

REMEMBER TO VOTE AUGUST 4 – SEE PAGE 15!

Royal Oak T O D A Y

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Shakespeare's
Back in Town

Meet Our New City
Manager

Paul McCartney's
Trip to Royal Oak

2026 - Third Quarter



SHAKESPEARE ROYAL OAK 2026



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TODAY
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From the MAYOR

'Life Now Playing' Has Never Been Truer in Royal Oak

SUMMER is in full gear and we are finally getting to enjoy all the reasons we love Royal Oak. Our downtown sidewalks are busy with shoppers, diners and parkgoers. Centennial Commons is hosting splash pad visitors, concerts and people reading books in front of the library. We are just finishing up the Fifth Avenue Plaza, which will bring more excitement to the west part of downtown.

Outside of downtown, people are taking nature walks at Tenhave Woods and Cummingston Park. Normandy Oaks is full of life with picnics, walkers and kids having the time of their life at the splash pad. People are enjoying the new upgrades to Clawson Park, Red Run Park, Patricia Paruch Park, and several other parks in the past few years.

A big thank you to our Parks and Recreation board and staff for your efforts making these improvements happen. "Life now playing" in Royal Oak has never been truer.

Behind the scenes, our citizen volunteers on both the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Planning Commission are working hard to update our zoning ordinance. Their mission is to recommend changes that will keep all the things we love about Royal Oak while adapting to modern times. This means preserving our neighborhoods and attracting new development in commercial corridors that enriches our quality of life.

Let's keep making Royal Oak the best place to call home!

Mike Fournier
Mayor



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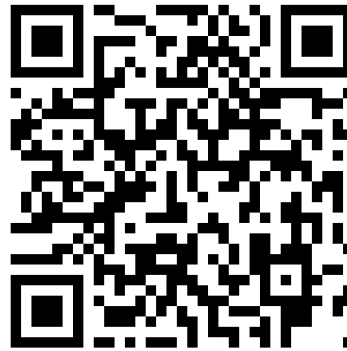
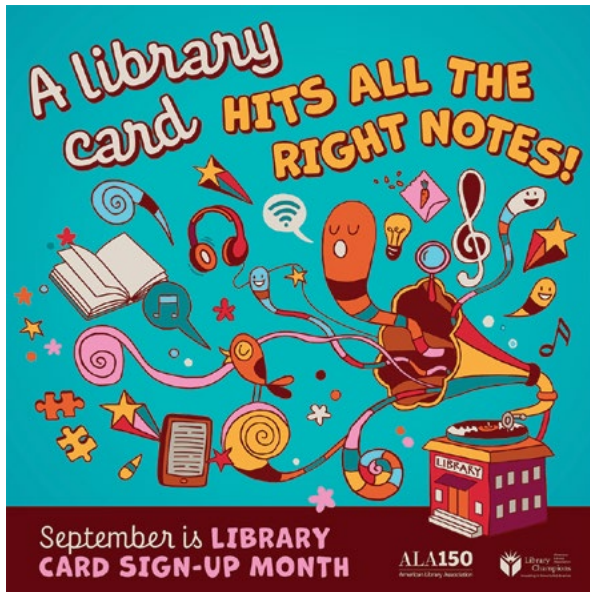
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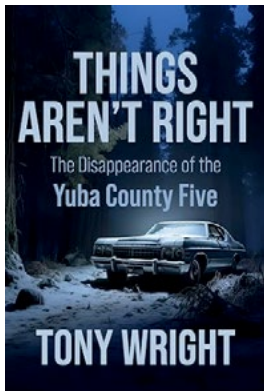
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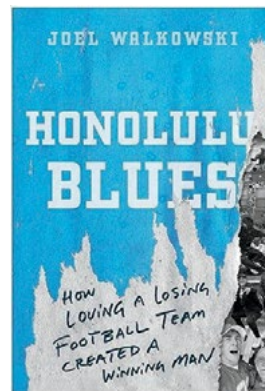
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Events @ ROPL



Things Aren't Right: The Disappearance of the Yuba County Five
Monday, August 10, 2026
6:00pm–7:00pm
Registration required
Meet author Tony Wright who will discuss how he discovered the case and worked with the families to tell the stories of the 5 men.



A Visit with Author Joel Walkowski
Saturday, September 19, 2026
2:00pm–3:00pm
Registration required
Author Joel Walkowski will read selections from the book and answer your questions.



Story Time returns the week of September 15, 2026!

- Tue @ 10:15am Family Story Time (ages 0-5 yrs)
- Wed @ 10:15am Toddler Story Time Ages 18 month - 3 years
- Thu @ 10:15am Baby Size! Ages 0-18 months

Attendance is first-come, first served, with entrance tickets available at 10am at the Youth Services Desk.



Scan for the full library event calendar and to register for upcoming events, or visit royaloak.librarycalendar.com

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Someday Starts Today For Joel Lewis II

OCC is the smart first step in becoming a teacher

IT'S almost as if Joel Lewis II was destined to end up at OCC, and not just because he hails from the southwest Detroit area. Joel's greatest fan, and mentor — his mom — set the example by earning her associate degree at OCC, as did his sister.

Joel took his family's guidance to heart, but his career choice was still in question. A small part of him still wanted to turn his love of English and writing into a career as an advertising copywriter.

That is, until he had a life-altering conversation with an academic advisor at Wayne State University.

"She sized me up pretty quickly and recommended I check into OCC to begin my undergrad course work. She explained how OCC has a very straight-forward and student-friendly approach to financial aid, scholarships and transfers to other institutions. The Michigan Transfer Agreement facilitates the transfer of credits from OCC to schools like MSU, Oakland University, University of Michigan, or

in my case Wayne State."

Joel took the sage advice from mom and enrolled at OCC. It wasn't long before he settled into student life.

"Having the flexibility to take online and in-person classes really fits my situation. I'm able to balance substitute teaching, coaching Special Olympics basketball and taking classes at OCC without the specter of life crushing student loan debt hanging over my head."

Another aspect of the OCC experience Joel really appreciates is the deeper connection he enjoys with his instructors, and with the course material.

"The smaller, more intimate class sizes at OCC allows instructors to make the class material relevant to each student's individual journey.

And no one personified this approach more than my Fundamentals of Speech instructor,

Dempsey Harrison III, who really takes the time to make the course material personally relevant to each student and their respective situation."

Joel is well on his way to achieving his ultimate goal of becoming a middle school English teacher, a role he believes will give him the opportunity to help shape young minds and serve as a role model for children, particularly those of color.

"Seeing an educated black man at the head of the classroom at such a young and impressionable age can have a profound impact on how kids see themselves and the opportunities available to

them. It wasn't long into my OCC experience that I felt I was locked into exactly what I'm supposed to be doing...which is to help these impressionable, young kids try to reach a level they don't even know is possible yet."

Joel Lewis II is on schedule to complete his course work and transfer by the fall of '24, and thanks to OCC and all of his hard work and dedication, his "Someday" is fast approaching.



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Main Street Minute

Working together to strengthen Royal Oak

WITH underground work complete on Fifth Street, concrete will be laid soon.



For the first time we will have a sense of what the completed space will begin to look and feel like.

After July 4 we will need to close down Washington Avenue to through traffic for approximately one month.

The Shop Washington campaign will support businesses impacted by construction. Please consider buying a gift card here: <https://shop-washington.yiftee.com/>. The DDA will provide some additional bonus funds to incentivize customers to visit and support businesses when they need it the most.

Business openings and expansions are continuing. We were pleased to welcome Badd Kitty (124 W. Fourth Street) and Champagne Chocolates (310 W. Fourth Street) recently.

Sometimes we get asked how the DDA is recruiting businesses. For starters, the best recruitment program is a retention program. We've already committed \$48,250 for projects up to \$10K that help to retain businesses. These funds are upgrading systems, buying equipment, enhancing marketing, and introducing new product lines.

Another important stat: Over 70 percent of business start-ups come from people who live in the community. If you are considering opening a business in Royal Oak, please contact us.

In June the DDA worked with a strategic communications and storytelling expert to help us with getting the message out about Royal Oak the best way possible. The timing is fortunate, with the 50 years since the formation of the DDA on November 1, 1976.

Working together we will strengthen the position of Royal Oak as a top downtown in Michigan and a leader nationally.

Isaac Kremer, Executive Director, Royal Oak DDA
isaack@romi.gov

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Discovering Downtown Through Storytelling: A New Way to Experience Royal Oak

THE Royal Oak Downtown Development Authority is partnering with City Institute to offer a series of guided walking tours designed to help residents and visitors experience Downtown Royal Oak in a new way.

By blending local history, community storytelling and visits to small businesses, the tours provide participants with a deeper understanding of the people, places and experiences that shape the city's unique character.

"We are excited to partner with the Royal Oak DDA to showcase the amazing variety of small businesses in Royal Oak!" said City Institute President Jeanette Pierce. "Our tour attendees love meeting the owners, tasting delicious samples and learning about both new and old businesses. Whether you've been in Metro Detroit a day or a lifetime, there's always something new to discover in Royal Oak!"

The first tour, held on May 30, invited attendees to explore downtown through a curated walking experience featuring several local businesses, including Dessert Oasis Coffee Roasters, Kacha Thai Market, Give Thanks Bakery, Atelier Art Studio, Studio Sandra, and others. Along the way, participants learned about the stories behind the businesses, the entrepreneurs who built them, and the evolution of the district itself.

The tours are led by a Royal Oak native tour guide from City Institute, an organization

dedicated to helping people better understand the communities they live in through contextual storytelling and immersive learning experiences. Based in Detroit, City Institute has built a reputation for creating engaging tours, learning journeys, speaking engagements, and educational programs that connect people to the history, culture and development of cities.

For the DDA, the partnership is about more than showcasing downtown businesses. It is an opportunity to strengthen community connections, support local entrepreneurs and encourage residents to engage more deeply with the place they call home.

"By highlighting the stories behind storefronts, public spaces and community landmarks, the tours help participants see Downtown Royal Oak through a broader lens while introducing them to businesses they may not have previously discovered," said DDA Deputy Director Julia Kalugar.

Additional tours will continue throughout the summer and fall on July 25, August 22, September 26, and October 24. Each experience offers a fresh perspective on Royal Oak's history, business community and ongoing growth, ensuring that no two tours are exactly alike.

As communities continue to evolve, experiences like these remind us that understanding a city begins with understanding its stories. Through the partnership between the Royal Oak DDA and City Institute, residents and visitors alike are discovering that some of the most meaningful connections can be found just a few blocks from home.



Photos courtesy of the Royal Oak DDA.





Royal Oak's Best Kept Secret

Studio Sandra offers one-of-a-kind items in a relaxed atmosphere By Angela Calabrese

WHEN you walk into Studio Sandra, the women's boutique located at 415 E. Fourth Street, and see owner Sandra Rome chatting to customers like they're old friends, that's because they are. They are relationships built from years of being in business in a town she grew up in, and where she cut her teeth in the fashion and service industries.

"I've always worked in service," she said. "That's how you learn how to take care of people."

Studio Sandra offers creative clothing and goods, with Rome herself providing personalized service. Most of the items she carries are American made, and as for those made in Europe, she knows exactly where they're coming from.

Customers can find one-of-a-kind designs in clothing, shoes, jewelry, bags and more, and the inventory changes often.

"My store changes all the time," Rome said. "I like to keep things fresh for my regulars."

Some of Rome's customers are people she's known for 30 years, who now come in with their kids. But you don't have to be a regular to shop at Studio Sandra. Rome is always ready to help the next person who comes in to find something they'll love.

Rome is a native Royal Oaker who attended Shrine Elementary and Dondero High School. Like most kids of

the '80s, she started working early, with one of her earliest experiences being at Frenz & Sons Hardware.

"I worked there when I was 14, and everyone knew the customers' names," said Rome, who has clearly embraced that idea

of customer relations in her own business.

In high school, Rome started working at Lotus Imports, where she eventually became a manager and a buyer. She credits the owner, whom she says "saw

something in me" with fostering Rome's interest in clothing and fashion. She took Rome with her on a buying trip to New York City, which further grew her interest.

Rome spent many years working for Lotus, cultivating relationships with people while learning the business. But when the store closed in 2009, Rome was at loose ends.

"I was a French major who was working on my master's degree in linguistics," Rome said. "Yet I was still wondering what I was going to do."

Some advice from a dear friend – who has since passed away – gave Rome some food for thought.

"She called me up one day to see how I was doing, and she told me about an article she had read about pop-up clothing shops in New York City," Rome said. "Her words: 'Just some food for thought.' That's just how she was."

When Rome became aware of the vacancy on Fourth Street, she made her move, and caught the owner "on a good day", securing the space. That was in 2011. Fifteen years later, she's grown the business into a place where her customers know her, and she knows them.

"It took time and experience but I'm now at the point where I can tell just by looking at someone what their size is, and what will or won't work on them," Rome said. "But really, it's not about size, it's about finding what works best for your body."

Check out Studio Sandra's live streams on Facebook, or visit ShopStudioSandra on Instagram for more information.



Investing in Downtown's Future

Royal Oak DDA awards first round of Business Recruitment and Retention Funding

DOWNTOWN Royal Oak's success has always been driven by the entrepreneurs, restaurateurs, retailers, and creatives who bring energy and character to its streets. Now, through a new Business Recruitment and Retention Program, the Royal Oak Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is making direct investments in those businesses to help them grow, innovate and thrive.

This spring, the DDA announced the first round of funding awards, supporting five local businesses through a dollar-for-dollar matching model designed to help owners overcome common barriers to growth while encouraging reinvestment in downtown Royal Oak. Businesses can receive matching funds from the DDA of up to \$10,000. Projects span operational efficiency, technology modernization, service expansion, and long-term sustainability.

"The success of downtown Royal Oak depends on the success of the businesses that call it home," said DDA Director Isaac Kremer. "This program allows us to invest directly in the entrepreneurs and business owners who are continually finding new ways to serve customers, create jobs and strengthen our downtown economy."

The first round of awards reflects the diversity and innovation that defines Royal Oak's business community:

- Creative Arts Studio received support to expand into a neighboring vacant space, growing its footprint and creating new opportunities for arts programming and community engagement.
- Give Thanks was awarded funding for an outdoor café buildout and targeted social media campaigns, attracting new customers while enhancing the pedestrian experience downtown.
- North End Taproom secured funding to launch a delivery-only ghost kitchen concept, Bird and Bees Chicken, creating a new revenue stream and strengthening the business's long-term financial resilience.
- Seven Sundays Coffee received support for digital ordering, loyalty program improvements and app upgrades to better serve customers and streamline operations.
- Blue Goat was awarded funding for kitchen equipment upgrades to improve operational efficiency and support continued quality and consistency for its guests.

While each project is unique, they share a common goal: helping local businesses adapt, evolve and position themselves for long-term success. Eligible businesses can seek funding for marketing, technology, equipment, professional services, sustainability improvements, and more. The matching requirement ensures both the business owner and the community have a shared stake in each project's outcome.



For residents and visitors, these investments translate into improved customer experiences, expanded services, activated storefronts, and a downtown that continues to evolve while maintaining the independent spirit that makes Royal Oak special.

These first-round projects are just the beginning – by helping businesses grow today, the DDA is building a stronger, more vibrant downtown for years to come.

Blue Goat photo by Jim McClear. All others courtesy of the Royal Oak DDA.

'We Grow Our Own'

Shakespeare Royal Oak returns to Starr Jaycee Park this summer

By Kelsi Klein

SOME of Michigan's best professional and emerging-professional artists will once again take the outdoor stage at Royal Oak's Starr Jaycee Park this summer when Water Works Theatre Company's Shakespeare Royal Oak festival presents Shakespeare's "As You Like It", directed by Kelli Rademacher.

What began in 2001 as a dream of Royal Oak native and founder Ed Nahhat has grown into an annual tradition of a professional theater festival that entertains, educates and inspires. Now in its 26th season, Shakespeare Royal Oak has become a beloved community tradition, bringing homegrown, professional outdoor theatre to the heart of the community.

"The whole idea behind it is to enhance the quality of life in the community by providing a place for artists who have professional caliber skills a place they can call home and be proud of their community," Nahhat said.

Nahhat, an attorney with Kemp Klein Law Firm, studied theatre before law school and says he's never lost his respect for the arts. But seeing talented performers leave Michigan for opportunities elsewhere, like New York and California, inspired him to found Shakespeare Royal Oak to build professional opportunities for local artists, giving them a reason to stay connected to the community they came from.

The name of the nonprofit organization that produces the festival, Water Works Theatre Company, comes from the old Water Works Park that inspired his vision back in 2001. But now it teaches the company to "water our own," Nahhat said. Through KidsAct! and SRO Teen Ensemble, children and teens get the opportunity to not only learn Shakespeare but also act in front of the community – a good steppingstone for some who move on to professional acting, and many who learn enhanced communication skills in life.

In the park, young students learn everything: safe sword fighting to improv and iambic pentameter and dance.

During Shakespeare Royal Oak each summer, students will perform for the public. The elementary and middle schoolers present their show on Saturday morning after a week of learning in the park, while high school students get to put on an abbreviated



Photos by Kevin Walsh.

version of a Shakespeare play live for a donation-only audience.

For Nahhat, this summer's mainstage show is special because director Rademacher is a product of the theater company's home-grown mission.

"She's the artist with the vision," Nahhat said. "Her very first professional play in her career was with us, in our very first show in 2001, so we like to sort of grow our own here."

Another performer cast in this year's show is a graduate of SRO's education programs and is now studying theater at Ohio State University.

"We're pretty proud of her," he said, mentioning others who have grown up with the company for the past two decades.

This year's production will be set in 1830s Detroit. In typical Shakespeare fashion, it tells the tale of Shakespeare's most famous comedic woman, Rosalind, being banished from Detroit and sent out to the woods of Royal Oak.

With professionalism as SRO's guiding principle, the set will be built according to a professional design from scratch, and the specially designed costumes will represent the era of the play.

All these local professional artists will take the Shakespeare Royal Oak stage with performances from July 23-August 2, on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are just \$35 and can be purchased in advance at www.shakespeareroyaloak.com or at the Starr Jaycee Park box office on 13 Mile Road. Group rates are available for parties of 10-plus as well.

Whatever size your group is, Nahhat advises, bring your favorite lawn chair or a blanket and come on time to get a good spot to enjoy a "summer night under the stars with Shakespeare."

"Just don't bring rain," he laughed.



From left to right: Oscar Quiroz, Grace Lawrence and Isabella Javier.

YOUR VOTE.

YOUR COMMUNITY.

The City of Royal Oak wants residents to be aware of the upcoming Primary and Special Election on Tuesday, August 4, 2026. The ballot will include two City Charter proposals related to municipal millages. One proposal concerns the renewal and adjustment of the City's public safety millage, and the second proposal concerns renewal of the City's sanitation millage.



IMPORTANT DATES

The election is Aug. 4.
Polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm.

- Constitutionally-mandated early voting period: July 25-Aug. 2.
- Last day to register to vote by mail or online July 20,
- New voter registrations are required in person for August election July 21-Aug. 4.



PUBLIC SAFETY

MILLAGE AT-A-GLANCE

- **Original voter approval:** 2012
- **Proposed authorization:** Up to 4.6 mills
- **Duration:** 10 years (2027-2036)
- **Estimated first-year revenue:** \$18.1 million
- **Estimated increase over current levy:** Approximately \$119 per year (about \$10 per month)

OPEN TO LEARN MORE



CHARTER AMENDMENT FOR POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES MILLAGE | 4.6 MILLS



WHAT SERVICES ARE SUPPORTED?

Revenue generated from the millage would continue to support Royal Oak's Police, Fire, and emergency medical services, including:

- Police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel
- Emergency response operations
- Vehicles and equipment
- Technology systems
- Protective gear
- Training and certification requirements
- Communications and dispatch support
- Other public safety related operational needs

Royal Oak Police, Fire, and EMS personnel respond to thousands of calls for service annually and provide emergency response services 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Revenue generated by the millage helps support the personnel, equipment, technology, and operational resources necessary to provide these services throughout the community. The proposed ten-year authorization is intended to assist with long-range financial planning, capital replacement scheduling, and budgeting for public safety operations.

WHAT WOULD IT COST?

For a home with the current median residential taxable value of approximately \$118,435:

- Current annual Public Safety Millage cost: Approximately \$425
- Proposed annual Public Safety Millage cost: Approximately \$544
- Estimated increase: Approximately \$119 per year, or about \$10 per month

While the proposed authorization would permit a levy of up to 4.6 mills, Royal Oak property owners currently pay a Public Safety Millage rate of approximately 3.5893 mills due to Headlee Amendment reductions. As with other Michigan property tax millages, the actual rate levied may be reduced by future Headlee Amendment limitations.

PUBLIC SAFETY MILLAGE COMPARISON

Current Authorization

- Authorized Millage: 3.975 mills
- Current Levy: 3.5893 mills
- Expires: 2026
- Median Residential Cost: Approximately \$425 annually

Proposed Authorization

- Authorized Millage: 4.6 mills
- Duration: 10 years
- Median Residential Cost: Approximately \$544 annually
- Estimated Increase: Approximately \$119 annually

WHY IS THE CITY REQUESTING THIS AUTHORIZATION?

The current Public Safety Millage was first approved by Royal Oak voters in 2012. Since that time, public safety operating costs have increased substantially due to factors including:

- Personnel and wage costs
- Healthcare expenses
- Pension obligations
- Vehicle replacement costs
- Equipment and protective gear costs
- Technology and communications systems
- Training and certification requirements

The proposed authorization is intended to help address increased public safety costs while providing a stable and predictable funding source for future Police, Fire, and emergency medical service operations.

HOW IS PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDED?

Public Safety Millage revenue currently supports a significant portion of Royal Oak's Police, Fire, and emergency medical service operations. The City's FY 2027 budget projects approximately \$45 million in annual public safety expenditures. If approved, the proposed millage is estimated to generate approximately \$18.1 million annually beginning in 2027 to support these services.

If the proposal is not approved, the City would be required to evaluate public safety funding and overall municipal operations through the annual budget process. Given the significant role public safety expenditures play in the City's budget, the absence of the proposed funding would likely require expenditure reductions affecting public safety services and other City services. Depending on future budget decisions and financial conditions, impacts could include reduced staffing levels, longer response times, delayed replacement of vehicles and equipment, deferred capital and facility improvements, and reduced service levels in departments throughout the City organization.



FAST FACTS

Royal Oak Police Department

- Currently employs 79 sworn police officers
- Operates 24 hours per day, 365 days per year
- Provides patrol services, criminal investigations, traffic enforcement, K9 teams, drug enforcement activities, and the Co-Responder mental health program

Royal Oak Fire Department

- Currently includes 63 firefighters and officers
- Operates from multiple stations throughout the City 24 hours per day, 365 days per year
- Provides fire suppression, advanced life support emergency medical response and transport, hazardous materials response, technical rescue services, fire prevention inspections, and public education program

Public Safety Funding

- Supports staffing, equipment, vehicles, technology, protective gear, training, and emergency response operations
- Helps fund essential Police, Fire, and emergency medical services provided throughout the community
- Would generate an estimated \$18.1 million annually beginning in 2027

CHARTER AMENDMENT FOR RENEWAL OF REFUSE COLLECTION, DISPOSAL AND CURBSIDE RECYCLING PROGRAM MILLAGE | 1.00 MILL

THIS PROPOSAL RENEWS AN EXISTING MILLAGE

The City of Royal Oak is asking voters to **renew the existing Sanitation Millage for an additional five-year period.**

This is **not a new tax**. Royal Oak property owners currently pay the Sanitation Millage, which helps fund trash collection, recycling, yard waste collection, leaf pickup, and other sanitation-related services.

The proposal would continue the City's existing voter-approved authorization of up to 1.00 mill for another five years.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE AVERAGE HOMEOWNER?

For a home with the current median residential taxable value of approximately \$118,435, the current annual cost is approximately \$106 per year.

Because residents already pay the Sanitation Millage today, approval of this proposal would not create a new annual tax.

WHAT SERVICES DOES THE MILLAGE SUPPORT?

The Sanitation Millage helps fund:

- ✓ Weekly curbside trash collection
- ✓ Weekly curbside recycling collection
- ✓ Seasonal yard waste collection
- ✓ Leaf collection services
- ✓ Bulk item collection programs
- ✓ Household hazardous waste disposal events
- ✓ Street sweeping operations
- ✓ Recycling and sustainability initiatives
- ✓ Equipment, vehicles, and operational costs associated with these services

WHY IS THE MILLAGE IMPORTANT?

The Sanitation Millage provides a dedicated source of funding for the collection, disposal, recycling, and environmental services relied upon by residents throughout Royal Oak.

Revenue generated by the millage helps offset increasing operational costs associated with sanitation services, including collection, disposal, recycling processing, equipment, fuel, and environmental compliance requirements. The proposal is estimated to generate approximately \$3.5 million annually to support these services.

FAST FACTS

- Royal Oak provides citywide curbside trash and recycling collection services.
- The City utilizes single-stream recycling, allowing recyclable materials to be placed together in a single recycling cart.
- The millage supports yard waste collection, leaf pickup, street sweeping, and related environmental services.
- Revenue generated by the millage remains dedicated to sanitation, recycling, and related services.
- The proposal would renew the existing millage authorization for an additional five years.

FOR MORE ELECTION
INFORMATION

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PRIDE ROYAL OAK

**Saturday, July 25, 2026
1:00-11:00 pm**

MAIN STAGE Centennial Commons

DJ Weisman
Andrew Nichols
Bell Bastian
The Kiss Boys
The Dozen Divas

Lexi
Local Drag Showcase
Monet X Change
Alyssa Edwards
Todrick Hall

**Plus, VIP Meet + Greet
inside the RO Farmers Market!**

MARKET STAGE RO Farmers Market at 4:30 pm



Led by award-winning Second City alum Detroit's own Antoine McKay, join us at **Pride Royal Oak** for **Shakespeare Improv!** where we put the fun in understanding Shakespeare's work, making it relatable through the excitement of improv comedy.

Tickets on Sale Now!

PrideRoyalOak.com



The Time Paul McCartney visited Royal Oak for 'American hamburger'

By John S. Schultz

EDWARD J. Wolfrum was a young sound engineer from Royal Oak whose creative genius played a crucial role in the Detroit recording industry's subsequent success, earning him international acclaim and professional recognition. Wolfrum worked at Motown, Golden World Records, United Sound Studios, Terra Shirma, Theme Productions, and many other smaller studios throughout the 1960s and 1970s.

Although Wolfrum wasn't a household name like many of the musicians he collaborated with, his invention of a single piece of sound equipment boosted his name and reputation in the local recording scene and later across the country and internationally.

He was 16 when he created a device he called a "Direct Box" while working at WEXL, a radio station on Eleven Mile. It enabled consumer-grade gear to interface with professional audio equipment, significantly improving the sound quality of the finished product.

According to Ed's wife, Susan, Paul McCartney flew to Detroit in 1965 to check out the sound being engineered in the studios.

She said Paul was unaware of the Wolfrum's Direct Box but was curious about how Detroit recording studios were achieving a cleaner bass sound from their recording artists.

"Paul was quite young then, but he was fascinated by the bass playing here in Detroit and dropped by to watch and listen for himself," Wolfrum said in an interview. "I think it was a spy mission, as I know he was trying to figure out how we got the bass sound."

Ed recalls that his Direct Box was right at Paul's feet, yet he never noticed it. After hearing the improved sound, Paul inquired how it was produced. Ed and others told McCartney they couldn't tell him.

Undaunted, Paul said, "OK," then added, "Since I am in America, I want to have an American hamburger," and suggested they all go to McDonald's. Ed replied, "No," and suggested that if Paul wanted a great "American hamburger," they all go to Maverick's Drive-In in Royal Oak.

Maverick's was a longtime, popular restaurant on Woodward, north of Thirteen Mile near Normandy. The group drove up Woodward Avenue, and Paul said he enjoyed the drive, telling his companions he appreciated seeing the city's sights along Woodward up to Royal Oak.



A young Paul McCartney listens to bassist Bob Babbitt of the studio band, the Funk Brothers, play in a session at Theme Productions in Detroit in 1965.

Photo by Edward Wolfrum, courtesy of Susan Wolfrum.

LEARN MORE HISTORY

If you are interested in discovering more about Royal Oak's rich history:

- **JOIN** the Royal Oak Historical Society, and as a member, you will receive our quarterly newsletter by mail or email that includes feature articles on the people and events that helped shape and grow our city. See website for details.
- **ATTEND** the Royal Oak Historical Society's monthly speakers' series on the second Friday of every month at the museum. Tickets are \$15 and are limited to 50 attendees.
- **VOLUNTEER** your time at the Royal Oak Historical Museum as a docent, researcher or helper.
- **VISIT AND ENJOY** the alternating exhibits at the Royal Oak Historical Museum, 1411 W. Webster Road. Hours are 1-4 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

For more information,
visit royaloakhistoricalsociety.com
or call (248) 439-1501.

At Maverick's, the story goes, they were all enjoying their lunch when some young girls at a nearby table noticed Paul. Alerted by their attention, Paul suggested the group leave before things "got a bit out of control."

As Paul got up from the table, one of the girls came up to him and said, "You look a lot like Paul McCartney!" Paul turned around and looked at the girl and said, "Yeah, I get that a lot." The group left without incident.



Please visit and support the Royal Oak Historical Museum at 1411 W. Webster Road in Royal Oak. For more information visit royaloakhistoricalsociety.com or call (248) 439-1501. Hours are 1-4 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

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Master of the Strange

Royal Oak's John E.L. Tenney explores mysteries, folklore and the unexplained

By Ryan M. Place

JOHN E.L. Tenney has built an unusual career by asking unusual questions.

Born in Royal Oak in 1971 and a third-generation resident, Tenney has spent more than three decades researching folklore, UFOs, the occult, cryptids, and strange experiences.

"I'm a historical researcher," Tenney said. "I'm interested in why people believe what they believe and what actually happened."

Tenney attended Dondero High School before finishing at Kimball High School. He later studied at Wayne State University but left after about a year and a half when an unusual opportunity arose.

"A friend in Los Angeles saw an ad that Unsolved Mysteries needed researchers," he recalled. "I got the job and bounced between Detroit, Los Angeles and New York. That changed everything."

As a teenager, one of his most influential mentors was Dr. Jack Kevorkian, whom he met regularly at the Royal Oak Library.

"I used to skip school and meet him there three times a week," Tenney said. "He'd give me book recommendations and challenge me to think differently about history, philosophy and science. Jack lived in an apartment above Mr. B's (now Alchemi)."

At age 17, Tenney experienced a cardiac arrest and briefly flatlined. Unlike classic near-death accounts, his experience was something very different.

"It wasn't a tunnel of light," he said. "It was what I call the null experience. I was dead and floating in a timeless void."

Today, Tenney's research focuses on what scholars call anomalistic experiences: déjà vu, sleep paralysis, hearing one's name called,

apparitions, missing time, shadow figures, synchronicities, UFO encounters, and other unusual phenomena. Yet he remains skeptical of easy answers.

"Claims shouldn't automatically be accepted or dismissed," he said. "They should be investigated."

Tenney is a noted expert on Michigan's famous 1966 "Swamp Gas" UFO incident, which generated more than 3,000 witness reports and attracted national attention.

Outside of research, Tenney's interests are remarkably varied.

"I formed my first punk band, Degeneration, at age 14," he said. "We opened for Social Distortion, Agent Orange, The Dwarves, Reagan Youth. Then in 1995, I opened Neo Tokyo at Main Street and Catalpa, a Japanese pop-culture store for fans of Godzilla, Ultraman, comics, toys, and imported collectibles."

A lifelong collector himself, Tenney particularly enjoys Marvel and DC comics from the '60s and '70s.

"My favorite has always been Swamp Thing by Bernie Wrightson," he said.

Today, he hosts the renowned What's Up Weirdo? podcast and continues presenting his Weird Lectures series several times each month.

After more than 35 years investigating unusual claims, Tenney remains comfortable with uncertainty.

"I still don't know if any of the paranormal stuff is real," he said. "Ghosts, UFOs, cryptids and folklore may all be different expressions of the same thing that we're simply misidentifying. There may never be definitive answers to the world's weirdest questions and that's okay."

Despite his travels and unusual career, Royal Oak remains home.

"Royal Oak has always felt like the perfect blend of a busy little city and a small town," he said. "I especially love Gusoline Alley and St. Mary Cemetery."

Tenney is currently writing a book exploring magic and ritual for caregivers, inspired in part by caring for his mother during her battle with Alzheimer's.

Contact John at john@weirdlectures.com

Oakland County Enhancement Millage

ON August 4, 2026, voters in Oakland County will be asked to consider a new Regional Enhancement Millage to support all public schools in the county and eligible public school academies. A regional enhancement millage is the only mechanism school districts may use to increase per-pupil funding. If the millage passes, every penny generated by this proposal would be distributed to all public school districts and eligible public school academies in Oakland County at an average rate of \$781 per student.

What would Royal Oak Schools do with these funds if approved?

Royal Oak Schools would receive approximately \$3.6 million for the next six years if the county enhancement millage is approved. With these funds, we would:

- **Increase Staff Support**

We value our teachers and staff, but our funding sources for compensation are limited. If approved, the new Enhancement Millage funding would be directed

toward increasing staff compensation and adding interventionist positions to provide additional academic support for students while strengthening support for classroom teachers. We will also use these funds to give staff access to enhanced instructional spaces, tools and materials. These investments would help attract and retain high-quality educators while continuing to meet the academic and social-emotional needs of all students.

- **Expand Busing**

If approved by voters, the Oakland County Enhancement Millage would also support the expansion of school bus transportation services across the district. The district would begin by adding transportation for eligible middle school students, then phase in expanded services for additional schools over time. This expansion would help improve access, consistency and convenience for families.



Royal Oak Schools Announces New Principals for Upton and Keller Elementary Schools

ROYAL OAK Schools has appointed two experienced educational leaders to serve as elementary principals beginning in the 2026-2027 school year. Stephan Henning, currently a middle school principal in Waterford with a strong background in elementary education and International Baccalaureate (IB) and Primary Years Programme (PYP) frameworks, will lead Keller Elementary School. Kristin Szymanski, the ROMS MTSS Coordinator and former Upton fourth-grade teacher, has been selected as principal of Upton Elementary School. Both leaders will work closely with retiring principals John Grzywack and Marcie Dryden—who each dedicated 30 years of service to Royal Oak Schools—to ensure a smooth transition for students, staff and families.


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2026 Bond

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NEW ELECTION DATE
NOVEMBER 3, 2026

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find more info on
royaloakschools.org





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- Southeast Oakland Coalition
- Prevention Pontiac Coalition
- Tri-Community Coalition
- Royal Oak Community Coalition
- Troy Community Coalition



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If you'd like to be a vendor for this event, please scan the QR Code to apply.



Federal, State, and/or County funding has been provided through the Oakland Community Health Network - Office of Substance Use Disorders to support the project costs.

For More Info: (248) 221-7101

| www.alliancemi.org



CONNECT. SHARE. ENJOY

South Oakland Art Association brings community together through appreciation and collaboration

By Melissa Wilson

FOR more than six decades, the South Oakland Art Association (SOAA) has brought artists together to learn, create and share their work with the community. Founded in 1960, the nonprofit organization continues to support both emerging and established artists through exhibitions, educational programs, community outreach, and artistic fellowship.

One of the greatest benefits of SOAA membership is the opportunity to connect with fellow artists. Members often gather outside of meetings for plein air painting excursions, museum visits, photography outings, and day trips throughout Michigan. These shared experiences foster friendships, artistic growth and a strong sense of community. This summer, members enjoyed a plein air painting meet-up, with another planned later in the season.

SOAA artists also enjoyed participating in the Royal Oak Outdoor Art Fair, one of Michigan's premier outdoor art events. Held in the beautiful setting of Memorial Park, the fair offers visitors an opportunity to experience fine art, live music and the welcoming atmosphere that makes Royal Oak a destination for art lovers. SOAA also collaborates with the Royal Oak Arts Council to support the fair and help ensure its success.

The association will continue its summer activities by participating in the Hazel Park Art Fair on August 22-23. In September, SOAA will host a booth at the Trenton Art Festival on September 19, providing another opportunity for the public to meet local artists and view their work.

These community events allow SOAA members to connect with the public, share their artwork and promote the value of the arts throughout southeast Michigan.

Looking ahead to the fall, SOAA's most anticipated event

of the year will be its Annual Art Show at the Royal Oak Historical Society Museum.

The exhibition will run from November 7 through November 21, with an opening reception on Sunday, November 8. The annual show showcases the diverse talents of SOAA members and celebrates the vibrant artistic community that has sustained the organization for 66 years. Community members are encouraged to attend and experience the wide range of artwork created by local artists.

SOAA's monthly meetings resume on September 8 at 7 p.m. at the Mahany/Meininger Community Center, 3500 Marais Avenue in Royal Oak. Meetings are open to members and guests, and feature presentations by professional artists working in a variety of media.

Upcoming meeting dates are September 8, October 6, November 10, and December 1 at 7 p.m. at the Leo Mahany/Harold Meininger Community Center.

At the November meeting, members will be challenged to create a nature-based art piece. In addition, every month members participate in a fun and spirited Artist of the Month contest. The contest gives members an opportunity to share current or past artwork in a variety of categories.

SOAA remains committed to keeping the arts accessible and welcoming to all. Membership is open to anyone aged 18 or older and costs just \$30 per year. Whether you are an experienced artist, a beginner looking to learn or simply someone who appreciates the arts, SOAA offers opportunities to connect, create and be inspired.

For more information about membership, meetings and events, contact SOAA at SOAA200@gmail.com.





A Century of Service

Royal Oak Eagles Celebrate 100 Years of Community By Judy Davids

FOR 100 years, the Royal Oak Eagles have lived by a simple motto: "People Helping People."

As the organization celebrates its centennial in 2026, members are reflecting on a century of charitable giving, friendship and community involvement that has made the club a lasting part of Royal Oak's history.

Founded in 1926 as Union Aerie #2092, the Royal Oak Eagles marked the milestone with a weekend-long celebration on June 27 and 28, including an open house, special events and opportunities for members and the public to honor the organization's legacy.

While the Eagles are often known as a social club, charity has always been at the heart of their mission. Through local fundraising efforts and support of national Fraternal Order of Eagles initiatives, members help fund research, patient care, and support services for a wide range of health challenges.

Among the causes supported by the Eagles are diabetes, cancer, heart disease, kidney disease, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and spinal cord injuries. Funds raised by local

members contribute to research programs and patient assistance efforts across the country, helping advance treatments and improve lives.

Closer to home, the Royal Oak Eagles proudly support Gilda's Club Metro Detroit, located on Rochester Road in Royal Oak. The organization's cancer support community offers more than 170 free programs designed to help individuals and families navigate a cancer diagnosis.

Gilda's Club provides educational resources, healthy lifestyle programs, support groups, networking opportunities, and referrals for those living with cancer, as well as their caregivers, friends, and family members. Services are also available to individuals grieving the loss of a loved one to cancer.

Each year, both the Royal Oak Eagles and the club's Royal Oak Eagle Riders motorcycle group organize events to benefit Gilda's Club. One of the most successful is the annual motorcycle show, held this past May. Funds raised through the event are submitted through the Eagles' national organization, where grants can be matched, effectively doubling the impact of local donations.

Beyond their house charity, the Eagles support additional causes selected each year by the Aerie president and auxiliary madam president. Recent beneficiaries have

included Common Ground, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, veterans support programs, and organizations serving injured service members.

Community support is only part of what keeps members coming back. The Eagles clubhouse remains a lively gathering place where friendships are formed and traditions continue. Regular activities include shuffleboard leagues, pool nights, karaoke, live entertainment, and special events throughout the year.

The organization's facilities have also evolved to meet the needs of the community. A spacious second-floor hall with a full kitchen and bar is available for private events, while an outdoor patio created during the COVID-19 pandemic proved so popular that it became a permanent addition to the property.

Located in the heart of downtown Royal Oak, the Eagles are within walking distance of the Farmers Market, Centennial Commons, restaurants, and entertainment venues, making the club an active part of the city's social fabric.

As Union Aerie #2092 enters its second century, members remain committed to the same values that guided the organization in 1926: helping neighbors, supporting worthy causes and creating a welcoming place where community comes first.

After 100 years of service, the Royal Oak Eagles are already looking ahead to the next century of making a difference—one act of kindness at a time.



Servant Leadership

Meet Royal Oak's new city manager, Thomas Markus

By Mark H. Stowers

IT'S a career his father and uncle steered him toward back in high school, and one he's been happily employed in for the past 50 years. Now Thomas Markus is bringing all of that experience and putting it to work in Royal Oak as the city's newest city manager.

The city meeting executive summary on the official night of his hiring described Markus as, "a nationally recognized City Manager with more than four decades of municipal leadership experience serving complex, full-service communities throughout the Midwest, including Birmingham, Michigan; Lawrence, Kansas; Iowa City, Iowa; Brooklyn Park, Minnesota; and Wheeling, Illinois. Over the course of his career, he has led organizations through periods of transition, operational restructuring, infrastructure modernization, strategic planning, fiscal stabilization, economic development, succession planning, and organizational culture improvements. His resume reflects longevity and success across a wide variety of governmental and operational environments."

Markus brings that experience and has moved downtown with his wife Debbie – within walking distance of his city hall office – and has been on the job since May 20.

As a kid growing up in Minnesota, his first career choice was to be a farmer. Active in 4H, he raised a hog but his father, a former farmer and then a railroad engineer, and his uncle steered him away from the "tough business" of farming. During his sophomore year in high school, Tom decided to take their advice and change course. It was then he arrived at his current occupation.

"He said, 'I keep running into these people called city managers. You should really consider looking at a career in city management,'" Markus said.

He knew the daughter of the town's city manager and he struck up a conversation to learn more. He decided to attend Mankato State University – now Minnesota State University – and pursued urban studies. He also put a business degree in his back pocket at the urging of his uncle.

His wife Debbie was a priceless treasure found in an urban finance class.

"It happened to be a graduate class and she was still an undergrad," he said. "She didn't know anything about it but it was being taught by a city manager, and I said, 'Well, I'll help her figure it out and get through.' It developed into more than a casual relationship and we ended up getting married. She's as much engaged in my world as I am. She's so supportive, and if you have to gut-check something with somebody, who better than your spouse?"

He understands that his long tenure in the city manager world is not the norm these days.

"It's getting more challenging," he said. "I find it very fulfilling. As a young person, you can get involved. You



can be part of accomplishments, part of success, part of getting things done, part of building relationships in the community. And the big thing for me now at my stage is training young people."

Markus' foundation for training is based in servant leadership.

"I encourage them to understand being a servant leader," he said. "We serve the public. Our position should be all about the service. It shouldn't just be a job. Because if it's just a job, you can go do that anywhere."

Building the future of Royal Oak with experience garnered from a career across the Midwest, Royal Oak's city manager, Thomas Markus.



More Than an Art School

How Atelier School of Art builds community through creativity

ATelier School of Art, located in downtown Royal Oak, is doing more than teaching people how to draw and paint. Through year-round classes and workshops, the school creates opportunities for people of all ages to connect, learn and grow together.

At a time when meaningful face-to-face interaction can be hard to find, Atelier has become a welcoming art community where friendships are formed, and creativity is encouraged through a shared love of art.

Learning Side by Side

On any given day, the studio is filled with a mix of artists supporting one another's progress. Students may come from different backgrounds and have different skill levels, but they all share a love of creating.

- Beginners are learning basic drawing techniques.
- Teens are building advanced portfolios.
- Adults are exploring a new hobby.
- Retirees are pursuing lifelong artistic goals.

One of the reasons Atelier feels so welcoming is its small class sizes. Instructors can provide personalized guidance while also encouraging students to interact and learn from each other.

Rather than following a one-size-fits-all approach, students are encouraged to develop their own artistic style and move at their own pace. This creates an environment where everyone feels supported.

"When I first joined Atelier, I was simply looking for art instruction, but I found much more. The teachers help each student develop at their own pace," said Lisa Hoover, a drawing student and resident of Royal Oak.

For children, teens and adults,

the benefits of art go beyond learning how to draw or paint. Classes help students build confidence, strengthen communication skills and develop creative problem-solving abilities.

"There is a positive energy that inspires you to keep exploring, improving and discovering what you're capable of as an artist," Hoover said.

Atelier SCHOOL OF ART

How to Get Started

Whether you've never picked up a paintbrush or have been creating for years, there's a place for you at Atelier. You can explore classes and programs at www.atelierschoolofart.com, or simply call (248) 951-4400. Atelier staff would love to hear about your interests, experience level and artistic goals so they can help guide you to the class that's the best fit.

Atelier intentionally handles enrollment over the phone because every student's journey is different. It's an opportunity to answer questions, explain programs and make sure everyone feels comfortable and prepared before their very first day in the studio.

Atelier looks forward to welcoming you into their community!

Strengthening Royal Oak's Arts Scene

Beyond weekly classes, student exhibitions, workshops and special events give artists opportunities to showcase their work and celebrate accomplishments together.

Royal Oak has long been known for its strong support of the arts, and Atelier School of Art is an important part of that tradition. By nurturing both artistic talent and personal connections, the school helps strengthen the city's creative culture.

The paintings and drawings created inside the studio are impressive, but Atelier's greatest masterpiece may be the community it continues to build—one brushstroke, one conversation and one friendship at a time.

Atelier School of Art is located at 407 E. Fourth Street, in downtown Royal Oak. Schedule a studio tour by calling (248) 951-4400 or visit their website at atelierschoolofart.com.



America 250 Hometown Whistle Stop Tour to Bring Historic Railroad Celebration to Downtown Royal Oak

THIS
August,
Royal Oak

will serve as the gathering point for railroad enthusiasts, families, local residents and visitors from across southeast Michigan as Canadian National Railway (CN) brings its America 250 Hometown Whistle Stop Tour to downtown Royal Oak on Wednesday, August 19, 2026.**

The special event will celebrate America's 250th anniversary while highlighting the rich railroad heritage that helped build communities throughout the region, including Royal Oak and the surrounding Metro Detroit area.

Long before Royal Oak became one of Metro Detroit's most vibrant downtowns, the railroad helped shape the community's growth and development. The rail line that runs through the heart of the city traces its roots to the historic Grand Trunk Western Railroad, which connected Royal Oak to Detroit, Port Huron, Chicago, and communities throughout Michigan and Canada.

The railroad transported agricultural products, coal, lumber, automobiles, manufactured goods, and countless other commodities that helped transform Royal Oak from a small settlement into a thriving suburban community. Businesses moved near the railroad because it provided direct access to customers and markets throughout North America, helping fuel economic growth that continues today.

More than a century later, rail transportation remains a vital part of Michigan's economy. The line through Royal Oak continues to serve industries throughout southeast



CN America 250 Hometown Whistle Stop Tour

Location: Royal Oak Amtrak Station
202 South Sherman Drive, Royal Oak, MI 48067
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026
Tentative Time: Approximately 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Michigan, moving finished automobiles, automotive parts, steel, consumer goods, grain, construction materials, and many of the products used every day by residents and businesses.

During the Royal Oak stop, local elected officials, community leaders and railroad representatives are expected to participate in a brief ceremony featuring welcoming remarks, commemorative presentations and special giveaways. The event may also include limited VIP tours aboard the train, along with an official photo opportunity in front of CN's specially painted America 250 locomotive, which features patriotic red, white and blue graphics and a striking American eagle design.

As planning continues, additional information regarding event activities, public viewing areas, parking, and participation opportunities will be announced in the weeks leading up to the event.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Freight railroads can move one ton of freight more than 470 miles on a single gallon of fuel.
- CN's network connects the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf coasts.
- Michigan remains one of North America's largest automotive manufacturing centers.
- Railroads help reduce roadway congestion by removing hundreds of trucks from highways with a single train.
- The rail line through Royal Oak has served southeast Michigan for more than a century and continues to support regional commerce today.

Royal Oak's railroad heritage helped build the community we know today. This special event offers residents and visitors from across southeast Michigan an opportunity to celebrate that history, recognize the continued importance of rail transportation, and take part in a once-in-a-generation America 250 celebration.

We look forward to welcoming the community to Royal Oak as we honor the past, celebrate the present and look toward the future of rail transportation and American innovation.

***The Royal Oak stop is currently anticipated for the afternoon of Wednesday, August 19, 2026. Event times, activities and location details remain subject to change as planning continues.*



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TODAY

M A G A Z I N E S



Our TODAY Magazines are an incredible platform that allows the entire community to coalesce, interact and tout successes, initiatives, events and achievements on a yearly basis.

Our quarterly publications allow cities/townships, chambers, DDAs, schools, businesses, residents, etc. to connect and be proud of where they work, play and live.

Our TODAY medium is truly the most cost-effective avenue to tout your business's services and/or products to your exact target audience, each quarterly season throughout the year.



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WHERE'S TEAM A TODAY?



WHERE LOCAL BRANDS GET THEIR MOMENT



Join AyLaina and Ashley as they visit your favorite hometown spots – and discover a few new ones along the way!





AROUND Royal Oak

July – October

ONGOING

- The Royal Oak Farmers Market will be held every Saturday from 7 a.m.-1 p.m. and the Antique and Collectibles Vendors will be selling items at the market every Sunday from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. year-round at 316 E. 11 Mile Rd. For more information, visit www.romi.gov.
- The Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce Summer Concert Series, presented by Henry Ford Health, will return every Thursday through August 20 at Centennial Commons Park, 221 E. Third Street, beginning at 5:30 p.m. There will be food trucks, a kids area, live entertainment and more. For more information and a full lineup, visit www.royaloakchamber.com.

JULY

July 23-August 2

Shakespeare Royal Oak

Starr Jaycee Park
1321 W. 13 Mile Road
Choose from a variety of eight shows and see a one-of-a-kind performance of Shakespeare's "As You Like It", directed by Kelli Rademacher. Bring a blanket or a lawn chair and enjoy one of the many shows. For tickets or more information, visit www.shakespeareroyaloak.com.



July 25

Pride Royal Oak

1-11 p.m.
Centennial Commons
221 E. Third Street
Experience over 75 vendors and nonprofits, food trucks, queer author panel, fashion show, live entertainment and much more. For more information, visit www.prideroyaloak.com.

July 31

Foam Party

3:30-4:30 p.m.
Centennial Commons
221 E. Third Street
Children are invited to celebrate the end of summer reading with a foam party with two large cannons filled with "foam-tastic fun." Bathing suits and towels are recommended but not required. Waivers are required and can be found at www.ropl.org.



AUGUST

August 1

Muscle and More Car Show

Royal Oak Historical Society
1411 W. Webster Road
This 14th annual family event features amazing vehicles, kids activities, music, food, awards and more. New this year are Car Show Limbo and the exciting Canadian National Model T Assembly Team. They'll put it together and drive it away! Join them for another great event! Get more information @ Royaloakhistoricalsociety.net.



August 12

Food Truck Rally and Sights and Sounds Concert

4-9 p.m.
Royal Oak Farmers Market
316 E. 11 Mile Road
Save the date for a night of good food, live music and fun for all ages. Admission is free. For more information, visit www.romi.gov.

SEPTEMBER

September 4-7

Arts, Beats & Eats

Friday-Sunday: 11 a.m.-11 p.m.,
Monday: 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Downtown Royal Oak
Enjoy a variety of art, live music and entertainment, food, vendors and much more at this year's festival. For more information, visit www.artsbeatseats.com.



September 9

Food Truck Rally and Community Wellness Expo

4-8 p.m.
Royal Oak Farmers Market
316 E. 11 Mile Road
All ages are welcome to attend and experience interactive health and wellness stations and resources along with a variety of food trucks available on site. For more information, visit www.romi.gov.



OCTOBER

October 14

Food Truck Rally and Royal Oak Public Library Arts and Crafts Fair

4-8 p.m.
Royal Oak Farmers Market
316 E. 11 Mile Road
Enjoy arts and crafts along with food and fun for all ages. For more information, visit www.romi.gov.

October 18

43rd Annual Royal Oak Spooktacular

1-5 p.m.
Centennial Commons and throughout Downtown Royal Oak
204 S. Troy Street
Stop by Centennial Commons for some spooky spins, magic show and face painting, and costume parade/contest! All activities are free. Visit RoyalOakChamber.com for more information.

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



ANNUAL SUMMER SUNGLASS SALE

Sale ends August 31, 2026. Some exclusions apply.



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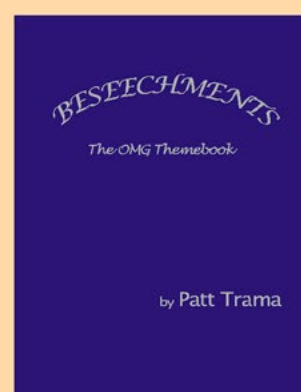
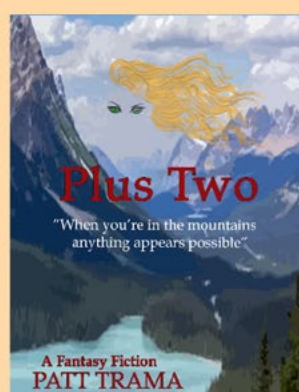
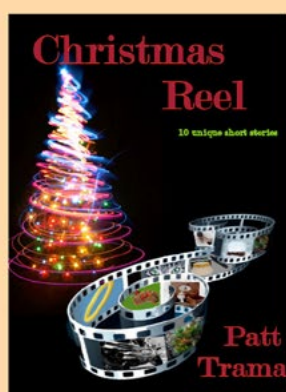
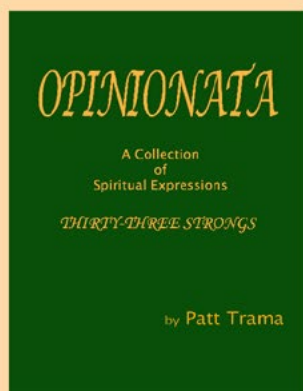
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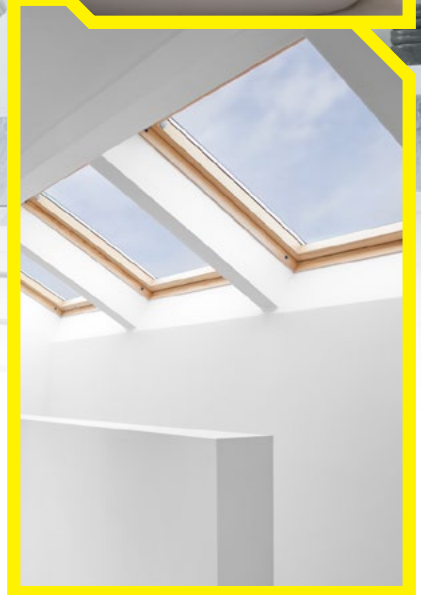
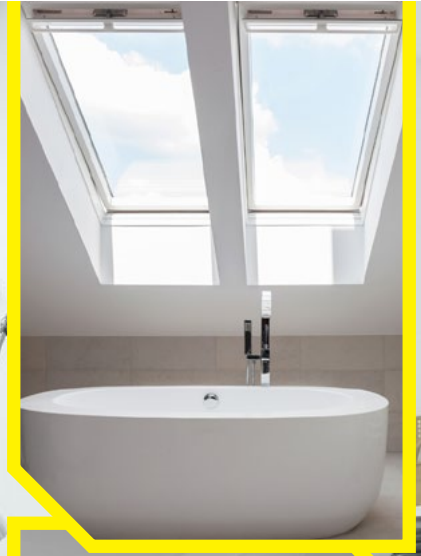
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