arft, director of human resources!



Rachel Strickland

As you recall, Ms. Strickland served as the interim principal for Grandview last February through the end of the year. She did a wonderful job fostering great relationships with all of Grandview's stakeholders, developed effective systems where safety is the priority and placed high expectations for our students and staff.



Amy Arft

With over 20 years of progressive HR leadership experience and a career dedicated to building inclusive, high-performing organizations, Ms. Arft brings a strategic, people-centered approach to school districts known for their commitment to equity, engagement and educational excellence. Throughout her career – as executive director of human resources at EEI Global and as a senior HR consultant – she has guided executive teams through transformation, policy modernization and culture-building initiatives that improved engagement scores, reduced turnover and advanced organizational effectiveness. She is passionate about fostering workplaces where educators and staff can do their best work in service of students.



One Clarenceville tradition is Senior Sunrise. Starting at 6:45 a.m., our seniors come together to start their senior year off on a positive note and as a group, where some people have been together for 13 years.

Clarenceville Marching Band



It was also a great start of the year for the Marching Band! Noteworthy happenings include:

- Received a Silver Rating (second highest out of five possible ratings) at MSBOA Marching Festival
- Debuted new uniforms this fall
- Have an entire new Leet set drum fleets – snares, base drums, large quint set, and of course, quads

Clarenceville continues to have a strong focus on careers

Clarenceville School District is committed to preparing students for success beyond the classroom through a strong focus on career awareness and exploration. By providing students with opportunities to discover their interests, explore a variety of career pathways and connect classroom learning to real-world experiences, we are helping them envision their futures and make informed decisions about their next steps.

Our goal is to ensure every student graduates with the knowledge, skills and confidence to pursue college, career training, military service, or direct entry into the workforce.

Here are some examples of this from the start of our school year:





Designing shoes and Manufacturing Day.

- Designing shoes for the Pensole Lewis College
- Asking questions at the forum at the Mike Ilitch School of Business at the Wayne State High School Entrepreneurship Forum.
- Manufacturing Day at MacLean Fogg
- An exciting opportunity for our Clarenceville Middle School students as we welcome the Medtronics STEM truck on November 19 and 20. The Clarenceville School District is the first district in Michigan and the first district in the country to host the Medtronics semi-truck. It is a 53-foot traveling mobile STEM lab and immersive learning experience designed for middle school students in grades 5-8, with a focus on expanding access for low-income and under-resourced households to bring health career exploration and awareness to our students. This experience uses a curriculum that is co-developed by educators and subject matter experts – aligned to state academic standards and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).



LIGHT the LIGHTS!

Friday, November 20 6-9pm
Tree Lighting & Fireworks @ 7pm
Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk

cityofnovi.org/lightthelights

Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk

City of Novi cityofnovi.org

msufcu

Holiday Food Drive!

Accepting non-perishable food donations to help your neighbors celebrate the holidays!

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thank you for your donation

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Chamber Celebrates Dan West's 20 Years of Leadership

FOR 20 years, Dan West has led the Chamber through growth, change and an expanding role in the business community while keeping one thing at the center of its work: connecting people.

West marks his 20th anniversary as president and CEO of the Livonia-Westland Chamber of Commerce in November. Since taking the helm in 2006, he has helped grow the organization's membership, strengthen its regional presence and build relationships among businesses, government, education and community organizations.



One of the most visible measures of that growth came in 2019, when the Livonia Chamber surpassed 1,000 members for the first time since the early 1990s. In 2023, West helped lead one of the most significant changes in the organization's history with the strategic alignment of the Livonia and Westland chambers of commerce. The move created the Livonia-Westland Chamber of Commerce, bringing together two neighboring business communities and creating an organization that today represents more than 1,200 members.

Throughout West's tenure, the Chamber's work has also expanded beyond networking and traditional member services. Workforce development, skilled and technical trades, economic development, regional collaboration and community engagement have all become important areas of focus.

West has consistently emphasized the importance of relationships in moving those efforts forward. Over the past two decades, the Chamber has worked to bring business leaders together with educators, nonprofit organizations, municipal leaders and elected officials to discuss challenges, share ideas and create new opportunities for collaboration.

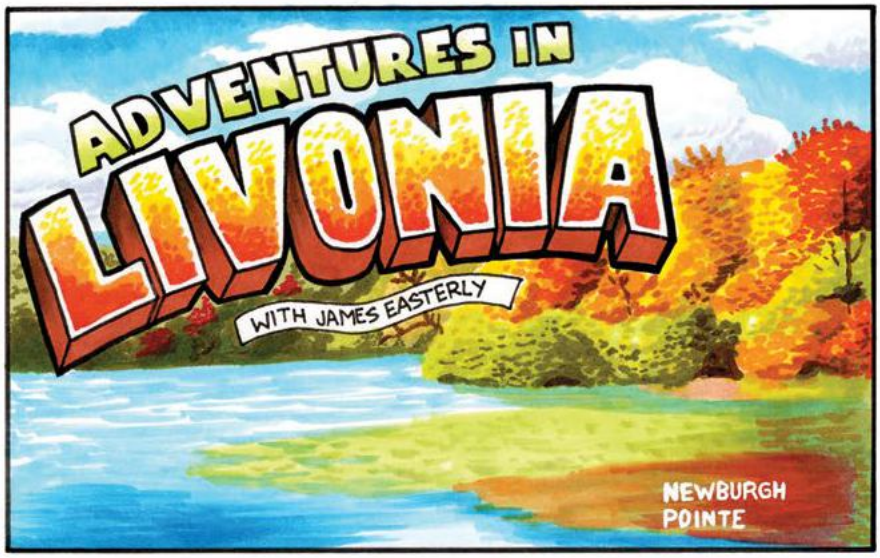
Livonia Westland CHAMBER of COMMERCE people · business · community

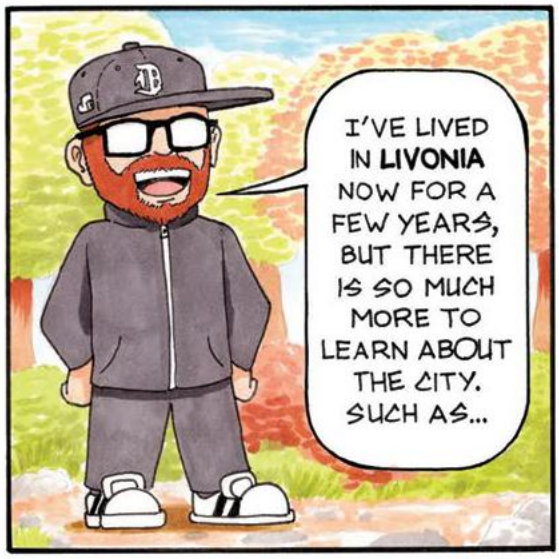
The Chamber has also continued to expand its programming, events and opportunities for businesses of all sizes to make connections, increase their visibility and become more engaged in the communities they serve.

Over 20 years, West has seen the business landscape change considerably. The Chamber has navigated economic downturns, a pandemic, workforce challenges, changing technology and the evolving needs of its members. At the same time, the organization itself has grown from serving one community to representing businesses across Livonia, Westland and throughout the region.

Through those changes, West's approach to Chamber leadership has remained centered on relationships and bringing people together.

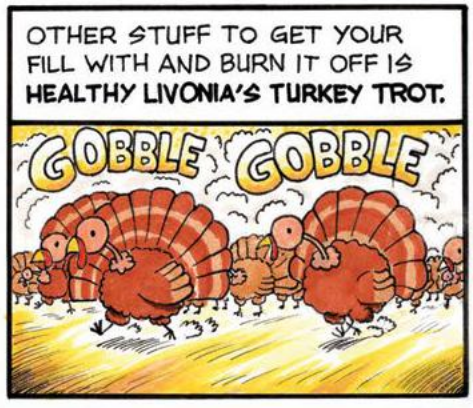
As he celebrates two decades at the helm, West continues to lead an organization focused on supporting its members, strengthening the business community and creating connections that help move Livonia, Westland and western Wayne County forward.



















WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES?

THERE ARE SO MANY AMAZING THINGS TO DO AROUND THE HOLIDAYS, ESPECIALLY IN LIVONIA. WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES THAT MAKE THE HOLIDAY SEASON EXTRA SPECIAL FOR YOU, YOUR FRIENDS AND YOUR FAMILY IN LIVONIA?

SEND US YOUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND WE'LL FEATURE SOME OF THEM IN THE NEXT ISSUE.

EMAIL: ACALABRESE@COMMUNITYPUBLISHING.COM



AROUND Livonia

November – February

NOVEMBER

November 20

Adult Craft Night – Sock Snowmen
7-8:30 p.m.
Alexander Blue House
20501 Newburgh Road
Experience a relaxing night out and learn how to make three unique snowmen to keep for decorations or give as gifts. Light refreshments will be served. Registration is required and tickets are $22/resident. Learn more at LivoniaParks.org.

DECEMBER

December 4

Annual Holiday Craft Show
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Livonia Senior Wellness Center
32001 Five Mile Road
Visit more than 55 vendor tables with many art and craft items, seasonal decorations, great gift ideas, baked goods and holiday treasurers. Drawings each hour, quilt raffle and refreshments available for purchase (cash only). No fee to attend and no registration required.

December 5

Christmas Tea
3-5 p.m.
Alexander Blue House
20501 Newburgh Road
Embrace the holiday season with family and friends celebrating the holiday season with a three-course meal and bottomless tea. $40/resident. Register at LivoniaParks.org.

December 6

Merry & Bright Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting
4-6 p.m.
City Hall/Library
After the tree lighting, stroll over to the Civic Center Library for crafts, refreshments and a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Co-Sponsored with Livonia Rotary Club, Livonia Libraries, Livonia Civic Chorus and Busch's Fresh Food Market in Livonia.

December 11

Stories, Snacks and Crafts! – Reindeer Games
10-11:30 a.m.
Alexander Blue House
20501 Newburgh Road
Children 4-10 are invited for fun and festive "Reindeer Games" with holiday stories, crafts and a sweet treat. $12/resident. Learn more and register at LivoniaParks.org.

December 11-12

Friends of the Library Used Book Sale
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Bennett Civic Center Library
32777 Five Mile Road
In addition to the normal bookstore selection, there will be a large selection of kids' books, jigsaw puzzles, board games, stocking stuffers, and more! For more information, visit LivoniaPublicLibrary.org.



December 12

12 Birds of Christmas
9-10:30 a.m.
Friends Meeting House
20501 Newburgh Road
Join the Detroit Bird Alliance and learn about 12 common winter birds on a guided bird walk through the nature trail along with a fun winter craft activity. $10/resident. Learn more at LivoniaParks.org.

December 17

Christmas Concert and Confections with HarmonyTown Chorus
7-9 p.m.
Newburg Church
20501 Newburgh Road
This free, festive evening of music and community will feature a post-performance reception at the Alexander Blue House with refreshments, mingling and holiday cheer. For more information, visit LivoniaParks.org.



JANUARY

January 3

Glow Swim Pool Party
4:30-6:30 p.m.
Jack E. Kirksey Recreation Center
15100 Hubbard
Come swim in the lit-up pool and play games at this fun-filled family event. $8/members, $12/residents. For more information and to register, visit LivoniaParks.org.

January 24

Pajama Party Mother and Son Dance
2-4 p.m.
Livonia Senior Wellness Center
32001 Five Mile Road
Enjoy a fun-filled weekend of dancing, dressing up and making memories. The dance will feature music, dancing, souvenir photos, snacks, refreshments and fun contests. Learn more and register at LivoniaParks.org.

January 30

Citrus and Snow Tea
3-5 p.m.
Alexander Blue House
20501 Newburgh Road
Enjoy an afternoon with tea, handcrafted sandwiches, fresh-baked scones and desserts. The guest speaker will share facts about citrus fruits. $40/resident. Learn more or register at LivoniaParks.org.

FEBRUARY

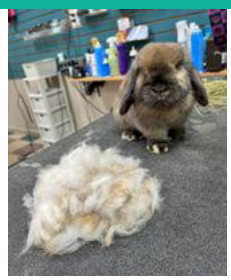
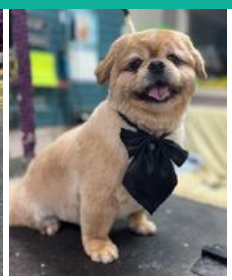
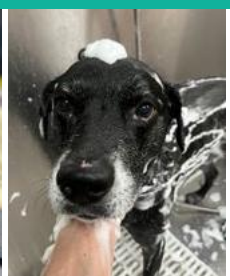
February 4-7

Friends of the Library Used Book Sale
Thurs: 4:30-6:30 p.m. (Pre-sale for members of the Friends of the Library and teachers with proper ID)
Fri.-Sat.: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sun.: 1-5 p.m.

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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