

Southgate

T O D A Y

2021 - Fourth Quarter

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On Patrol

Foundation helps
fund police K9

Strike a Pose

Camera club boosts
skills, friendships

Hitting the High Notes

School band off to
melodic start

Support Our
LOCAL BUSINESSES!



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✓ **INVOLVED**



 ZoeY Kuspa for Southgate City Council

ZOEY'S 5 SOLID SOUTHGATE PRIORITIES

It is always important to **maintain a balanced budget**, but we can still establish other priorities while staying within our budget. Here are my five key priorities as a candidate for Southgate City Council.

- 1. PUBLIC SAFETY:** The number one responsibility of a Councilperson is to keep our residents safe. This means investing in proper equipment and training for all of our Public Safety Departments: Police, Fire, EMS, and DPS. I include DPS because a clean and reliable water supply is also vital to our general health and public safety.
- 2. TECHNOLOGY:** My background is in Information Security & Technology. We need to better use current technology to enhance communication with our residents and business owners. This includes a more user-friendly website, increased digital communication, ordinance information, and the use of social media platforms.
- 3. QUALITY OF LIFE:** From children to senior citizens, continuing to update our parks and recreational facilities is important to improve our residents' quality of life. Projects like the new dog park, pickleball courts, and the upcoming splashpad at Market Center Park will be great additions. We must also continue to focus on walkability and safely increasing connectivity between our neighborhoods and business communities with additional walking/biking paths.
- 4. ORDINANCE EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT:** While walking door-to-door, many residents expressed concerns about our City ordinances and how they are enforced. I believe we need to educate our residents and property owners as to what is expected to maintain their properties. Then, for those that still do not comply, we need to support our Ordinance Department and aggressively enforce our rules and regulations. Doing so will safeguard our neighborhoods and business corridors to remain strong, healthy, and viable.
- 5. GENERATIONAL INVOLVEMENT:** I respect and admire the contributions made by the current and previous generations of Southgate leaders and volunteers. As a member of Council, I will encourage more of my generation to get involved and to serve on our City commissions, boards, and other civic activities. A healthy mix of input from multiple generations of Southgate residents will insure a brighter future for our community.

From the Mayor

On the Rise

Hello Everyone,
Southgate is on the move. We are so pleased with the interest in our community from both new residents and businesses.



I believe that there has been a pent-up demand over the past 18 months and good things are happening in our great community. The housing market is at record levels and Southgate homes are being sold faster than at any other time in our history.

In addition, over the past two months, eight businesses have opened or relocated in our town. From hotels to health care and personal services to retail, all of our business corridors are moving forward. These wonderful investments include Gateway Pediatrics, Big Lots, Dunkin', Style U Boutique, Staybridge Suites, Mega Outlet and Super Baked Bakery.

With the holiday season approaching, please think of our Southgate businesses and what they have to offer. It is very important that we patronize these great new additions, as well as all our established local businesses. Their success will contribute significantly to the overall vibrancy of our city.

The rest of the year will also feature the return of several of our family-friendly community events. Santa's Christmas Express train rides are scheduled to return, along with a live municipal tree lighting ceremony and a new Holiday Market. For more information on these and other community festivities, check out the events calendar on page 17.

This fall season, Southgate is certainly on the rise. My family and I look forward to seeing you out and about enjoying all this season has to offer.

Wishing you good health, happiness and prosperity.

Sincerely,

Joseph G. Kuspa
Mayor

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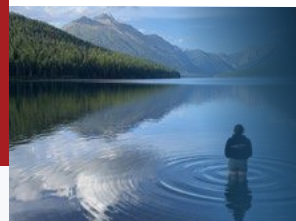
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City Clerk's Office
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Building Department
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Department of Public Services
734-258-3075

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Southgate Veterans Memorial Library provides program to encourage early literacy

By Don Priest, Director, Southgate Veterans Memorial Library

While everyone is seeking ways to ensure children's physical, academic, and social development needs are being met, the Southgate Veterans Memorial Library continues to provide free, easily accessible resources to area families.



Libraries provide a unique opportunity to serve the community through a blend of physical, digital, in-person, and virtual content. They also strive to meet the evolving needs of their community. One exciting way the Southgate library plans to achieve this is by offering access to Checkers Library TV, exclusive video-on-demand programming.

Beginning Monday, September 6, Checkers Library TV presents, "The Reading Road Trip: Full STEAM Ahead," a weekly, 12-minute television show aimed at providing entertainment for children and illustrating the benefits of reading in a fun and exciting way. Library patrons can find these episodes on the Southgate library website: <http://www.southgate.lib.mi.us/CheckersTV/CheckersTV.html>.

New episodes come out every Monday, ending December 27.

This fall, Checkers and his vacuum robot sidekick, Snoozer, head off on a reading road trip, where they explore the vast world of STEAM and visit a new location each week. The

16-episode series includes several unique STEAM concepts, such as 3D printing, dinosaurs, autumn beauty, and many more exciting topics that will keep children

on the edge of their seats. Along the way, Dr. Dan provides health tips, and Mrs. Hamilton offers crafts and activities, along with book recommendations, science experiments, and much more. Please check out the website for more information!



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A 'Powerful' Protector

New K9 handler and police dog hit the streets of Southgate **By Kelsi Klein**

In July, the Southgate Police Department welcomed its newest member to the police force, Aero the K9, and his handler Officer Kevin Wasiukanis.

The department's previous K9 handler, Lt. Brent Newsted, was promoted from sergeant to lieutenant and his new position requires more inside duties.

According to Public Safety Director Joseph Marsh, the department was willing to let Newsted keep his dog, Kyro, in service a little longer. However, Newsted decided there wasn't much work for Kyro to do inside the station, so they went in a different direction and selected a new officer for the handler position.

The police department partnered with Atlas Oil Company of Taylor and its charitable organization, the Sam and Nada Simon Foundation, which sponsored the K9 purchase and training. Sam and Nada Simon, founders of the company and foundation, immigrated to the United States from Iraq in the '70s and have made it their mission to "give back to the country that provided them with such tremendous opportunity."

"My husband and I always feel so blessed to be in this country," Nada Simon said. "We have the true American Dream story. As we have built our businesses and have been so blessed and successful, it is our philosophy that when you're blessed to bless back. When we were establishing our foundation in 2009, we thought about the great servicemen and women who work selflessly every day to protect this country and that's how it started with giving back.

Simon explained that after initiating their desire to do something to give back to military and frontline personnel, a local police department approached them with a request.

"We were approached by one of the cities saying their protection police dog died and would we be interested in donating and that's kind of how it started," she said.

The Simons seek to make changes in local communities through support of military and law enforcement personnel and youth empowerment initiatives. They are guided by direct support, creating opportunities and building community.

"We've been abundantly blessed and it's our honor and privilege to share these blessings with others," the Simons said.

Marsh expressed the department's appreciation for the Simons' generosity.

"This wouldn't have been possible without the contribution from the Simons and Atlas Oil," he said.

Marsh said that the K9 Training Academy came in and conducted interviews for the handler position, looking for candidates who would be best suited for the job. Wasiukanis was selected and he and Aero started their three-month onboard training in April. The training ended in late July, and Wasiukanis and Aero have been on the road together since then.

Marsh noted that the department is encouraged by Wasiukanis's excitement for his new position, and the community is excited to have Aero as its new K9 dog. The police department posted a video on social media introducing Aero and he's already won the hearts of many Southgate citizens.



Nada and Sam Simon.

"We're excited because Officer Wasiukanis is very committed to the position," Marsh said. "He trained hard over the last several months and is excited. He and Aero have been progressing nicely in training and now getting on the road, so we're excited for the work that they're going to bring into the future."

To see Aero's introduction video, visit the Southgate Police Department Facebook page, and for more information about the Sam and Nada Simon Foundation, visit www.samandnadasimonfoundation.org.

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THE Y IN FAMILY

The YMCA is more than a place for exercise for Maria Diaz. It's a second home where she and her children have grown and thrived.

Here's their family's story:

Over the past 24 years, Maria Diaz's kids have grown up at the Downriver Family YMCA. And, in a way, so has she.

An immigrant from Venezuela, Diaz came here with her now ex-husband and they settled in metro Detroit to raise their family. "I was a mom at home and noticed a new Y opened near where I was living, so I joined the Y," Diaz says, adding that her degree in physical therapy demonstrates her love for exercise and physical fitness. It turned out to be a great fit.

Diaz was looking for a job that would maximize her skills, so she applied at the Downriver Y, hoping to work in fitness. "One employee said she really liked me and asked me if I wanted to work in the summer camp program and it was really amazing, but I felt bad because my kids were home while I was having fun with the kids at summer camp," Diaz says.

The Y offered to provide scholarships so Diaz's children, Hanzo, Maria and Daisuke, could attend camp, and Diaz says she was thrilled to accept.

"It was great because my kids could come to camp and be part of the Y," Diaz says. "I worked and my kids were there, too, for two summers in a row."

Family way of life

Pretty soon, Diaz was offered a job as a personal trainer, and all the while, her kids participated in activities at the Y. "They swam and took lessons and played in the splash park," she says. Diaz also became a group exercise instructor and taught Zumba.



"When I became group exercise coordinator, that's when the growth really started," Diaz says. "I really invested my time and the Y invested in me." She soon became wellness director, which means she ran the wellness floor and the fitness department, overseeing personal training, too.

Today, Diaz's title at the Downriver Y also includes Membership Experience Director.

"We make members' experiences so great they want to stay with the Y. The Y has always treated me like family and that's what I do for our members. I treat them like family," she says. "When we keep our members, we keep the Ys open and the employees busy and their families fed. It's an important cycle."

Healthy habits

Throughout the years, the Y has become the Diaz family's second home, providing a place to connect with community, make friends and stay healthy.

Hanzo was a state champion in gymnastics for three years in a row, graduated from Grand Valley State

University and joined the Marine Corps, stationed in California. Maria attends college in Arizona ("She wanted a change of weather," Diaz says), and Daisuke, who loved to wrestle in high school, graduated from GVSU. Now that her kids are grown, Diaz considers the YMCA to be her family.

"I have no family in the U.S. It's always been me and my kids, and now they do their own stuff," she says. "The YMCA became my family from day one, when they decided that my kids could go to summer camp."

After 15 years employed by the Y, Diaz looks forward to the next 15.

"People ask me why I'm still there because I could make more money somewhere else," she says. "Money is important, but the Y gave me more than money. The Y made me feel safe. I want to be able to do more for the whole community. When you have a membership in the Y, you are helping the community."

You're not just paying for a gym membership but helping the community, too. We are here for everyone."

Keep Things Running Smoothly

Fall/Winter Tips from the Department of Public Services



YARD WASTE COLLECTION

Yard Waste collection continues to be part of your solid waste program on your regular scheduled service day. Yard waste will be collected in a separate truck and will be available **beginning the first full week of April through the first full week of December each year.**

Please set out your yard waste by 7:00 a.m. and place separate from your household solid waste, recycling and bulky waste. Yard waste includes garden waste, leaves, lawn cuttings, shrubs and tree trimmings/pruning waste. Yard waste is collected in up to 32-to-35-gallon plastic or metal containers marked "yard waste" and/or biodegradable yard waste paper bags. Please remember, the weight per container cannot exceed 60 pounds, including contents.

Brush and tree limbs larger than two (2) inches in diameter must be bundled and will be collected with the trash. Bundles should not exceed four (4) feet in length, 18 inches in diameter and 60 pounds in weight. Please tie with heavy twine or rope.

Not considered yard waste:

- Dirt

- Sod
- Large stumps
- Sand
- Gravel
- Animal feces
- Dead animals

Raking leaves or grass clippings into the street is a violation of City of Southgate Ordinance 678.04.

SNOW EMERGENCIES

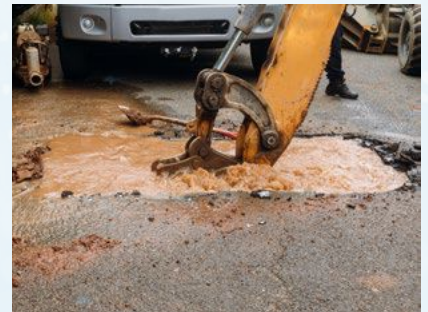
As the snow begins to fall, it is vital that the Department of Public Services be able to remove it from the streets so as to provide residents with safe access. If a snow emergency is declared, all vehicles must be removed from city streets so DPS trucks can plow and salt the roads quickly and efficiently. Vehicles left on the streets may be



ticketed and/or towed. Snow emergencies will be posted on the City's website, cable channel, Facebook and all local news channels.

Cooperation from residents during a snow emergency is critical to keep things running smoothly.

During the course of a snow removal, snow will be pushed into driveway approaches. Unfortunately, there is nothing that can be done to prevent this from occurring. Please do not shovel or push snow back into the roadway. **It is important that you keep children away from the roadways when the snow plows are present. The snow is extremely heavy and can cause serious injury.**



WATER MAIN BREAKS

If you witness water bubbling out of the ground, it may be an indication of a water main break. To report a water main break during normal operating hours (Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), please call (734) 258-3074. After hours, weekends and holidays, please call the Police Department at (734) 324-4438 and they will contact the Water Department personnel on call.

The sooner the main break is discovered and repaired, the less inconvenience and water loss there will be. If you have experienced a



water main break in your area and your water is not clear, start running your COLD water through the wash tub in the basement. **Do not run hot or warm water** as this will pull any particles through your hot water tank. Water should begin to run clear after several minutes.

HOME PLUMBING

Preparing for another Michigan winter should always include inspecting your plumbing. Residents should take necessary measures to prevent their pipes from freezing. If you have a crawlspace, make sure all exposed pipes and meters are protected from cold air. Whenever possible, all pipes should be in a heated area or wrapped with pipe insulation.

If your meter and/or pipes are located inside of a cabinet, it is best to leave the door open to expose them to warmer air. If you are going away for an extended period of time this winter, your home should remain heated at 40 degrees Fahrenheit, or your water shut off and the water system drained to eliminate the possibility of frozen/broken pipes.

If your pipes break or your meter freezes, you as the homeowner are responsible for any water loss, meter replacement costs, and any other damages caused by the break. If you need the Water Department to shut your water off at the street for any plumbing repairs made during normal business hours, there will be a \$25 Turn-Off Fee added to your next water bill. Once you complete your repair, there is a \$25 Turn-On Fee that may be added to your next water bill. If you require these services after normal business hours, the fee will be \$100 for each.

Where IN THE gate?

Welcome to another installment of Where in the Gate?, where we challenge residents to figure out what they're looking at in the picture provided.

To participate, send us an email at southgatetoday@ci.southgate.mi.us with your guess as to what and where the location in the picture is, and include your name, address, phone number and email.

Submissions that have the correct answer and include the required contact information will be entered into a random drawing. The winner will receive a dining certificate from one of Southgate's fabulous restaurants.

Last issue's picture was of the Veterans Memorial at the Southgate Veterans Memorial Library, and the winner was Heidi Sisler. Congratulations, Heidi!

**ENTRIES FOR THIS ISSUE MUST BE
RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 1.**





WHO WAS Norm Cobb?

The man behind Cobb Park's name served the area mightily

By Jerry Pesci, City Historian

Those of us who travel Trenton Road can't help but notice the wonderful new playscape at Cobb Memorial Park. But how many of us know who Norm Cobb was?

Norm Cobb was the first city clerk in the city of Southgate, and the first elected city official to die in office. Cobb was born in Marion, Ohio, in 1900 and lived in Wyandotte for many years before moving to what is now Southgate in 1940. He served on the Ecorse Township police and recreation commissions for several years. He was elected to the Ecorse Township Board of Education District #7 (Heitzen) in 1943, and served until 1955.

In 1953, he was elected clerk of Ecorse Township, a post held until the demise of the township in 1958, at which time he was elected Southgate city clerk, a post he held until his death in 1960.

Mr. Cobb was also a supervisor at Downriver Ice Cream Company.



Park photos by Tom Lewis



Welcome to SOUTHGATE!

The Southgate DDA would like to formally welcome these businesses to the community. We're so happy you're here!

New in 2021:

Big Lots – 14333 Eureka Road

Dunkin' – 14791 Eureka Road

Gateway Pediatrics – 1 Heritage Place, Suite 100

Mega Outlet – 16153 Eureka Road

PASC – Southgate Shopping Center

Perfect Place Drop-In Center – 14705 Allen Road

STEP – Southgate Shopping Center

Staybridge Suites – 12600 Reek Road

Style U Boutique – Southgate Shopping Center

Super Baked – 18714 Eureka Road

Businesses coming soon:

Caesars Coney Island – 15099 Northline Road

Crunch Fitness – 14255 Eureka Road



How Southgate Addresses Potholes

The old-school method of addressing potholes is called “cold patching”. Cold patching consists of an asphalt mix being shoveled into a pot hole and then tamped down with a shovel. Although this approach has been around for decades, it has proven ineffective as a long-term solution. Over time, and as traffic volume increases, the asphalt mix comes out of the pothole because there is no adhesion to pavement and the pothole reemerges.

Instead, the City of Southgate utilizes a “spray injection patching” technique for addressing potholes. The National Research Council’s Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP) deems spray injection patching as the “most economical and long-lasting method of pothole repair.”

The process includes four steps: First, all debris is blown out of the pothole by compressed air. Second, the hole is sealed with a coat of hot-tack asphalt, which will result in an adherence to the pavement. Third, the hole is filled with an emulsion of hot asphalt/stone mix that bonds to the pavement. Last, the patch is sealed with a dry coat of

aggregate to enhance durability and longevity. Excess stone is left on the recently patched pothole for a week to ensure strength. After this time, the excess stone can be swept away.

The spray injection patching will generally have a life of 12 – 24 months, depending on the type and volume of traffic. So when you see excess stone in the area you will know it is the city repairing potholes.



Festival of Trees

Brightening up the holiday with decorated trees for a cause

By Diane Gale Andreassi

Imagine walking into a ballroom filled with decorated holiday trees and knowing that your trek through this breathtaking wonderland is also supporting the largest fundraiser for Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation for pediatric research.

The Festival of Trees, at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center in Dearborn, is celebrating its 37th year. Typically drawing upwards of 7,000 visitors, this holiday extravaganza has become a must-attend tradition for people all over southeast Michigan. Even better, it has over the years cumulatively raised more than \$18 million for the foundation.

Kick off the holiday season

The event kicks off November 20 with a black tie preview gala offering participation at three levels. VIP tickets are \$125, patron tickets are \$75 and tickets for children are \$25. There will also be a silent auction and raffle.

The public is invited to come out and see the decorated trees, wreaths and centerpieces November 21-28. The display is closed on Thanksgiving. Don't forget to check out the gift store, with proceeds also going to the foundation.

"It's a beautiful way to kick-off the holiday season," said Theresa Diefenbach, director of Festival of Trees. "A family of four can come in with \$20, see everything and get a holiday experience."

Grab a gift

Tickets to view the trees are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Kids under 2 are free. Members of the military are invited to attend for free November 23.

If you're looking for a special holiday gift, each year the Festival of Trees commissions an artist to create a small number of handmade ornaments made from recycled glass. They are

currently available to order by going to www.fot.org.

Every year, supporters are surprised by the creative themes that in the past ranged from a Red Wings-themed Christmas tree to Willy



Wonka's famous purple hat and a singing Elvis. This year, it's anyone's guess how the trees will wow spectators. The trees are often sponsored and/or sold, fully decorated, to raise money for research at Children's Hospital.

Thank you, sponsors

Main event sponsors are English Gardens, which provides the trees; the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center, and Palmer Moving and Storage. Last year, due to coronavirus concerns, the event was canceled for the first time.

"Even though the pandemic hit, it didn't change that kids need the money for research," Diefenbach said. "Us being able to come back is a God send."

Festival of Trees is a nonprofit charity run and operated by volunteers in all sorts of capacities, from set-up to working the days of the event to taking everything down.

Volunteers needed and appreciated

"We couldn't do this without the volunteers and get to where we are today," she said. "We always need more volunteers. It's something we need to keep going in order to support pediatric research."

The Festival of Trees also accepts donations for Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation by filling out a form online.

Tickets are available at the door for general admission. Go to fot.org for more details or call Diefenbach at (734) 748-3822.



SOUTHGATE'S WINTER WONDERLAND

Southgate's Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony

Friday, December 3rd at 5:00 p.m.

Mayor Kuspa and Southgate Elected Officials will officially welcome Santa Claus to the City of Southgate and light the Municipal Christmas Tree at Kiwanis Park.

Christmas Carols will fill the air as Santa is presented with the key to the City.

Kiwanis park is located at Trenton Road & Leroy.

12th Annual Santa's Christmas Express Train Rides

Friday & Saturday, December 3rd & 4th from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

The Great lakes Live Steamers present train rides through our Winter Wonderland at Kiwanis Park filled with twinkling Christmas lights and festive decorations sponsored by local businesses. Donations are greatly appreciated.

Southgate's Holiday Market

Saturday, December 4th from 3:00-9:00 p.m.

Market Center Park is going to be filled with amazing vendors and a whole bunch of holiday cheer. Come on by and do your holiday shopping with local small businesses.

Southgate's 2nd Annual Light Up the Park

December 11th thru December 31st. from 5:00-10:00 p.m.

Market Center Park is going to be filled with twinkling lights and festive decorations for the last three weeks of December. You will be able to walk through the park every night, admire the sparkle of the holiday lights and drop off your letter to Santa in the North Pole Mailbox.

Southgate Figure Skating Christmas Exhibition

December 12th at 11:00 a.m. at Southgate ice Arena

Come watch our Southgate Figure Skating Club members twirl and glide to all of your favorite Christmas Carols. Admission is \$2.00 per person. The Southgate Ice Arena is located at 14700 Reaume Parkway.

7th Annual Noon Year's Eve Kids Celebration

Friday, December 31st from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Join us for this popular kids event. Free Family Fun featuring crafts, music, Juice Toast at Noon and a Balloon Drop.

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IS THAT FOR REAL?

Squad car wrapped in Titan colors breaks barriers

By Diane Gale Andreassi

Southgate Community Schools Resource Officer Morgan Parrish is building bridges between the community and the police department and one of her most effective tools has been a vinyl-wrapped police car with Titan Pride colors.

Parrish was hired as the district's school resource officer last year, reviving a position that has been vacant for nearly 20 years. The squad car got its burgundy and silver colors before the new school year began.



Officer Parrish



It goes where she goes

Parrish is stationed at Southgate's Thomas A. Anderson High School, which is also home base for her unusual-looking squad car. The SRO job involves responding to all police-related incidents at the district's special education schools, as well as the elementary, middle and high schools. More importantly, the full-time Southgate officer works as a liaison with students and their families to address concerns and build a rapport with the police department.

The car has been turning heads among students, residents and business owners when she's driving in the community ever since. Sometimes they take pictures.

"Oh my gosh, it's been nothing but positive," Parrish said. "I think at the end of the day I'm trying to help better our relationship between the school district, our community and the police department. I'm hoping the car opens doors for a better line of communication."

Improving communication

She hopes young people will feel comfortable approaching her about concerns in the future.

"It breaks down barriers," she said. "There's always going to be walls, but if we can lessen them or loosen them it will be better. It also helps provide a positive interaction and communication between the department and the city."

Police Chief Mark Mydlarz, Public Safety Director Joseph Marsh, Anderson High School Principal Duane Lyons, Southgate Mayor Joseph Kuspa, the city administration and school officials collaborated to come up with the fun public relations idea that has become Parrish's calling card.

"We believe that wrapping the SRO vehicle has helped students and staff to engage in dialog with SRO Parrish and



it has helped to make her a part of the Southgate School community," Mydlarz said.

Incredulous stares

"Some say, 'Is that really a police car?'" Lyons said.

The answer is yes. While Parrish works primarily in the schools handling issues among students, if

there is an emergency in the community, she responds to the scene in her Titan Pride-wrapped squad car.

Lyons calls the decorated car a symbol of the school and community working together with an eye on helping students achieve.

Let's talk

"We appreciate it tremendously," Lyons said. "It's something we talked about before for some time to have a cooperation of the school district and police department. It gives a sense that we're working together to help you as a student be successful."

Parrish and her car were introduced to students at the beginning of the school year at a class assembly.

"The purpose was to let her say, 'I'm here, feel free to come and talk with me,'" Lyons said. "We're trying to cover all the bases to helping kids succeed."

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Hitting All the Notes

High school band starts the season off right

The Southgate Anderson High School Marching Band started the school year off on a high note by winning the first two competitions of the year.

The young musicians captured first place at Carlson High School in the Gibraltar School District and then at Trenton High School. The marching band earned 90.3 points out of 100 at Carlson.

Wowing the crowds

"That was the best score since I've been here since 2015," said Zack Novicki, high school associate director of bands.

At Trenton, Anderson's marching band earned an 80.0 score. In the last two competitions they took all the caption awards, which means they walked away with best marching, best music and best color guard.

"It was a strong performance, but the scores were not as high at that show," Novicki said.

Four more competitions lay ahead for the band at deadline for this story. High hopes abound for the state championship competition in November.

"They are working harder than they've ever had before and exceeding our expectations at almost every rehearsal," Novicki said.

Practice makes perfect

The success comes from band members honing their skills at least three-and-a-half hours of practice three times a week. Add onto that an hour or two preparing before each football game.



There are 69 students, from seventh through 12th grade, in the band and despite setbacks in practicing and performing during the coronavirus restrictions for more than a year, the young musicians came back strong in 2021.

"They are performing remarkably well, especially after one-and-a-half years off because of the pandemic," Novicki said. "They're defying our expectations all the time. They want to be great and they act like it all the time. We have a strong tradition of excellence and are usually one of the top bands in the Downriver area."

Band booster Martha Hancock was excited about their initial performances.

Community backing

"I'm incredibly impressed how they came out with these past two competitions," she said. "There's so much pride for Southgate in the community and among all the parents who stood behind them."

She also pointed to "irreplaceable" support from Southgate Community Schools Superintendent Sharon Irvine, the school board, teachers and students.

"Sharon right off the bat asked what she could do to help the band, and Southgate, as a community has really wrapped their arms around our band program with their support," Hancock said.



Southgate
Community Schools



TEN WAYS

to Help Your Child Develop an Attitude of Gratitude

By Tracy Willis

There are two types of people in this world. When faced with a pile of presents, there are those who dive into the experience and rip the wrapping paper to shreds in order to get to the highly desired gift inside. And then there are people like my mother.

For much of my childhood, I was convinced that she was dropped onto our planet by aliens conducting research on human behavior. She savored the gift wrap. Commented on the bow. Slid her manicured finger under the side flap and gently pulled at the tape in order to save the wrapping paper. She read the card aloud for all to hear and took time to fold the paper before even looking at the gift inside. And then finally, “Oh! I love it. So beautifully wrapped, and you went to so much trouble picking this out for me.”

While other artists worked in clay or paint, my mother was a master of gratitude. The gift-giver always received a thank-you note. According to www.nationwidechildrens.org, practicing gratitude improves our mood, our relationships, our physical health, and our outlook on life. The website <https://positivepsychology.com> goes as far as to say that “The effects of gratitude, when practiced daily can be almost the same as medications. It produces a feeling of long-lasting happiness and contentment, the physiological basis of which lies at the neurotransmitter level. When we express gratitude and receive the same, our brain releases dopamine and serotonin, the two crucial neurotransmitters responsible for our emotions, and they make us feel ‘good’. They enhance our mood immediately, making us feel happy from the inside.”

Gratitude is powerful stuff.

It makes sense to begin teaching about and modeling gratitude for children as early as possible. How does one go about doing that? Here are some ways.

- Instead of asking the standard question, “How was your day at school?” Try flipping that question to “What’s something you appreciated about school today?” Chances are you won’t get the standard response you get with your usual questions.
- What if you kept a calendar just for gratitude? Each day, every family member

takes a second to write one thing they are thankful for on the calendar. You don’t have to have an elaborate discussion, but members get warm fuzzy feelings just reading about each other’s lives.

- Teach your child to talk to themselves about themselves. Standing in front of a mirror, identifying what they like and appreciate about themselves. Gratitude isn’t always an outpouring to someone else. Sometimes, it’s expressing thankfulness for who we are.
- Model gratitude for your child by expressing it to them and about them frequently.
- Keep a gratitude jar with your child. A few times a week, write something that you’re thankful for on a slip of paper. Fold it up and place it in the jar. Revisit the jar when either of you need a “pick-me-up.”



- Teach your child to write thank-you notes.
- Establish a gratitude ritual. At bedtime, you might ask your child to name three things she’s thankful for. Choose one dinner time a week when everyone at the table shares one example of gratitude they feel.
- When something upsetting happens, help your child look for the positives. Looking for the bright side to disappointment builds resilience.

Every fall, our lives are filled with images of turkeys and pilgrims with heads bowed in thankful prayer, but gratitude isn’t a season. It’s an important life skill that boosts our children’s brain development and overall well-being.



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Passion FOR PEARLIES

Southgate Family Dental provides expertise, enthusiasm for keeping people smiling

By Lisa Howard

Pearly whites. Chompers. Gnashers. No matter what you call your teeth, you want them to be healthy and strong. At Southgate Family Dental, prevention is key, from regular cleanings to learning the best ways to brush and floss. The practice offers general and cosmetic dentistry services for adults and children, including teeth whitening, fluoride treatments, restorations, extractions, full dentures, partial dentures, crowns, bridges and implant restorations.

Three dentists are at the heart of the practice: Dr. Rodolfo Diaz, Dr. Emily Buehner, and Dr. Charles Zammit. Dr. Zammit has been a dentist for over 40 years and previously had an office in Allen Park before moving to Southgate.

The family atmosphere Dr. Zammit has always promoted is embraced equally by Dr. Diaz, who took over the practice in early 2018 from Dr. Zammit after having worked as a dentist in both Michigan and his native country of Argentina.

He even went to dental school twice – he first graduated from dental school in 1998, then came to the U.S. in 2002 and graduated from the University of Michigan with his Master of Science in Restorative Dentistry in 2008.

“This is a really great environment to be in,” Dr. Diaz said of



Dr. Charles Zammit (left) and Dr. Rodolfo Diaz (right).

Southgate Family Dental’s staff and patients. “Everyone I work with is awesome. A lot of the team has been here for years and years. We’re happy to accommodate any needs our patients might have.”

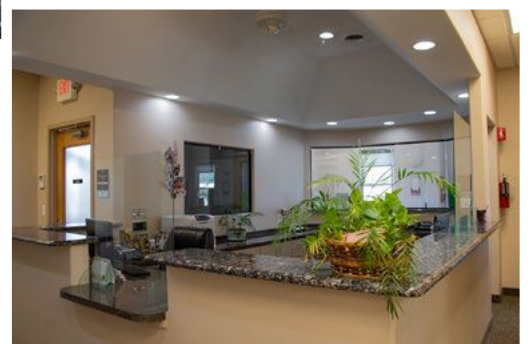
The passion all three dentists and the staff share for helping patients extends past the borders of their immediate office. Dr. Zammit has undertaken many trips to Nicaragua (and a few to Mexico and Haiti) to offer his dentistry services abroad. He and office manager Lisa Chamberlain belong to the Rotary Club of Southgate and travel to clinics in Nicaragua in their auspices as Rotarians. Given his skills as both a dentist and native Spanish speaker, Dr. Diaz plans to accompany Dr. Zammit and Chamberlain on their next trip. The week-long trips have been on hiatus since 2020, but the team hopes to get back on the road in 2022.

Not surprisingly, given the close-knit nature of the practice, Chamberlain has worked there for nearly 24 years.

“The hygienists, the assistants, the doctors, the patients...everybody makes this a wonderful place to work,” she said. “And I can’t say enough good things about our patients – they’re just such kind, wonderful people. We’re very fortunate! It’s so nice to be able to build long-term relationships.”

She can clearly remember patients first coming in as kids with braces who are now bringing in their own little ones. “We get to catch up and talk about how things are going and how the family is doing,” she said with a smile. “That’s important to us. Family here is very important to us.”

Southgate Family Dental is located at 15185 Allen Road. Visit www.southgatefamilydental.net or call (734) 324-2000 for more information.



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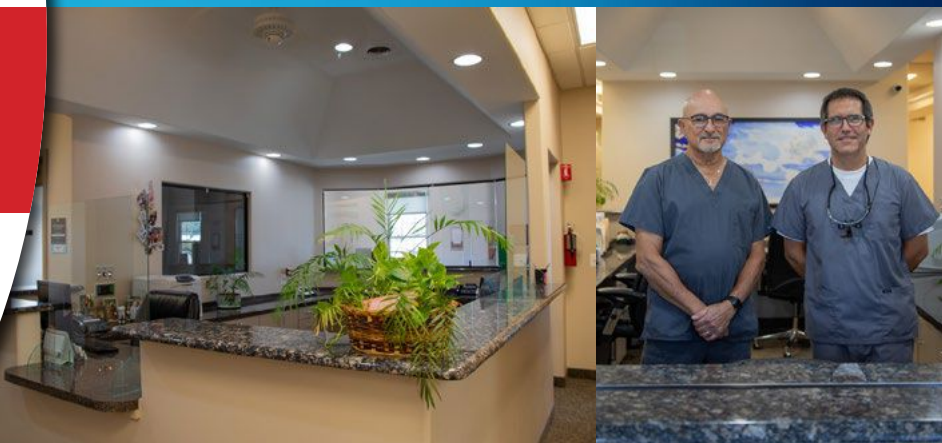
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THE PERFECT SHOT

Camera club opens new horizons for members

By Diane Gale Andreassi

Since 1981, photographers of all ages and expertise have found a place to share their passion of capturing moments in time with like-minded snappers at the Southgate Creative Camera Club.

From teens to octogenarians and even a nonagenarian, most members are from the Downriver area and nearby communities. They're drawn to the social organization by a mutual passion of taking pictures and honing their skills.

Harvey Dean, 90, has been a member for 31 years and he continues to delight in all the opportunities it provides. The Dearborn Heights resident especially loves the club's competition night, which happens the first meeting of the month. Members are given an assignment to shoot, with subjects ranging from bridges to reflections in puddles, then share what they shot and a winner is chosen.

Do you see what I see?

"It gives you an incentive to go out and shoot something that you might not be overly interested in," Dean said.

The second meeting of the month focuses on instruction and workshops. The club also invites members to share pictures in an open category of anything they're proud to show.

Years ago, Dean developed his own prints or sent them out to Kodak and

waited a week to get the pictures. Digital cameras expedite the process to seconds and Dean embraces the change.

Strictly an amateur photographer, Dean started getting serious about photography when he was in high school, lured into the hobby by his grandfather, who was also a hobby snapper.

"He had a beautiful camera, and he had a dark room where I learned how to make prints," Dean said. "It's fascinating, almost like magic, when you throw it in a solution and get a picture."

The social factor of being a club member is big for Dean, too. He enjoys getting to know other photographers, no matter how old they are or their life journeys. There's always something to talk about, from getting the right shot to editing. The club also hosts field trips to museums and various picturesque spots.

"This club is noted for their outings and it's always informative," he said. "You learn so much working with other people. Everyone is willing to help the other guy."

Another perspective

Claudia Riser was eight years old when she got her first camera and it launched a lifetime love of photography that ultimately led her to become the current president of the Southgate Creative Camera Club.

The Gibraltar resident is among 25

members of all photography abilities, from professionals to newbies.

"As long as you enjoy photography there's no prerequisites for joining," said Riser, who shoots senior pictures and at dance studios as side gigs in her retirement.



Some club members have elaborate cameras and others use their phones.

"It's amazing with some of these phones, you can't really tell," Riser said. "No one uses film anymore. It's all digital and we load them up on our computers."

Anyone who is considering becoming a member is invited to stop by a meeting. The annual dues are \$25.

Southgate Camera Club meets the first and third Tuesdays at 6:45 p.m. at the Southgate Veterans Memorial Public Library, 14680 Dix/Toledo Road. Go to creativecameraclub-southgate.org for more information.

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Miss Shirley talks PLAYGROUND SAFETY

A visit to the playground is more than fun. It lets kids exercise their bodies, brains, and social skills. It also gives them a chance for unstructured, free play that's important for healthy development. Just check that the play equipment is safe and then watch the fun happen.

Size It Up

Choose a playground with equipment that is geared toward your child's age, matched with their abilities, developmental level and size. For example, smaller swings intended for younger children can break if larger children use them. And smaller children using equipment designed for older children can have difficulty reaching and climbing.



What's Underneath?

Steer clear of hard surfaces like concrete or asphalt. Although grass may look soft, it is not a shock absorbing surface. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends a thick layer of one of the following materials, extending at least six feet in all directions, underneath play equipment:

- Wood chips, mulch, sand, or pea gravel (12 or more inches deep)
- Mats made of safety-tested rubber or rubber-like material

Remember...

Even on safe, age-appropriate playgrounds, adult guidance and supervision are the best ways to prevent injuries. In fact, researchers say lack of supervision is linked with nearly half of playground-related injuries. So, as your child climbs, slides, swings and glides, keep an eye on the action and be ready to intervene if they are using the equipment inappropriately!

DOWNRIVER PRAYER BREAKFAST

*34th Annual event to feature
speaker Whitney (Cerak) Wheeler*

After the COVID-19 pandemic forced Downriver Prayer Breakfast organizers to take the event online to Facebook and YouTube in 2020, they are moving forward this year in person on Friday, December 3 at Crystal Gardens at 7 a.m.

The scheduled keynote speaker is Whitney (Cerak) Wheeler, the survivor of a 2016 automobile accident in Indiana that killed several others. Wheeler was initially misidentified as Laura Van Ryn, a fellow student at Taylor University in Indiana who had actually died in the crash. While Cerak was hospitalized in a coma, she was cared for by Van Ryn's parents, who stood by her bedside for five weeks until the mistake was discovered. The story made national headlines and the families involved have appeared on TV to share their experiences.



Whitney Wheeler



Laura Van Ryn

The Downriver Prayer breakfast was started in 1987 by a group of men of faith in various walks of life and religions. When the chairman, Reverend Billy C. Walker, passed away in 2018, only two weeks after the 31st Annual Downriver Prayer Breakfast, it was unknown if the event would continue. Knowing of the importance of this annual event for his father, his son Billy Walker took the lead of the committed group of Christian men and women in 2019.

Individual tickets are \$20. An individual sponsorship of \$150 includes two tickets. For a donation of \$700, sponsors receive 10 tickets. Student sponsorships are available for \$400, which allows 10 local high school students to attend.

Tickets and sponsorships are available through Crystal Gardens. To order, send a check payable to the Downriver Prayer Breakfast, c/o Crystal Gardens, 16703 Fort St., Southgate, MI 48195. The banquet center staff will assign seats/table in order of purchase date. For more information, call (734) 284-7307.



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What the Bible Says About: Heaven



As life on this Earth ends, eternal life begins. The Bible teaches that eternal life will take place in one of two places: Heaven or Hell. Hell is reserved for those who lived their life rejecting the grace of God and falling short of His glory (Rom. 3:23). Heaven is the residing place of the saints—those saved by the sacrifice of Jesus—angels, and God himself. But what is Heaven like?

The Apostle John gives one of the best descriptions of what Heaven looks like in the book of Revelation. His description showed a place that centers around one focal point: The Throne of God (Rev. 4:2). John describes a place of splendor with a rainbow surrounding the throne (Rev. 4:3), thunder and lightning shouting forth from the throne (Rev. 4:5), and a crystal sea lying before the throne itself (Rev. 4:6). It is a place of beauty and wonder, filled with the presence and glory of God.

Jesus, too, spoke of Heaven, telling His disciples that He was going to be leaving them so He may go and prepare a place for them (John 14:3), in his Father's house, which has many rooms (John 14:1). These rooms are dwelling places, or "abodes," for those that have placed their faith in Jesus Christ. Heaven is a place of residence—and a place where believers are finally reunited with Jesus. "That where I am you may be also," (John 14:3) is the promise from Jesus to believers about Heaven.



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SOUTHGATE SENIOR NEWS

Would you like to get the Southgate Senior Center newsletter via email every month? Call the Senior Center to get on the list! In the meantime, mark your calendars for these ongoing, fun events!

Billiards

The Billiards room is open Monday-Thursday, come on by to play!

Billiards Room Hours:

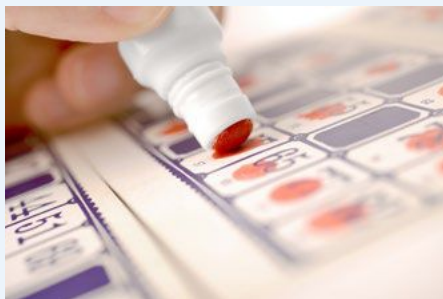
- Monday: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



Cards

Come play cards with other Southgate seniors every Monday and Tuesday!

- Euchre – Mondays from 11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Pinochle – Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



BINGO

Play Bingo every Wednesday with the best of them at the Southgate Senior Center!

Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Doors open at 8:30 a.m., Bingo will start at exactly 10:00 a.m., so please come early!

Volunteers to assist with Bingo are always needed. If you are interested, please call the Southgate Senior Center.

Creator's Club

Do you love to craft or learn new things?

Creator's Club – Second Thursday of every month at 11:00 a.m.

Join the group on November 11 to create a Cinnamon ornament!

Please contact the Senior Center in advance if you would like to be a part of the Creator's Club.

SOUTHGATE SENIOR CENTER

14700 Reaume Parkway,
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(734) 258-3066

Southgate Senior Center Buses

Did you know that the Southgate Senior Center provides bus rides to Southgate seniors who do not drive? In conjunction with the City of Southgate and SMART Transportation, we offer curb-to-curb service to every Southgate senior or person with a disability who does not drive. The charge is \$2.00 round trip.



We will take each resident up to two (2) bus rides per week to various appointments. (i.e., doctors, hair, banking, shopping, etc.). We travel to most surrounding cities, such as Taylor,

Allen Park, Wyandotte, Riverview, Trenton, Woodhaven, Lincoln Park and some parts of Brownstown. Unfortunately, we DO NOT travel to Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, or Detroit.

For more information or to schedule a trip, please contact the Southgate Senior Center.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

DICK BENTLEY

Occasionally in Southgate Today we like to highlight one senior who has served the community admirably. In this issue, it's Dick Bentley. Here are some of the things that make Dick special.

- Serves on the City of Southgate COA (Committee on Aging)
- Has lived in Southgate since 1949 (this was before Southgate officially became a city in 1958, before then the area was considered Ecorse Township)
- Dick has three children, eight grandchildren, and one great grandson
- **Hobbies:** You can usually find Dick at the Southgate Senior Center on Mondays and Tuesdays playing Euchre or Pinochle
- Dick was a manager of Southgate Little League Baseball for 10 years
- **Fun Fact #1:** Was in the first graduating class from Schafer High School in 1960 and his oldest son was part of the last graduating class of Schafer High School in 1982. Dick was also a part of the Schafer Viking Booster Club.
- **Fun Fact #2:** Once shook hands with film star William Boyd, aka "Hopalong Cassidy"



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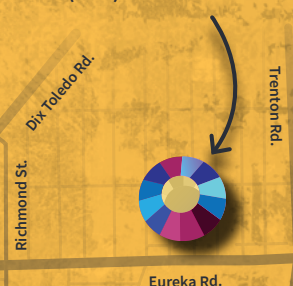
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