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From the
MAYOR

God Bless America, Land That I Love

As the patriotic song goes, on this 250th anniversary of our founding, we must "stand beside her and guide her, through the night with the light from above."

As Americans, we are very fortunate to live in the greatest country in the world. Each generation of Americans has a responsibility to preserve our freedoms, culture and American way of life.

America is America because people from all walks of life have come together to create a nation that has endured for 250 years. Our Constitution has provided us with a unique roadmap to prosperity and longevity.

Southgate is proud to celebrate our rich culture and history during this milestone year. We created a special semiquincentennial float to represent Southgate in our Heritage Days Parade, as well as at other commemorative celebrations throughout the area.



Our patriotic event on July 3 was a wonderful occasion that brought together families from throughout the Downriver region. Unfortunately, some severe weather ended up interfering with the live music portion of the evening, so we were unable to enjoy the performance we had planned by Dr. Rick Selva and the Schoolcraft College Jazz Band.

However, live music is continuing throughout the summer at Market Center Park. Each Tuesday through August 11, the Southgate DDA will host a free concert from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Vendors will also be onsite each week beginning at 4:30 p.m. A complete list of performing bands is available on our website at southgatemi.org.

My family and I hope to see you at these concerts as we continue to celebrate this great nation.

"From the mountains, to the prairies, to the oceans, white with foam. God Bless America, my home sweet home!"

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Kuspa".

Joseph G. Kuspa, Mayor



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THERE'S LOTS OF EXCITING THINGS HAPPENING AT YOUR LIBRARY THIS SUMMER!



Summer Reading Continues at Southgate Veterans Memorial Library

There's still time to participate in this year's Summer Reading Program, "Unearth A Story!" Read books, earn prizes and attend events for all ages. Everything is completely free, and getting started is easy – everyone can sign up at the library, while kids and teens can sign up online (use the link on our website Summer Reading page). The best time to join the fun was at the start of the program, but the second-best time is right now!

See What's New

The library has books, movies, music, video games, tools and more, but we bet there are some things you don't know about yet! We have built up several great new collections that we hope you'll love.

• VOX & Wonderbooks

Our Read-Along collection is expanding! We now have both VOX Books and Wonderbooks! Both are physical books with their own audio players built in – all you have to do is push a button and start your adventure! You can follow along in the book or let it read to you through its speakers or your own pair of headphones. VOX Books are "books that talk", and our collection of them has been growing steadily in the picture book section. We've even started adding in juvenile non-

fiction and biographies so that you can listen and read about real people and events.

This format is a great way to get children interested in reading and improve their vocabulary. The more words they hear, the better their language skills will become. Even better, there is no screen involved! It's a book, with that solid feel and that book paper smell.

We have also added Wonderbooks, which is a brand of Read-Alongs chock full of amazing chapter books! Our Wonderbooks are shelved at the beginning of our Juvenile Fiction section and can range anywhere from graphic novels to chapter books. Want to listen and read along to "Diary of a Wimpy Kid"? Or maybe "The War that Saved My Life"? We have got you covered!



• Yoto Players and Cards

Yoto players use cards to play music, read stories, teach about colors, numbers, shapes, and more. Some cards play trivia, some are choose-your-own-adventure stories, some teach you how to draw, or get you moving and grooving!

The library now has several players to borrow, which are easy to use – just a couple of buttons and knobs to control sound and move between stories, accessible to kids of almost all ages. We have dozens of cards to choose from as well, with offerings for every age. Come check them out, and join the Yoto fan club!



● Yard Games Collection

Our Library of Things includes numerous outdoor/yard games, perfect for summer get-togethers or just an afternoon of fun! In addition to our giant Connect Four, croquet sets, bocce ball, horseshoe set and others, we've recently added some new ones you may not have seen yet.

● KanJam

This is a frisbee throwing game where you and a partner work together to toss the frisbee into a can. One person throws, the other tries to deflect it in if the frisbee is off course (overshot, undershot, too high, too low, anytime it will miss). Manage to throw the frisbee directly through a slot at the front of the can, and you win immediately! The game is easy to transport, the cans are collapsible, everything is lightweight and fits in a carrying bag.



● Kubb

A possibly ancient lawn game that may have been enjoyed by the Vikings, Kubb is deceptively complex. It's all about tossing sticks to knock down your opponents' blocks – topple all of them, and then the king, to achieve victory! Blocks move as they're knocked down, changing the field with every round, so it takes skill and strategy to win!



● Molkky

Another throwing game (people just love throwing things!), Molkky originated in Finland in the mid-1990s. There is one throwing pin and 12 numbered blocks, each worth the number of points written on it. Knock over one pin and get those points, knock over multiple pins and score as many points as pins you

knocked over. The pins move as they're knocked down, so the game spreads out over time. Get exactly 50 points to win, but go over, and you're set back to 25!



● Yak and Yarn

Coming this fall, we're so excited to welcome you to Yak and Yarn! Fiber artists of all skill levels, join us for evenings of crafting, hanging out and chit chat. All fibers arts are welcome! Whether it's crochet, knitting, felting, sewing, spinning or weaving, this is a time for you to bring your works in progress to the library. Meetings are at 6 p.m., on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, beginning September 2. This is a drop-in event, so no registration is required. We can't wait to see you and your creations!



Southgate Shows Support for America's 250th in Creative, Patriotic Ways

THIS year's Heritage Days parade featured a distinctive float honoring our nation's semiquincentennial. The float features a seven-foot bald eagle flying from a rocky crag with three flags waving in the background. The United States flag is perched in the center, with an America's 250 flag and the City of Southgate flag placed on each side. Bordering three sides of the float are smaller flags from each of the 50 states.

"The 250th anniversary of the founding of our nation is truly significant," said Mayor Joseph Kuspa. "And we wanted to show our support for this milestone event in a creative and patriotic way."

The project started with a commitment from the Southgate Downtown Development Authority to fund the float. Then the mayor sketched out the concept for the design and held a meeting in April with the city's Parks and Recreation Director Julie Goddard and one of her staff members, Cory Grzywa.

Mr. Grzywa is a very creative artist and welcomed the chance to work on the project.

"To work in such an unfamiliar medium, and at such a large scale, was a bit intimidating," Grzywa said. "But the construction was exciting and very rewarding."

On the artistic side, Grzywa was assisted by another staff member, Sydney Robinson. Each worked on the float after they completed their daily responsibilities.

Department of Public Services member, Jason Kujat, also assisted with building the infrastructure for the float, so that it would hold the massive eagle and rock-like formations.

The project took about four weeks to complete and debuted in Southgate's Heritage Days parade on June 6. Mr. Grzywa and Ms. Robinson rode with the float.

"Having the eagle soar down the parade route of your hometown with the marching band drumming, and friends, family and community cheering was truly a wonderful and unique experience!" Grzywa said.

The float went on to be displayed during the city's July 3rd patriotic concert and fireworks at the South Winds Golf Course. The very next day, the eagle float represented the City of Southgate at the Wyandotte Fourth of July parade. Plans are to have the float make other appearances during America's 250th summer.



Mayor Joseph Kuspa with Sydney Robinson and Cory Grzywa (above) with this year's America 250 float. Then 19-year-old future mayor Joseph Kuspa in 1976 (right), with the float he created celebrating the nation's bicentennial.



On a historic note, this was not the first float to honor our nation's anniversary. In 1976, then Mayor

Rob Reaume wanted to create a float for the bicentennial. Serendipitously, he chose a design submitted by a young Joseph Kuspa. At that time, Kuspa was 19 and just elected to the Southgate Board of Education.

That float consisted of a seven-foot birthday cake with a "Happy Birthday, America" birthday card attached to the rear of the float. To bring in all of the 50 states, Kuspa added the state flowers between the 50 rings of "frosting".

Reflecting on being part of both float projects, Mayor Kuspa said, "I find it hard to believe that it has been 50 years but I am extremely proud to be an American and a resident of Southgate for all this time. May God continue to bless this nation and our great city!"

Jabro Carpet One

Downriver's destination for all things flooring By Kelsi Klein

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

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

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

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

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

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

The store has built a strong reputation on exceptional customer service. Whether it's helping a homeowner find

the perfect flooring for their space or coordinating a large-scale commercial project, the Jabro team works closely with each client to ensure the final result of each project exceeds their expectations.

To simplify decision-making, Jabro even



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



A Strong Foundation

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

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

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

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

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

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

Efficient carpet cleaning

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

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

Top-quality upholstery care

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

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

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

Air duct cleaning

A truly clean space goes beyond what is seen at the surface level. Green's Family Cleaning Services offer air duct cleaning solutions to help improve indoor air quality in homes and businesses.

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

The professional and thorough air duct cleaning



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



Rooted in community and small business support

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

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

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

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

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





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Southgate DDA Kicks off a Summer Full of Family Fun

THE Southgate Downtown Development Authority (DDA) proudly kicked off another exciting summer season with the celebration of Southgate Heritage Days' 50th anniversary. This milestone event brought together residents, families, friends, and visitors from across the region for a weekend full of community and an entertainment.

The festivities began on Friday, June 5, with the popular All High School Reunion, bringing generations of Southgate alumni together to reconnect and celebrate. Guests enjoyed live music, carnival rides, food, and a festive atmosphere that set the tone for an unforgettable weekend.

On Saturday, the annual Heritage Days Parade made its way through the city, ending at Market Center Park, where attendees gathered for one of Southgate's favorite traditions—Taste of the Town. More than 20 restaurants from across the Downriver Community offered samples of their signature dishes, giving visitors the opportunity to experience the incredible variety of local dining options. The evening continued with live entertainment, food, drinks, and family fun, while the carnival remained open through Sunday.

Southgate also proudly celebrated America's 250th anniversary with a spectacular celebration and fireworks display, bringing families together to honor our nation's history and enjoy a memorable summer evening on July 3 at the South Winds Golf Course.

The excitement continues throughout the summer with the DDA's popular Concerts in the Park series, held at Market Center Park. This year's lineup includes (from dates after article publication time):

- July 28 – Wisteria
- August 4 – Category 5
- August 11 – Kielbasa Kings

Southgate continues to be a community that values family-friendly events, local businesses and opportunities for residents to gather and create lasting memories. None of these events would be possible without the dedication of the Southgate DDA, our volunteers, community partners, and generous sponsors whose support helps make these experiences available to everyone.

We look forward to another incredible summer in Southgate and invite everyone to join us as we celebrate our community, support local businesses and enjoy all that our city has to offer.

Looking ahead to the fall, the Southgate DDA is excited to host our annual Harvest Fest on October 10. This family-friendly event will feature Touch-a-Truck, a pumpkin patch, children's activities, local vendors, food trucks, and plenty of seasonal fun for all ages.

Watch for more details on the City's website, www.southgatemi.org





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Care, Compassion, Partnership

Southgate's school resource officers build lasting impact on community

By Kelsi Klein

FOR many people, interactions with law enforcement are limited to what they see on the news or during difficult situations. The Southgate Police Department is helping change that perception by fostering relationships, building trust and creating a safer environment within the Southgate Community School District through their school resource officers (SROs).

The department reintroduced its SRO program approximately six years ago.

"We haven't had a school resource officer since probably the late '90s or early 2000s, and at that time it was a D.A.R.E. officer, who was geared more toward teaching kids about the dangers of drugs and drug use," said Southgate Police Chief Mark Mydlarz.

When the SRO position returned during the beginning stages of COVID, it was up to Officer Morgan Parrish to build the position from the ground up.

"There really wasn't a roadmap for her since there was no one who had been in that position before at our department," Chief Mydlarz said. "She really took the role and embraced it, and I can't say enough about what an outstanding job she's done."

Officer Parrish wore many hats in her role as SRO. Chief Mydlarz described her as a mentor and a counselor as well as someone who's there to keep the school safe and secure.

"She's fostered community engagement and has been able to put our department in a positive light, showing professionalism and cooperation with the district

and community," he said.

The department, with their community relations team, began assisting the schools with their field trip days to connect with the community. Early on in her tenure, Officer Parrish organized an annual backpack drive where 1,000 backpacks were given to students at the first home football game of the year.

Since the reintroduction of the SRO position, the relationship between law enforcement and the community in Southgate has grown stronger thanks to Officer Parrish's commitment to the students.

"It was interesting going into a position where nobody had been, but I knew that I wanted to make it the best that it could ever be," Parrish said. "I wanted all those kids to know that I loved them, that they were cared for and that they were safe at school."

Though she didn't have anyone to train her in her position, Officer Parrish was inspired by the SRO she had when she was growing up, and made it her mission to ensure the students, staff, parents and families knew they were protected and loved.

With her career shifting this year, Officer Parrish will transition back to patrol and Officer Chris Parsons will transition into the SRO position when school starts in September.

Having coached youth sports in Southgate for the past five years, Officer Parsons is looking forward to getting to work with the kids he's coached each day and making connections with students to continue to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the community.

"I feel like if you can reach the kids at a younger age, it helps as they get older," Officer Parsons said. "They know they can come talk to you and it builds trust."

Southgate's SROs go above and beyond just maintaining a safe learning environment. They are dedicated to serving each student with care, compassion and partnership with the community.



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'We Want to Put on a Show'

New athletic director brings experience, enthusiasm to Southgate sports

By Terry Jacoby

LIKE most professions, the job of athletic director often requires a few steps up the ladder before one finally finds themselves at the top. Brian Buchanan has not only stepped into a new position that he believes to be at the top but also one he hopes is a longtime home as the new athletic director at Southgate Anderson High School.

Buchanan replaces Mitch Dobek, serving on an interim basis as athletic coordinator, athletic director and coordinating athletic director.

"I'm really excited to be here," Buchanan said. "There are so many opportunities here that we can take advantage of and show the community, show the families that come to games that we not only represent ourselves well on the field but also off the field. We want to put on a show and make those Friday nights special for everyone and create strong programs in all sports."

Buchanan, whose first day on the job was July 1, will also be helping with Davidson Middle School.

Sharon Irvine, superintendent of Southgate Community Schools, is pleased to have Buchanan on the Titans roster.

"Brian shows incredible enthusiasm for growing and strengthening Titan athletics, starting as early as elementary school," she said. "We are investing in an athletic infrastructure that will provide high-quality athletic opportunities for our students across grade levels, culminating in high-performing varsity experiences. Brian's collaborative style, energetic initiative and experience will provide great leadership to our new athletic management team."

Buchanan, a 1998 graduate of Saline High School, received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice at Eastern Michigan University, and took a job in security at Saline High School.

"At that time they also asked me if I wanted to help coach football, so that was my

introduction into high school athletics," he said. "I fell in love with not only football but teaching the game and coaching high school students. I soon started coaching baseball and girls basketball."

As for criminal justice?

"It just wasn't for me," he said. "But I found something I really wanted to do so no regrets at all."

During his time at Saline, Buchanan was the head coach of the freshman football team, junior varsity assistant for the baseball team and head coach of the girls freshman basketball team. Around this time, he also received a teacher certification, secondary social studies, at U-M Dearborn.

Buchanan began his climb up the ladder, leaving Saline to take a job as the JV head football coach at Skyline High School, and also worked as a behavior interventionist in the Ann Arbor School District.

After working in Ann Arbor for about eight years, he took a job as the athletic director at All Saints Catholic school in Canton.

"I thought that would be a great direction to go in my career and my daughter was going to school there so it was just a great situation for me both personally and professionally," he said.

After two years at All Saints, Buchanan got the AD job at Dearborn Heights Annapolis, where he served for three years.

"I'm proud of where we left Annapolis, and I feel like I left them in a good situation," he said. "I was happy there, but when I saw Southgate had an opening I decided to apply. I had a good feeling immediately and felt part of the community because everybody was so nice during the process. I felt at home on my first visit."

Buchanan and his wife, Laura, have two children, Kylie (10) and Zach (5).



Keep It Simple

Southgate's new football coach knows what it takes to succeed

By Terry Jacoby

THERE are many impressive accomplishments on the new Southgate head football coach's resumé but one really jumps off the page. There aren't many football coaches in the Downriver area who have played in the NFL.

Milton Jones Jr., who was recently named the head coach of the Titans, played in the NFL for the New York Giants in 1994 and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. More recently, he was the football coach at Westland John Glenn High School.

And now he's excited to be in Southgate.

"I know the previous head coach, Bobby Marten, so we would talk every now and then and he had nothing but great things to say about Southgate," Jones said. "My early observations are that there are ball players and some raw talent. We just need to get ready to start grinding on the field, and doing the work necessary to put a competitive football team on the field every week."

Jones replaces Bobby Marten, who compiled an overall record of 23-16 in his four seasons with the Titans. Marten is returning to Allen Park High School, where he will be the assistant athletic director and offensive coordinator for the Jags.

Southgate Coordinating Athletic Director Mitch Dobek is impressed with Jones's background and coaching pedigree.

"Coach Jones brings a wealth of experience with him," Dobek said. "His calm demeanor and competitive edge will help our players adapt well to the change, and we look forward to great success."

Jones, whose teacher's certification is in secondary math, will be at Anderson High School or Asher Alternative High School teaching math during the school day.

"I have spent a considerable amount of time in the Southgate community, and I have two good friends who are from Southgate so I have spent time in Southgate grabbing a bite to eat, playing basketball or just visiting friends," Jones said.

Jones, 55, graduated from Detroit Henry Ford in 1989 and from the University of Detroit Mercy in 2005 with a BA in education. He also graduated from Marygrove College in 2009



with a MA in education.

He played defensive end at Central State University in Ohio.

"I started my coaching career as a line coach at Northwest Cougars in 1997 before coaching for two seasons at my alma mater Detroit Henry Ford," Jones said. "I was a teacher and coach at Southfield High School from 2006-2018."

After two seasons as an assistant at Oak Park High School, Jones landed at John Glenn with the Rockets as a teacher and coach.

Jones said his coaching philosophy is Keep It Simple (K.I.S.).

"We have to continuously coach and teach the fundamentals of football daily," he said. "My main goal for this year is to implement the culture that will make us competitive year after year. And our culture is built on three main things: community (we will embody the community of Southgate by being blue collar and bring our hard hat and lunch pal to work every day); grit (it is an honor to play for your high school team, and we will play with a deep passion and respect for the game each and every week); and trust (we will build trust by being authentic, consistent and reliable)."

Jones has been married to wife Pamela Jones for 17 years. They have two daughters: Faith, who will be attending Michigan State University this fall, and Joy, who just finished her freshman year at West Bloomfield High School.

"I would want the Southgate community to know that I'm thrilled to be here and me and my staff are ready to work," he said. "I hope to see everyone at the game on Friday nights in the fall. Go Titans!"



SWIM LESSONS

FALL/WINTER 1 SWIM LESSONS

October 9 - December 4 (8 weeks)
(No swim Friday, November 27)

Gator Tots (\$80)

Fridays, 5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Limit 3 per Coach

Gatorlings (\$85)

Fridays, 5:35 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.
Limit 4 per Coach

Mini Gators (\$90)

Fridays, 6:15 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Limit 5 per Coach

COMMUNITY SWIM

September 14 - December 18

Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
(\$5 Per Day)

*All swimmers must be able to swim one length of the pool without stopping.

For questions about Gators email Coach
Joyce Hollow at hollowj@sgate.k12.mi.us
or Elizabeth McNees at mcneese@sgate.k12.mi.us

SWIM & DIVE CLUB

FALL COMPETITIVE SWIM CLUB

September 14 - November 7 (8 weeks)
(Swim meet schedule available at first practice)

Beginners (\$115)

Monday through Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

Intermediate (\$130)

Monday through Thursday, 5:45 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.

Advanced (\$145)

Monday through Thursday, 6:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
Friday, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Masters (\$120)

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

WINTER 1 COMPETITIVE SWIM CLUB

November 9 - December 18 (6 weeks)
(Same days and times as Fall)

Beginners (\$90)

Intermediate (\$100)

Advanced (\$110)

Masters (\$90)

FALL DIVE CLUB

September 14 - November 7 (8 weeks)

Beginners (\$85)

Thursday, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Proficient (\$100)

Thursday, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

WINTER 1 DIVE CLUB

November 9 - December 18 (6 weeks)
(Same days and times as Fall)

Beginners (\$65)

Proficient (\$75)

Must pass the Gators core skills swimming
and or deep water test to participate.

There is a 10% sibling discount and a
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Diving and Swimming.

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September 8, 6:00 p.m.

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TOUCH-A-TRUCK (10AM-1PM)

Siren free from 10-11am. This event is also a Trunk-or-Treat!



SALVATION ARMY KICK OFF

Learn how The Salvation Army helps our neighbors in need and how you can get involved!



BOUNCING HOUSE

Bounce, play, and burn off some energy!



SCARECROW CONTEST



FAITH & BLUE (11AM-3PM)

Facilitates safer communities by engaging officers and local residents through the connections of faith-based organizations



PUMPKIN PATCH

Pumpkins for sale by the Southgate Historical Foundation



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Food truck offerings and basket auctions are available at an additional cost. Cash bar for beverages.

Tickets & Information at
www.downrivercommunityclinic.org



OUR ❤️ IS IN EVERYTHING WE DO



Meet Your New DPS Director

Longtime city employee Phil Ferro
'excited' about new role

By Terry Jacoby

PHIL Ferro has been moving up in the City of Southgate for 24 years, and recently reached the top when he was appointed director of the Department of Public Services by Mayor Joseph Kuspa on March 1. He was supervisor of the city's Water and Sewer Department for eight years before receiving his latest promotion.

Ferro, 58, said he is glad to be still working in Southgate after more than two decades and is excited about taking over as the director of Public Services.

"Up to this point I have had a great career working for the city, and look forward to finishing here as the director of the Department of Public Services," he said. "We have a really great team here that all work really well together. We have some specific goals for the department. We have a really young crew, and I need to make sure they learn all aspects of working for the DPS."

Ferro's duties as director of Public Services will include day-to-day operations with a staff of four supervisors; Jerry Stacy, Department of Public Works with eight employees; Jason Kujat, Fleet/Garage Department with two equipment mechanics; Rich Greenhill, Water Department with eight employees; and Josh Barry, Sewer Department with three employees.

Other duties include the hiring of new employees, scheduling the street sweeping, snowplow/salt routes, city road repairs, street signs, tree removals/trimming, and purchasing of new equipment for the DPS. He also will be working closely with city administration, the city council and the city's engineering firm Hennessey on various city projects.

Ferro was born in Detroit and grew up in Brownstown, graduating from Carlson High School in 1986. He currently holds an S1 Water Distribution certification license with EGLE / State of Michigan and Soil Erosion / Storm Water Management certification's with EGLE / State of Michigan.

He is married to Kathy Ferro and the couple have two sons, Philip and Brandon Ferro, who have both graduated college and are on to their careers.

The Department of Public Services (DPS) is responsible for the administration and maintenance of local and major streets, storm drains, sanitary sewers, signage, forestry, city parks, water main repair, water meter (repair, exchange, and billing), all city buildings, and all city equipment.

This department also handles, or assists, all city-wide projects in conjunction with maintenance within other city departments.

For more information, visit www.southgatemi.org/departments/dept_of_public_services.php



DPS Responsibilities

CITY BUILDINGS

The Public Service Skilled Trade Division is responsible for upkeep, remodeling and all other repair and maintenance in regard to all city buildings.

CITY PARKS

The DPS is responsible for all maintenance and repair to 20 city park sites, alleys, ditches and backslashes.

CITY EQUIPMENT

The DPS garage mechanics are responsible for the preventive maintenance and repair of all equipment and vehicles used by the following departments: Administration, Building, Department of Public Works, Fire, Forestry, Police, Recreation, and Water.

FORESTRY

The DPS provides tree removals, tree planting, tree trimming, emergency cutting, and all other duties related to city right-of-way trees, shrubs, etc.

LOCAL & MAJOR STREETS

The DPS provides patch, repair, snow removal, leaf control, "crack seal" and all other related maintenance or repairs to local and major city streets.

STORM DRAINS & SANITARY SEWERS

The DPS provides repair, cleaning, video, installation, and all other related repair and maintenance services in regard to storm drains and sanitary sewers.

TRAFFIC SIGNAGE

The DPS provides repair and maintenance of current signage, installation of new signs (for subdivisions, etc.), signage throughout the city per council and police resolutions.

WATER DEPARTMENT

The DPS is responsible for water taps, water main repairs, meter repairs, meter installations, meter exchanges, meter readings, and all other duties related to water repair and maintenance.

Leading With Integrity

New deputy police chief continues legacy of service

By Terry Jacoby

BRENT Newsted went right from the U.S. Army to the Southgate Police Department and has been proudly serving the Southgate community since October 2010. Newsted was recently promoted to deputy chief in March 2026, and is excited to continue to protect and serve the citizens of Southgate.

"As deputy chief I am committed to supporting both our sworn and civilian personnel while overseeing the day-to-day operations of the police department," Newsted said. "My goals are to be able to provide a safe community for the residents of Southgate to live, develop and maintain community partnerships while also delivering effective and efficient law enforcement services."

Chief of Police Mark Mydlarz is glad to have Newsted on the Southgate PD team.

"Brent has consistently demonstrated strong leadership, sound judgment and a dedication to professional development," he said. "Brent brings a wealth of experience, accountability and a desire to provide our community with the highest level of public safety service. I am confident that, in his new

role as deputy chief, Brent will continue to lead with integrity while focusing on the growth and development of our personnel, and contribute significantly to the continued success of the department."

There are currently 39 sworn police officers and eight civilian employees at the Southgate Police Department.

"Our department is a group of hard-working individuals who are dedicated to providing the best police services possible to the Southgate community," Newsted said.

Newsted, 41, is a native of Westland and graduated from Wayne Memorial High School in 2003. He graduated from both Siena Heights University (bachelor's) and Eastern Michigan University (master's). He served in the U.S. Army on active duty from 2003 to 2010 prior to joining the Southgate PD.

Newsted is married to Andrea and the couple have two teenage children.

"We love Southgate," he said. "It has great people, is family oriented with a small-town feel and I have enjoyed serving this community for over 15 years," he said.





A DEDICATED PARTNER

Advantage One Credit Union Strengthens Community Through Outreach and Support

By Kelsi Klein

ADVANTAGE ONE Credit Union has not only been a staple financial institution in the Downriver area for years, but also a dedicated community partner.

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

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

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

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

needs that these teachers have and it brings instant tears to my eyes to see how happy they are."

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

The same spirit of giving extends into Advantage One's daily operations as they prioritize giving back to the



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

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

Additionally, the credit union volunteers annually at the Taylor

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

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

To learn more about Advantage One Credit Union, visit www.myaoou.com or call (734) 676-7000.



Scholarship recipients (clockwise from top left): William Engels, Eden Malwitz, Chloe Rybicki and Lilly Truel.

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Understanding Southgate's Street Improvement Millage Renewal

SINCE 1997, the Street Improvement Millage has provided a dedicated funding source for maintaining and repairing Southgate's 65 miles of local streets. The current Street Improvement Millage expires at the end of this year. On August 4, 2026, Southgate voters will decide whether to continue funding for local streets.

The August Ballot Language Reads:

"Shall the City of Southgate be authorized to renew the millage of up to 2 mills subject to Headlee Amendment roll back, which was previously reduced to 1.8856 mills by the Headlee Amendment, for the purpose of construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, repairing, and otherwise improving city streets for an additional period of five (5) years beginning November 30, 2026, which millage is estimated to raise approximately \$1,815,086 in the first year of its levy."

What Will The Streets Improvement Millage Renewal Continue To Do?

If approved the millage will:

- Provide funds for road reconstruction, section repairs, patching, catch-basin repairs, and other projects for City-maintained roads*
- Supplement the limited road funding the City receives through state fuel tax revenue
- Prevent the need for special assessments for individual road repair projects

*Major roads such as Northline, Eureka, Allen, Dix-Toledo, Old Goddard, Pennsylvania, and parts of Trenton Road are maintained by Wayne County, while Fort Street and I-75 are maintained by MDOT. Millage funds are used exclusively for City-maintained local roads.



How Would The Renewal Affect Taxes?

The proposal on the upcoming August ballot is NOT a new tax and does NOT represent a tax increase. It is a reauthorization of the existing millage rate. Reauthorization would allow the City to continue funding road maintenance and improvement projects without interruption.

What Happens If The Millage Fails?

If voters reject the millage:

- Fewer annual road repair and reconstruction projects
- Loss of the dedicated funding source to repair aging infrastructure
- Longer timelines for road improvements leading to worsening road conditions

For additional information on road projects or the millage please contact the mayor's office at (734) 258-3022.

2025 SOUTHGATE WATER QUALITY REPORT



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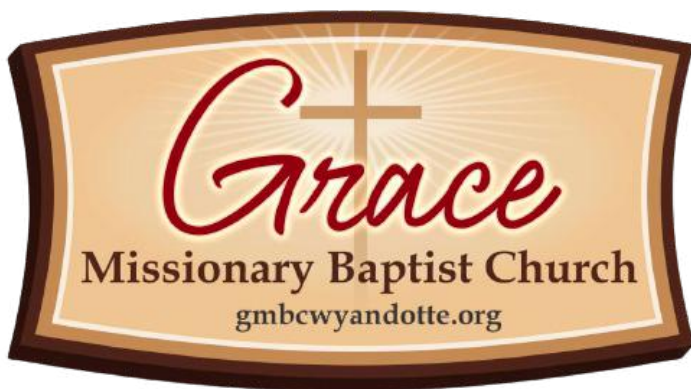
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Sunday Evening Worship 6:30 pm

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SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:
9 AM Matins & 10 AM Divine Liturgy



'Awareness Creates Action'



DWIHN offers comprehensive supports and services By Kelsi Klein

EVERY July, Disability Pride Month celebrates the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which sought to promote inclusion, equality and reduce discrimination toward people with disabilities.

"A wide-sweeping, structural change happened with the signing of that bill," explained Luke Gogliotti, the Children's Initiatives Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD) Clinical Specialist at Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (DWIHN).

The ADA was a landmark civil rights law that helped reduce discrimination and improved access for millions of Americans, yet challenges and hurdles remain for people with disabilities.

According to Gogliotti, Disability Pride Month is important because it brings awareness to some of the barriers that people with disabilities face daily while also celebrating their achievements and accomplishments.

"Awareness is a starting point," Gogliotti said. "But the ultimate goal is that awareness creates action."

During Disability Pride Month, people can focus on their day-to-day life and how they can improve things for people with disabilities.

"Whether it's the language you use in your daily interactions, the policies you have in the workplace or even just being an ally to the population in general, small changes can make a big difference," Gogliotti said.

For DWIHN, awareness and inclusion go hand in hand with providing support and services that help individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities live as independently as possible.

The organization is responsible for providing behavioral health services to people with Medicaid in Wayne County.

"If members qualify based on the Michigan Mental Health Code definition of intellectual or developmental disability, we provide behavioral health services from birth to death," Gogliotti explained.

DWIHN's person-centered services focus on skill development, independence and community participation, helping individuals access employment, education, housing and meaningful connections with their communities.

"It's really important that people with intellectual or developmental disabilities are fully engaged in our society and have access to these supports," Gogliotti said.

For those looking to receive services, they would start by calling the DWIHN Access Center at 1-800-241-4949. A specialist will conduct an intake screening and connect them to a support coordinator who will refer them to services.

A primary IDD service offered by DWIHN is Community Living Supports (CLS), which provides community-based assistance designed to build independence including daily living skills such as personal care, dressing and eating independently.

CLS staff take members out in the community to work on skill development while promoting social engagement.

One of the most intensive services DWIHN offers is Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), which Gogliotti explained is the gold standard treatment for children with autism, along with respite services that focus on providing assistance to caregivers with speech, occupational and physical therapies.

DWIHN also offers the Children's Waiver and Habilitation Supports Waiver, both of which focus on putting additional supports in place for members with higher needs.

With an emphasis on comprehensive and holistic care, DWIHN is now able to offer Intensive Care Coordination Wraparound (ICCW) for at-risk IDD members with multiple systems in place.

"Maybe they have difficulties with the juvenile justice system or the welfare system," Gogliotti said. "Wraparound seeks to bring all of those systems together to work toward assisting a member in achieving their goals."

The DWIHN Access Center is available 24/7. For more information or to get connected to services, call 1-800-241-4949 or visit www.dwihn.org/programs-services/intellectual-developmental-support.



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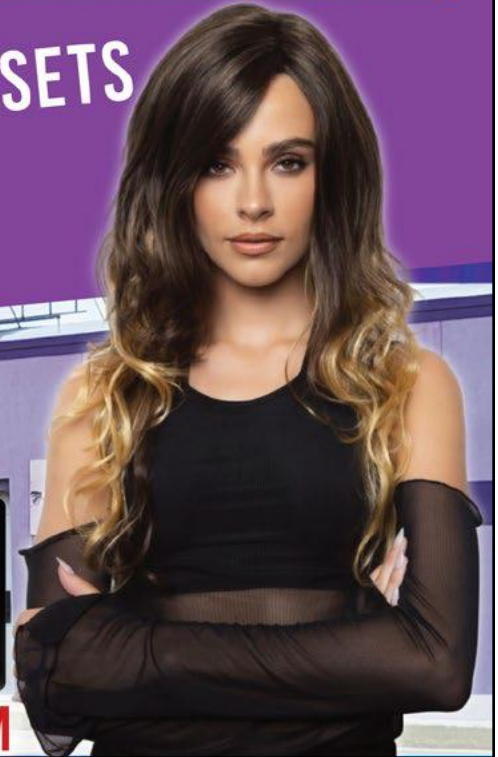


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AROUND Southgate

July - October



ONGOING

- Don't miss the remaining Concerts in the Park series on July 28, August 4 and August 11 at Market Center Park, 13631 Eureka, from 4:30-8 p.m. These events will feature vendors, live music and more and will be held rain or shine. For more information, visit www.southgatemi.org.

SEPTEMBER

September 3-6

St. Pius Labor Day Festival

St. Pius Church
14101 Superior Street
Save the dates for the annual end-of-summer festival featuring traditional festival food and refreshments, live music and entertainment, bingo, auctions, raffles and more. For more information, visit the St. Pius Labor Day Weekend Festival Facebook page.



October 10

Harvest Fest

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Market Center Park

13631 Eureka Road

Come out and enjoy free, family friendly fun, including a live DJ, artisan vendors and food trucks. There will also be opportunities to Touch a Truck (10a-1p), a scarecrow contest, Faith in Blue (11a-3p), pumpkin patch, bounce house, Salvation Army kickoff, and other kids activities.

October 16-17

Great Lakes Live Steamers

Halloween Train Rides

5-8 p.m.

Kiwanis Park

13901 Leroy Street

Enjoy a Halloween-themed train ride around the park at this family-friendly event. For more information, visit www.greatlakeslivesteamers.org.

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

OCTOBER

October 9

Halloween Trick-or-Treat Party

6-9 p.m.

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Outside Prescriptions Welcome

Employment Opportunities for All Abilities



Services To Enhance Potential (STEP) is a non-profit organization that provides support and services to more than 1,100 individuals with disabilities and mental health needs residing in Wayne County. STEP helps individuals with barriers to employment reach their full potential and achieve their life goals through various programs and trainings. These include skill building, supported employment, volunteer opportunities, vocational rehabilitation, and more. With offerings like the Progressive Art Studio Collective (PASC), STEP in the Kitchen, and training at our three STEP Thrift Store and Donation Centers, STEP offers opportunities to individuals of all abilities.

Join us for National Thrift Store Day on Monday, August 17!

**50% off all regular priced clothing and
accessories**



**Progressive Art Studio Collective
(PASC) - Southgate Studio & Gallery**
13721 Eureka Rd
Southgate, MI 48195
(734) 250-8695



STEP Thrift Store & Donation Center
13705 Eureka Road
Southgate, MI 48195
(734) 284-0814

For more information, please call
734-718-0483 or visit www.STEPcentral.org



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