

PROGRESS 2025

TELL YOUR STORY

SPECIAL EDITION

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Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Welcome to the 2025 Progress Edition

I have always loved my job working in the newspaper and printing business from the very first time I walked into the back room at the Almont Times-Herald when I was 15 years old. I was fascinated then and now by the mix of technology and creativity that drives the printing side of the business and the combination of knowledge, skill, integrity and service to community that are hallmarks of the newspaper side of the business.

I love what one of my first bosses in the newspaper business called the “controlled chaos” of our trade. He was referring to the fact that we gather and report the news, take the photos, sell and design the ads, compose the pages, then print and distribute an entirely new product every time we produce a new edition of the paper. There is no building up of inventory in our business. There is an incredible sense of team accomplishment that comes from creating our product from scratch every time.

Never is the “controlled chaos” more heightened than during the process of our team putting together the annual Progress Edition.

I’ve been around the newspaper business long enough to have learned the history of Progress from the founder himself. Started in the mid-1960s by County Press Publisher Bob Myers in Lapeer, the Progress Edition is one of the original forms of sponsored content. The concept of Progress is that any client who purchases a traditional display ad in the Progress Edition receives an article that edition. The result is a publication full of great stories from area businesses and nonprofits. Stories of growth, of long-serving employees, of giving back to the community and more.

Myers certainly didn’t invent the concept of sponsored content, but once he started to publish his



WES SMITH

View Newspaper
Group Publisher

annual Progress Edition many publishers around the state followed suit. Including the former publishers of the paper you’re reading right now.

When locally-owned and operated View Newspaper Group acquired the *Oxford Leader*, *Lake Orion Review*, *Clarkston News* and *The Citizen* three

years ago, we were excited to bring together our talented teams of newspapers professionals, knowing that together we could accomplish so much more.

One of those accomplishments is in your hands. This year’s Progress Edition is bigger and better than ever thanks to the combined efforts of our teams in Oakland, Lapeer and Genesee counties. I’m proud to be a part of this long-standing tradition, and I’m proud of the success it remains.

Perhaps the best part of the

“controlled chaos,” especially around Progress season, are the friends you meet and see along the way. Having worked in every facet of the business during my career I cannot imagine a business that holds more opportunities and more rewards. But the biggest reward by far is the opportunity to meet and work with good people, both inside the business - my coworkers - and the people we serve - readers, advertisers and printing clients.

While a lot has changed since I first became enamored with the newspaper business, at the core, things remain the same. We remain committed to telling stories about our local communities, businesses and nonprofits. We remain committed to being your community connection. Thank you for reading the *Oxford Leader*, *Lake Orion Review*, *Clarkston News* and *The Citizen*.

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Bank's Vacuum expertise stands out above all others!

Bank's Vacuum, the go-to Vacuum place in Lake Orion, Waterford, Shelby Twp. and 6 other Detroit area communities continues to shine as the "Best Place to Buy or Repair a Vacuum" as reported by the Detroit News and Free Press. With its national headquarters, distribution hub and flagship vacuum superstore in Livonia, Bank's is widely regarded as one of the most comprehensive vacuum retailers in the U.S. They truly do sell more vacuum cleaners and floor care products than any other dealer nationwide.

Customers, ranging from dedicated cleaning enthusiasts to those seeking parts and guidance, flock to Bank's for their vacuum needs. The company prides itself on offering the largest selection of new vacuums in the Midwest in all its stores. With a commitment to catering to all budgets, Bank's stocks every brand imaginable, allowing customers to try and compare them all. "If you can't find it in our stores or on our website, it simply doesn't exist" said owner Ken Bank. Ken emphasizes their guaranteed lowest prices with instant price match

on the spot. "They really do beat the big guys like Sears, Target, Walmart, Costco, Amazon and the rest plus, when you purchase from Bank's you receive their FREE and famous tune-ups, repair services and quick fixes after the sale. We include free unlimited belt and filter installations, unclogs, minor repairs and more. We insure that our customers receive a better value than with big box stores.. Bank says, "You simply get a better value at Bank's Vacuum, that's why we continue to grow".

Recent expansions include additional products and services such as full-service sewing machine repair, carpet and floor steamer repair, and air purifier sales and service. Bank's also encourages trade-in allowances of up to 100% of what you paid for it. We'll fix up your old vacuum and sell it as a good used one or, recycle it, to promote friendly environmental practices.

With additional locations in Plymouth, Novi, Grosse Pointe Woods, Orchard Lake, and Bloomfield Hills, each with a fully equipped factory-authorized repair facilities, Bank's

ensures top-notch service, backed by factory-trained staff capable of repairing all brands like Sears/Kenmore, Kirby, Rainbow. We also repair all door-to-door brands.

"The manufacturers refer customers to us to perform their service and warranty repairs because they know we are trained experts and because we stock the country's largest inventory of replacement parts, including hard-to-find bags, belts, filters, and industry-related accessories," says Bank.

In each of Bank's showrooms, customers can expect patient and personal service. The company's commitment to superior customer service extends to its online platform, providing a seamless shopping experience with options for free shipping or in-store pickup. Whether in-store or online, Bank's promises the absolute lowest price, unmatched expertise and professional service, truly setting it apart from big-box retailers.

Owner Ken Bank expresses gratitude for the community's support and looks forward to continuing to deliver excellence in vacuum products and services



On hand in the Lake Orion location is store manager Mike Pekarek. With his 20 years of experience you can count on getting the best machine for your needs and excellent service as well, for years to come.

Explore a Bank's Vacuum location today or visit their website at Banksvac.com.



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The staff at Elowsky Lawn Services at their showroom, 2527 Dixie Highway, Waterford.

Elowsky Lawn Services celebrates 20 years

For 20 years, Elowsky Lawn Services has kept it family and community first.

In 2005, co-owner Ryan Elowsky took his industry experience and decided to go into business on his own. Since then, owners Stephanie and Ryan Elowsky have continued to maintain a family business model. They have 25 employees, most of whom are family or long-time family friends.

Over the last 20 years, they have been able to offer professional lawn maintenance, landscape design, installation and maintenance, fertilizing, spring and fall clean-ups, mulch installation, excavation, snow removal, brick pavers and retaining walls.

"We do just about everything in the industry with the exception of irrigation," said Stephanie. "We are a small, family business. From the owners being married to family employees, lifelong friends that are employees, father/son crews, and siblings that are also employed by us. We truly have some of the best employees."

In the last few years, they added their son Nathan and his friend Mason to the team, keeping the

family tradition going within the company.

With 2025 being their 20th anniversary, Elowsky Lawn Services are looking forward to continuing to offer quality work at an affordable price. They also hope to add irrigation to their list of services this year to truly become a full-service, year-round grounds maintenance company.

They also are looking forward to continuing to support the community through sponsorships of local sports teams, Stephanie's involvement in the Ortonville Downtown Development Authority, and continued volunteerism for community events.

"We whole-heartedly thank our customers and community members for supporting us and our small business and helping us grow through the years," said Stephanie. "Coupled with our amazing staff, we have been able to create a thriving and successful business that we truly love."

To contact Elowsky Lawn Services, call 284-802-6514, email lawnserviceselowsky@gmail.com, or visit elowskylawn.com.

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We did it!! Happy Birthday to us! One year ago, we opened the doors to our new brokerage, KW Collaborative, in downtown Lake Orion, and what a year it's been!

Over our years living here in Orion, we've had the honor of helping families move, grow, and embark on new adventures. It was only natural for Roger and I to take the next step of opening a location downtown.

To us, real estate has always been more than just houses—it's about our people, their dreams, and the memories we've shared with them along the way.

We couldn't be more grateful for our clients and the new relationships we've built throughout the year. From growing families needing more space to empty nesters ready to simplify, we've guided so many through their transitions.

Every move tells a story, and we take great pride in making each one a positive experience. With our expert guidance and personalized service bordering on being control freaks, we ensure every client is confident of their next step.

Lake Orion isn't just where we work—it's home. We love its charming downtown and welcoming atmosphere.

We love embracing the community's vibrant spirit, from getting Grinchy at our warming station during the Lighted Christmas Parade to cheering on the Dragon on the Lake boat races. We're proud to support our local schools, fellow businesses, and causes that make this community so special. Strong real estate means strong communities.

At KW Collaborative, we don't just sell homes—we help families create their next chapter. Whether you're upsizing, downsizing, navigating probate, or simply searching for a fresh start, we're here to guide you with experience, integrity, and care.

Thank you for an incredible first year. (And we haven't even mentioned that we sold more homes in Lake Orion than any other brokerage yet!)

We're beyond grateful for the support. Here's to the future!

Gwen and Roger

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Neighborhood Primary Care: A Journey of Growth and Community

Neighborhood Primary Care opened its doors in October of 2019, founded by Dr. Gorz, who made the bold decision to leave a large practice with multiple physicians in order to create his own private practice. His vision was clear: to serve the community and establish himself as the hometown doctor.

As the first employee hired, I was excited about the opportunity to be part of something new and to help build a brand-new primary care office from the ground up. At the time, I had 10 years of experience in the healthcare field and a background in elementary education, making me eager to dive into this new adventure.

On my first day, however, the office was far from ready. Boxes of medical supplies were stacked in every room, waiting to be organized. There were no phones, and the computers hadn't arrived yet. Though the space had been freshly renovated, complete with new floors, countertops, fresh



Kristin Lewelling

paint, and brand-new furniture—it was still in the early stages of setup. Dr. Gorz and his wife, Sarah, had decorated the office, ensuring it reflected their vision. The walls of the waiting room were adorned with historic pictures of Lake Orion, giving the space a hometown, community feel.

We faced several early challenges as a new business. Our biggest hurdle came when we opened in October 2019, started to grow, and then, just a few months later, Covid-19 forced us to shut down in March 2020. Despite this setback, we persevered. Through hard work, a dedicated team, Dr. Gorz's inspiring vision, and the guiding philosophy that we are here to help, we weathered the storm and emerged stronger than ever.

What makes our practice special is our unique brand, built on a foundation of teamwork, family, and community. We pride ourselves on being a relationship-based practice, where Dr. Gorz often

likenes us to a "Mom and Pop shop." When you call our office, we know who you are. When you walk through our doors, we genuinely care. We take the time to understand your healthcare needs and get to know you and your family. Many of our patients return for multiple generations of care, which is a testament to the trust we've built within the community.

With our five-year anniversary this past October, Neighborhood Primary Care has seen tremendous growth. Along with Dr. Gorz, we are proud to have Nurse Practitioner Sarah Fitzpatrick on board, and our team has expanded to include nearly 20 employees working both in the office and behind the scenes. It's been an incredible journey from my first day as the clinic's first employee, and I'm excited to see what milestones we will achieve as we look ahead to our 10-year anniversary.

Kristin Lewelling is the Clinic Manager at Neighborhood Primary Care. She lives in Clarkston with her husband Bob of 36 years and has two sons, Kane and Jacob.

Dr. Joe Gorz & Sarah Fitzpatrick, FNP



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Royal Oak Heating, Cooling, Electrical & Plumbing continues adding services after 74 years

Royal Oak Heating, Cooling, Electrical & Plumbing has continued to add even more services after nearly 75 years of hard work, dedication, satisfied customers, and keeping up with industry changes, technology advancements and continued education.

The company has added electrical and plumbing services, which includes installation, service and maintenance on generators, boilers, water and steam equipment. Other equipment includes furnaces, air conditioners, smoke detectors, surge protectors, electric-vehicle charging stations, residential and commercial plumbing and more.

They also install, service and maintain all heating and cooling equipment, plus make custom sheet-metal fittings.

"Our over 40 employees understand how important customer experience is," said Owner Scott Ferguson, who has worked for the business for 37 years. "Many of the employees here,



Royal Oak Heating, Cooling, Electrical & Plumbing team.

including my boys, can be put in different situations, making us very efficient at completing the task at hand, and helping the company at any time where and when needed. Some of our seasoned staff have worked here for over 30 years."

Among these 40 are masters who carry licenses in all departments. This experience, and their employees' desire to learn created a service that customers

have used for generations.

"Our employees are the company," Scott said. "Without them, we would not be where we are at today."

Scott's two sons also work with the family-owned business, with Steven on the HVAC side and Russell on the electrical side. Scott said the business is working toward the two guiding the company for the next 40 years.

Scott also said Royal Oak Heating,

Cooling, Electrical & Plumbing is at the top of their field for three reasons – they stand behind their work, they're punctual and fix it correctly the first time.

The company also regularly supports Oxford's baseball and football teams. Ferguson's wife, Kathleen, will also be involved in school events and chamber meetings this summer to ensure the business is fully connected with the community they have been a part of for over 30 years, he said.

The business will continue to improve in the industry and improve its customer service and experience this year and beyond through training and hard work, according to Scott. It will improve its smart-home integration and standby generators while adapting to the constant industry changes to make their customer's homes more efficient, safer, brighter and have better air quality.

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Full Scope Eyecare:

Helping you find relief from dry eyes

Fifty percent of people struggle with dry eyes, and for a long time eye drops have been the catch-all treatment for dryness, redness and itchy eyes.

“People want to live without eye drops,” said Candace Ingham, co-owner and marketing specialist at Full Scope Eyecare in Ortonville. “They run their purpose, but it’s not a root-cause type of solution. It’s a bandage versus a treatment.”

Recently, Full Scope Eyecare has gotten an Envision machine by Inmode, which provides two kinds of precision tissue treatment to battle dry eyes. The first treatment is the Forma-I, a bipolar radiofrequency technology.

“The Forma-I helps to promote healthier tears,” said Dr. Leon Ingham, OD, at Full Scope Eyecare. “It does so by softening the oils that are in the glands, it’s called meibum, and it creates collagen growth in the lids as

well as in the glands. So the collagen will tighten the lids, help reduce some wrinkles in that area, and it also keeps the glands producing longer because of the tighter lids.”

The second treatment is the Lumecca-I, which is an intense pulsed light, which is laser-like in that it’s a non-focalised laser.

“The Lumecca reduces inflammation in the glands and it draws off blockages, blood vessels, and other things that are slowing tear production,” said Leon. “Through an eye exam, we are able to isolate what the problem is and direct it from there.”

Over 80 percent of dryness of the eye is an evaporative dryness, said

Leon, and these treatments address the root cause of those types of dryness.

“It is cutting edge,” said Candace. “We were one of the first practices in the United States to have the machine. Definitely one of the first in Michigan to have the machine and treat with how intense it is, with great results.”

The treatments begin as a series of four or five treatments over the span of several weeks, and that can be enough for some patients.

“It depends on the patient,” said Leon. “For some patients you will reduce the issues and they’re done and complete. For many there’s a maintenance they would do every one to two years, we would do one treatment.”

The main symptom of dry eyes or disrupted tears is blurred vision, and usually discomfort would come after the blurred vision presents as a symptom. Any of these symptoms

can be examined during a dry eye assessment.

“Some assessments can be done during general eye exams, but better is to do a dry eye assessment,” said Leon. “We’re able to do imaging on the glands. Through assessment scores, other ancillary testing, we can look at results. We offer a series of other dry eye treatments for patients too. This is our newest too to really offer something special and unique to the area for treatments.”

See more information about the Envision by Inmode on the Full Scope Eyecare Facebook page, and to schedule an appointment, call 248-793-3131.

After putting their heads together and answering, “What if...”, Candace and Dr. Ingham are excited to announce they have a HUGE surprise in store for the community to treat themselves to. Follow Full Scope EyeCare on Facebook or Instagram to stay tuned to what they’ll be launching here in the near future.

Visit Full Scope Eyecare, 1221 S. Ortonville Road, Suite A, Ortonville.

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*Forma-I and Lumecca-I are private pay procedures, with payment plans available

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Helping Area Seniors Feel at Home with Comfort and Care

Volante of Lake Orion is committed to fostering a genuine sense of home for local seniors, offering an ideal blend of comfort, care, and community connection. The community features a variety of options, from supportive assisted living to personalized memory support services, all within a warm and inviting atmosphere.

According to Volante of Lake Orion's Executive Director, Lance Davis, "We work daily to ensure every resident feels respected, valued, and truly at home."

Previously known as Terraces at Lake Orion, the community has served North Oakland County for five years and was recently rebranded



as part of the Volante Senior Living family. With 24 locations nationwide, Volante Senior Living is dedicated to enhancing the senior living experience through quality care, meaningful engagement, and a strong sense of community.

Residents benefit from

amenities like restaurant-style dining with chef-prepared meals, group exercise classes, and secure courtyards that feature seating and raised gardening beds. With a dedicated team of around 60 associates, Volante creates an engaging environment filled with compassion and

togetherness. Proudly rooted in Lake Orion, Volante of Lake Orion actively participates in the Orion Area and Oxford Chambers of Commerce and supports senior services in Orion Township and Oxford. Volante of Lake Orion is inviting the public to an Open House on Thursday, April 10, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM, where guests can enjoy guided tours and light refreshments. To RSVP, call Jennifer at (248) 977-6200. Don't miss this opportunity to discover how Volante of Lake Orion enriches the lives of their residents. To learn more or schedule a personal tour, visit VolanteofLakeOrion.com.

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Founded by Larry and Jake Smith, Michigan Mechanical & Diagnostic is an extension of S&L Autobody & Glass. With over 40 years of servicing the community, Larry and Jake aim to provide complete automotive repair services to all customers, both new and existing.

"In our current business, we have customers who need automotive mechanic repair services in addition to body repair service. So, we built this business to become a one stop shop for them," said Larry. "In addition, we have expanded the facility to provide automotive repair services to anyone in the area who might need this type of service."

Unlike most automotive repair



Back Row L-R: Eric Standfest (Master Mechanic), Bob Armstrong (Master Mechanic), Jake Smith (Owner), Larry Smith (Owner); Front Row L – R: Carlos Garnica (Shop Manager), Dawn Horner (Office Manager)

facilities, Michigan Mechanical & Diagnostic has two certified master mechanics with over 50 years of combined experience in the industry with the ability to diagnose and repair any kind of automotive issue while also providing excellent customer service and timely repair.

Current staff consists of Shop

Manager and Service Advisor Carlos Garnica who has 30 years of experience in the industry, along with Certified Master Mechanics Eric Standfest and Bob Armstrong who bring 15 years and 30 years of experience to the shop, respectively.

All three bring high quality experience and a dedication to ensuring

top quality work and customer satisfaction.

In the community, Larry and Jake have been involved in the Clarkston Area Chamber of Commerce and have consistently sponsored a youth baseball team through Independence Township Parks and Recreation.

They have also received several awards over the years for things like community beautification, receiving recognition from Independence Township for restoring and painting a World War II era cannon which now resides in Lakeview Cemetery.

Larry and Jake look forward to another 40 years of serving the community and continuing to provide outstanding service in both auto body repair and automotive service.

Call or schedule an appointment today by calling the shop at 248-618-3173 or visit their website at michigan-mechanical.com.

Michigan Mechanical & Diagnostic is located 3559 Sashabaw Rd. in Waterford.



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View Newspaper Group celebrates 22 years of community connections through its 22 papers

LAPEER — Last year was a big one for View Newspaper Group as the locally-owned, locally-connected and locally-operated newspaper company celebrated 21 years and added seven newspapers to its group through an acquisition. This year is already proving to be a big year too with the announcement of View Newspaper Group's latest start up — the St. Clair Area View set to launch this May.

"Last year and this year are proving to be two huge years of growth for our company. We are now Michigan's largest, independently owned newspaper group. A milestone we take great pride in, said View Newspaper Group Publisher Wes Smith. "We focus on storytelling and one of the most important stories we can tell is our own. While some newspapers have struggled, we are happy to report that we have continued to grow since our start 22 years ago."

Leadership announced in May 2024 the acquisition of seven newspapers on the west side of the state including, Hastings Banner, Hastings Reminder, Lowell Ledger, Lowell Buyers Guide, Battle Creek Shopper News, Marshall Advisor & Chronicle and Sun & News. In March 2025 the group announced the launch of the St. Clair Area View, which will be distributed for free to 17,000 homes in St. Clair County twice a month.

Founded in 2003 by Lapeer native Rick Burrough, View Newspaper Group publishes 22 community newspapers with more than 352,000 copies in print each week covering Lapeer, Oakland, Genesee, Livingston, Sanilac, Huron, Saginaw, Shiawassee, Montcalm, Ionia, Barry, Calhoun, Kent and St. Clair counties.

The on-going growth of View Newspaper Group is further proof that the company is committed to making meaningful connections for readers and clients each and every day. Along with newspapers, those connections are made through the company's special publications, events and the donation of money and advertising space to area nonprofits. Most importantly the success of View Newspaper Group is proof of the power and strength of community newspapers.

"Our growth is proof that newspaper readership remains strong for our products, because local, community newspapers are so important," said Smith. "We look forward to carrying on the important work of delivering local news to each of the communities we serve."

The strength of the newspaper company



The team at View Newspaper Group, which publishes 22 papers across 14 counties in Michigan, is proud to be your community connection.

has allowed the team at View Newspaper Group to continue to give back and support community causes through signature events, editorial coverage and cash donations.

In the last year alone, View Newspaper Group supported area nonprofits with \$140,000 worth of cash donations, sponsorships and dues. That, along with Burrough's personal donations to the community last year brought the total to more than \$180,000.

"I'm humbled that reader support and that of our advertisers has allowed View Newspaper Group to give back and support the communities we serve at that level," said Smith. "Giving back is an important part of being a community newspaper."

Part of that support also comes from the events View Newspaper Group hosts. Leading the trend of combining events and newspapers, the team at View discovered that events are a great way to further connect the communities they serve. In 2024 alone, more than \$43,500 was raised for area nonprofits through the newspaper company's signature events.

"After a decade of hosting community events, View Newspaper Group has raised more than \$294,000 for important causes," said View Newspaper Group Brand Manager Emily Caswell, who helps produce the events. "From our very first craft beer festival to our all-women's golf outings, each event has a few goals — connect our guests to our sponsors and each other, provide a day or night of fun for the community and raise money for a great cause. The results speak for themselves."

View Newspaper Group events include:

- View Lady Classic: This all-women's golf outing is now heading into its ninth

year, and is set for Thursday, July 31 at Metamora Golf & Country Club. The event has raised more than \$137,000 since its inception for Lapeer Area Citizens Against Domestic Assault (LACADA).

- View Lady Classic Fenton: Held at Fenton Farms Golf Club, this event returns Monday, June 23. In just three years the event has raised \$22,650 for the local nonprofit Delivering Hope.

- Bottles, Brews & News: View Newspaper Group's autumn craft beer and wine fest in downtown Fenton has raised more than \$37,100 for Fenton Area Resource & Referral Network Inc. (FARR) since its start six years ago. Keep an eye out for the 2025 date.

- Bowling in Bowties: This fundraiser features a swanky night of bowling to benefit the Lapeer County Department of Veteran Services (LCVS). It's held each February, and in six years the event has raised more than \$29,500 for LCVS.

A successful community newspaper, said Smith, is a vital part of making the cities and towns they cover successful. "Part of what we do is ensure that businesses and organizations in the communities we cover are prospering," said Smith. "We are very grateful to our loyal readers, advertisers, sponsors and those who attend our events. We're also thankful to our team members who show up every day to write the stories, serve our advertisers and readers and keep our local papers going."

View Newspaper Group has offices in Lapeer, Oxford, Ortonville, Fenton, Sandusky, Bad Axe, Chesaning, Greenville, Hastings, Lowell and Battle Creek. Most of their newspapers are direct-mailed for free to readers' homes, while six — Tri-County Times, Sanilac County News, The Daily

News, Lowell Ledger, Hastings Banner and the 187-year-old County Press — are subscription-based.

With a focus on print-first, View Newspaper Group's newspapers are the leading news and advertising resource in the markets they serve.

"Between our free circulation newspapers that are delivered to nearly every home in the markets they cover and our paid circulation newspapers, we reach more consumers than any other media," says Pete Clinton, View's advertising director. "Our newspapers are welcomed into the homes of our readers who use them to make buying decisions for their families."

VIEW Group, the branding division of View Newspaper Group continued to assist clients with their branding needs in 2024. The team continues to seek clients, including area nonprofits, to assist in their branding needs from complete rebrands to annual reports to small projects including invites, branded giveaway items and more.

"Since their start, newspapers have always played a role in their clients' branding and overall marketing efforts," said Caswell. "Our award-winning branding division ensures our clients don't have to go far when they need a new logo, complete rebrand or even something as simple as professional writing services."

View Newspaper Group's individual newspapers are members of the Michigan Press Association (MPA). "The MPA is an important trade group in our state that protects the freedom of the press as well as citizens' right to know what their government is doing by protecting and fighting to expand Michigan's Freedom of Information Act," Smith said. Smith is Past-President of the MPA board and serves on the board of Community Papers of Michigan of which View Newspaper Group is also a member. Many View Newspaper Group team members serve on area nonprofit boards and are avid community volunteers.

In the year ahead, the company will continue to focus on growth so the team can do even more for the communities they serve.

"We take our role as a community newspaper group seriously," said Smith. "We feel privileged to have the support we do, and in turn be able to offer support back to the organizations we know make our communities so great. The year ahead looks bright and we look forward to continuing to be your community connection."

Hagopian Cleaning Services – your number one name in rug cleaning and repair

Since 1939, Hagopian Cleaning Services has been a trusted name in expert rug cleaning and repair services throughout Metro Detroit. You may also recognize their famous purple trucks driving around town for in-home carpet, furniture and air duct cleaning.

In 2017, Hagopian expanded its business by opening a rug cleaning drop-off location right here in Clarkston where customers can take advantage of their two for one offer.

“We wanted to provide our customers with a convenient Hagopian location closer to home where they can drop off their rugs for cleaning,” said owner Edmond Hagopian.

Hagopian Cleaning Services offers professional cleaning for all types of rugs, from fine silks and antiques to the rug’s your kids and pets trample on every day.

Their one-of-a-kind rug care spa provides a deep, thorough clean that will flush away any embedded soil and bring the colors back to life.

They also offer rug repair services. From simple binding and fringe repair to reweaving large holes, Hagopian Cleaning Services has rug repair artisans ready to get your rugs back into shape, restore its value and more importantly, give you many more years to enjoy your rugs.

With their years of experience, you can’t go wrong with Hagopian.



“Most of our competitors will simply surface clean area rugs, which fails to remove most of the soil and none of them have the knowledge that we have in rug repair and stain removal,” Hagopian said.

With over 100 employees, more than half have 20+ years of experience.

As a 3rd generation family business, all three owners live in and are active in the surrounding community. Some examples of their community commitment are holding Student Rug Design Competitions with the College of Creative Studies, maintaining a partnership with the Michigan and Huron Valley Humane Societies, cleaning and repairing rugs at the Ford Estate of Henry and Clara Ford in Dearborn and the



Elenor and Edsel home in Grosse Pointe, recreating historical rugs for the Ford Estates and Cranbrook Academy of Arts and, as Americans of Armenian descent, they started Armeniafest to bring their rich heritage to the community.

Hagopian Cleaning Services extends its warmest gratitude to the community and looks forward to many more years of taking care of its customers through the services they provide.

For a look at how this process is done or to schedule an appointment, visit their website at HagopianClean.com or to reach Clarkston call 248-403-7847.

Hagopian Cleaning Services is located at 7073 Dixie Highway in the White Lake Commons.

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Steve's Oxford Automotive goes the extra miles to find the right parts for you

The story of Steve Rea is a quintessential American success story.

Steve Rea is the proud owner of Steve's Oxford Automotive, located at 48 N. Washington Street in downtown Oxford. Although he's been the owner for 28 years, his journey with the business began 40 years ago.

"I started working here as a Co-Op student from Oxford High School's auto shop back in 1984," Rea recalls. "In 1997, I had the opportunity to buy the business, and I haven't looked back since."

"We pride ourselves on going the extra mile to find the right parts for each customer," he says.

Steve's Oxford Automotive offers a comprehensive range of services, including a full selection of new auto and truck replacement parts, as well as performance refinishing products. They are also well-known for creating custom hydraulic hose assemblies to meet specialized needs.

With Rea at the helm, Steve's Oxford Automotive employs three full-time and two part-time team members, collectively bringing over 85 years of experience to the business. This wealth of expertise ensures customers receive the best care and knowledge available in the auto repair industry.



Steven Rea has spent 41 years behind the counter at Steve's Oxford Automotive.

Beyond his business, Rea is deeply committed to giving back to the Oxford community. He regularly sponsors local events and supports organizations like Oxford Township Parks and Recreation, the Oxford Village Police, the Oxford auto shop class, the Girl Scouts, and the American Legion Walter Fraser Post 108 on E. Drahn Road.

"I'm incredibly grateful for the support I've received over the years," Rea says. "Thank you to everyone for 28 great years, plus the 13 years before that!"

As for the future of Steve's Oxford Automotive, Rea smiles and adds, "Hopefully, retirement is on the horizon soon!"

For more information, call Steve's Oxford Automotive at 248-628-2501.

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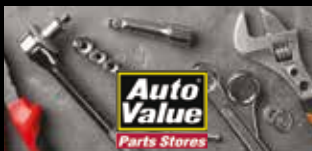


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- Bag storage (based on availability)
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- Members-only tournaments & events
- Dining
- Member leagues
- 10% merchandise discount in the golf shop
- Driving range complete with short game practice area, practice sand bunker and putting/chipping green
- Members-only swimming pool
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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

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COUPLE

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JUNIOR
(35 & UNDER)
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- Charging privileges
- Locker (based on availability)
- Bag storage (based on availability)
- Reciprocal member services
- Driving range
- Members-only tournaments & events
- Dining
- Member leagues
- 10% merchandise discount in the golf shop
- Driving range complete with short game practice area, practice sand bunker and putting/chipping green

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

FAMILY

\$3,900

COUPLE

\$3,400

SINGLE

\$2,900

JUNIOR
(35 & UNDER)
\$2,100



“Metamora Golf Club is a must-play! Beautiful views, expertly designed trails, and immaculate conditions make for a world-class golfing experience. Peaceful atmosphere, friendly staff, and a great challenge for any skill level - 5 stars and highly recommended.”

— Sava Shqutaj



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Junior (35 & under) \$2,625 - **\$1,575 SAVINGS**

“Boulder Pointe - what an absolutely beautiful golf course. Good pace of play, fast fairways, and faster greens. This is one of those places you talk about long after the round is over.”

— Eric Smith

All 2025 memberships are seasonal and valid until 12/31/25
monthly payment options available

Metamora Golf & Country Club acquires Boulder Pointe Golf Club

OXFORD TWP. — The local ownership group at Metamora Golf & Country Club proudly announced on Feb. 28 their acquisition of Boulder Pointe Golf Club, combining two exceptional, semi-private clubs under one ownership umbrella.

“The recent acquisition allows our teams to increase the quality of the grounds, golf, events and service to members and guests at both locations,” said Rick Fleming, club manager and co-owner.

Fleming has been with Metamora Golf & Country Club since 2010 shortly after it was purchased by a local ownership group. Fleming joined the ownership group, which includes Curt Carter, Rick Burrough, Mike Blazo, Jim Harrington, Dave Bush, Gaye Butterfield, Mike Butterfield and Craig Schuchard, in 2021.

Boulder Pointe Golf Club was owned by the Nicholson family prior to the acquisition. Fleming said the Metamora Golf & Country Club ownership group made an inquiry to the Nicholson family regarding the purchase of Boulder Pointe Golf Club when it became clear an expansion at Metamora Golf & Country Club was needed.

“Metamora Golf & Country Club is home to a number of golf outings each year, including many that raise money for worthy causes in our community. Adding the courses at Boulder Pointe gives those currently hosting outings at Metamora the opportunity to expand their outing,” said Fleming. “Adding the award-winning banquet facility at Boulder Pointe to the line-up of options that we can offer the community year-round is a huge benefit. An expansion was also necessary for those who simply love the game of golf. The demand for member and open play rounds have increased in recent years creating the need for more golf holes. Bringing Boulder Pointe into our family of golf facilities allows us to offer more tee time to our members, guests and the community.”

Fleming will serve as general manager for both facilities overseeing 120 team members in-season. “Our group looks forward to the synergy we’ve created by combining the two clubs, allowing us to better serve our members, support the community and enhance employee opportunities,” he said.

JOIN TODAY AND EXPERIENCE EXCEPTIONAL GOLF, RECREATION AND MORE

With a combined 45 holes of golf, golfers looking for a challenging day on the course will find it at Metamora Golf & Country Club and Boulder Pointe Golf Club.

Founded in 1990, Metamora Golf & Country Club is an 18-hole, 72-par championship course. On the course, golfers of all experience levels will find a rolling terrain that is challenging but a fair test of skill. Designed by Don Childs and Associates, the parkland course offers exceptional shot value, design balance and aesthetics.

“The facility is intended for the golfer who appreciates a good test of golf and enjoys the service and ambiance of a private golf club,” said Fleming.

Built in 2000 and located off of M-24 in Oxford Township, Boulder Pointe Golf Club includes three 9-hole courses, each with its own distinct feel and



Metamora Golf & Country Club

challenges offering the opportunity to golf more than 7,000 total yards. The courses are located on the site of a reclaimed gravel mine, which has 15 sparkling blue-green lakes and dramatic elevations changes, giving golfers an excellent golf experience all while being conveniently located in Oakland County.

Both Metamora Golf & Country Club and Boulder Pointe Golf Club are semi-private clubs and are accepting new members. A golf membership at either club includes a number of benefits including unlimited golf, bag storage, dining, a discount in the golf pro shop, access to the driving range, member-only events and more.

Metamora Golf & Country Club also offers a social membership that includes access to their members-only pool, tennis and pickleball courts. Members at both Metamora Golf & Country Club and Boulder Pointe will have reciprocal benefits at the appropriate sister club. There will also be a new Platinum Membership available giving members full member benefits at both courses.

Under local ownership, Metamora Golf & Country Club has grown from 47 members to 320 members thanks to the team’s dedication to providing outstanding golf and memorable member-only events. Fleming said the group looks forward to growing membership at Boulder Pointe Golf Club in the coming months through service, quality, and a dedication to making the membership experience even more enjoyable.

“We welcome anyone interested in learning more about membership to contact us,” said Fleming. “We’d love the opportunity to provide an in-person tour, talk through the many benefits of membership and welcome more community members into our family.”

BOOK YOUR EVENT TODAY TO MAKE MEMORIES FOR TOMORROW

From one-of-a-kind weddings to graduation parties to golf outings and community fundraisers, the professional team at Metamora Golf & Country Club, Boulder Pointe Golf Club and Fairway Catering are ready to help make your next event unforgettable!

“Our team’s attention to detail and exceptional customer service sets us apart from others,” said Fleming. “We have decades of event planning experience and can now host events for up to 400



Boulder Pointe Golf Club

guests! Our experience paired with our award-winning staff, including a team of talented chefs, means we can offer customizable packages for any event with exquisite menu options to fit every budget.”

The 26,000 square foot clubhouse at Boulder Pointe Golf Club provides a beautiful banquet space for large and small events alike with different room options and private business meeting nooks all with breathtaking views overlooking the golf course.

Metamora Golf & Country Club offers unique event spaces including an appealing clubhouse that can accommodate up to 100 guests, a pavilion tent and patio that can accommodate up to 200 guests, a cozy cabin in the woods for intimate events year-round and an Olympic size pool for events throughout the summer!

“We are one of Michigan’s unique event destinations,” said Fleming. “Couples love exchanging their vows under the club’s signature Oak Tree, families are excited to host poolside parties and members can’t say enough about the comradery and value both clubs provide.”

Those looking to host an event off-site can count on the professional and talented team at Fairway Catering to create a meal perfect for any occasion. From appetizers, to buffets, to plated dinners to desserts and full bar service, Fairway Catering does the heavy lifting so clients can enjoy memorable moments with their guests in any location.

DEDICATED TO COMMUNITY

As they’ve done for more than a decade, the local ownership group will continue their mission to support the communities that have supported them. One example is the Metamora Charity Golf Classic that has raised over \$100,000 for area causes since its start seven years ago.

“Just as we’ve been dedicated to giving back to the community in Metamora and throughout Lapeer County, we look forward to doing the same in Oxford and Oakland County,” said Fleming. “We’re thankful for the opportunity to expand and look forward to helping our members and the community make memories at two world-class golf courses.”

To learn more, book your event or join visit www.boulderpointe.net, www.metamoragolf.com or contact Fleming at 248-969-2120.

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Kapala Heating & Air Conditioning to launch educational workshops in May

ELBA TWP. — Outstanding service, education and giving back are three pillars of Kapala Heating & Air Conditioning that have allowed the team to build and maintain a reputation of excellence.

Founded in 1978 by Norbert and Rita Kapala, Kapala has remained a family-owned and operated business with Norbert and Rita's daughter Janet and her husband Tom taking over in 1982 after Janet's father passed. Since that time, the Engelmans have focused on the growth of the business and are always quick to acknowledge they could not achieve success without their team and the community.

Along with providing and servicing residential and commercial heating, air conditioning and air purification, the team at Kapala supports their community in a big way. Just last year they ran a successful Kapala Cares campaign that saw community members voting quarterly for their favorite nonprofit among three selected each round. The campaign raised \$6,000 for 12 different nonprofits across the county including Project Brotherhood Resolve, Love INC, Human Development Commission, Ireland's Dream, Kiwanis Club of Lapeer, Lion's Bear Lake Camp, Family Literacy Center, Crank-4-A-Cause, Banbury Cross Therapeutic Equestrian Center, Great Lakes Dog Rescue, The Refuge and LACADA (Lapeer Area Citizens Against Domestic Assault). Along with giving back, the campaign engaged the community in a big way generating nearly 50,000 page views on the Kapala website. A full recap and an honorable mention page can be found online at



The team at Kapala Heating & Air Conditioning looks forward to hosting a series of educational workshops in 2025. The first free event is set for Thursday, May 8.

kapalaheating.com/kapala-cares.

“Our team feels that it’s important to share success and give back in whatever way we can, which led us to start Kapala Cares as a way to raise awareness and support local nonprofits,” said Janet. “We’re all thrilled with the results, which along with helping great causes financially, allowed us to educate about programs and services available in the community.”

In the year ahead, the team at Kapala will give back to the community through a series of free, educational workshops. The first event is set for 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, May 8 at Kapala. Each workshop will be interactive with a Question-and-Answer session, a hands-on portion where customers can physically learn how to change the filters in their indoor air quality products, for example, and much more. The workshops will also include snacks and drinks.

“With decades of experience when it comes to heating, air conditioning and air quality we

realized we could truly help our customers and the community through these workshops,” said Janet. “For no cost, attendees can come out for an afternoon of education and fun. The workshops are great for new homeowners and those who wish to be a little more hands-on with their home maintenance.”

In addition to the workshops, the team at Kapala will focus in the year ahead to educate the community about all the services and products their team of experts offer.

Kapala is a Factory Authorized Dealer of Carrier equipment and parts, installing and servicing propane, natural gas and fuel oil furnaces and boilers. They also service and install standard and tankless water heaters, ductless splits, geothermal systems and generators.

“Many people don’t realize how comprehensive our line of services and products is,” said Janet. “For example, we install and service Generac stand-by Generators, and we can help our customers apply

for utility rebates for qualifying systems. We really aim to be a partner with our customers to be sure their quality of life is enhanced by our team.”

Speaking of their team, the growth at Kapala continues, nearly filling Kapala’s 10,000 square-foot space on Trade Center Way in Elba Township, that they moved into in 2021. Additions to their commercial team include Britani Frank, Andre Martinez, Caleb Reger, Marick Brumley and Zane Studer. JK Seifferly has joined their residential install team, and with the retirement of Dan Engelman, Joe Westphal has filled the position of warehouse manager.

With a busy year ahead, Janet said she and her team look forward to continuing to be there for the community they love, through service, education and giving back.

“We’ve had a great year and it’s only March,” said Janet. “We look forward to connecting with customers and community members at our workshops and making 2025 the best year yet.”

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From left Butch Cox, Craig Crawford, Carl Cox and Paul Opperman.

Classics Customs & Restorations-Automotive

They were family cars, driven daily for church, work and vacations. Today the classic rides reflect a unique era of automotive history spanning more than a century.

The team at Classics Customs & Restorations-Automotive, provide the passion and decades of expertise for vehicles new and old. Whether it's freshening up a family heirloom with a few modern amenities, or building your custom dream ride that you have always wanted.

"We offer custom vehicle services along with general repairs," said Carl Cox, who along with Paul Opperman are co-owners of CCR.

CCR Automotive, 1695 S. Ortonville Road opened in the summer of 2024. "The classic cars come from a unique clientele, especially when those vehicles are more than 20 years old. It takes a special expertise that is just what we do. We are the guys everyone tells you to go see when few automotive shops touch it."

Cox emphasizes there's often strong sentimental attachments to classic vehicles, whether it's a car from high school days gone by or the first vehicle purchased or a dream car or truck, CCR Automotive will work with the client to make it happen.

"With all have experience in the

automotive world on everything from classics, modern muscle, racing, and vehicle development," he said. "Let's talk about that car you have been wanting to get back on the road, or talk about those upgrades you have been thinking about. Let us help you make your dreams a reality."

The classics are often very personal to our clients, added Cox.

"We understand it can often be difficult for clients to allow people to work on their vehicle," he said. "We get it. It's an irreplaceable part of a life, it's your father's car or grandfather's or maybe a brothers. Either way, we provide a way to assist those who want to keep that tradition going."

CCR Automotive will handle your vehicle with pride, care, and integrity.

"A lot of people today want the look of a classic old car, but they want it to drive and handle like a new car," he said. "We convert to power brakes all the time, install safety belts and convert from points to electronic ignition."

The team at CCR specialize in suspension, electrical and driveability.

"We want our customers to be safe and enjoy the vehicles they build," he said. "Drive the vehicles, if you're going to make the investment take it out and have fun."

Ecos Wealth Advisors: The Future of Financial Planning

At Ecos Wealth Advisors, our journey began with a simple yet powerful mission: to empower individuals and families to achieve their financial aspirations. Built on the cornerstones of personalized attention and strategic guidance, we have evolved from a modest advisory practice into a trusted partner for our clients, assisting them as they navigate the complexities of their financial lives.

From the outset, we recognized that financial planning transcends mere numbers – it's about people, their dreams, their fears, their aspirations, and their families. It's about actively listening to our clients, understanding their unique circumstances, and devising tailored strategies that align with their goals and values.

We have accompanied our clients through pivotal life events, including retirement, business ownership, succession planning, transferring generational wealth, and legacy creation through estate preservation. In each of these events, our focus remained on developing a deep understanding of our clients' needs and desires to provide them with the best possible guidance and support as they pursue their financial goals.

We believe that technology is integral to modern financial planning. By embracing cutting-edge tools and innovative solutions, we provide our clients with secure digital access to account management, financial projections, and real-time portfolio tracking. These technological advancements streamline processes,



Tommi Harris and Vita Romberger of Ecos Wealth Advisors.

enhance transparency, and allow for more efficient and effective management of our clients' financial resources. However, while technology enhances our capabilities, it does not replace the human element. Our core philosophy remains centered on building and nurturing strong relationships based on trust, transparency, and a deep commitment to personalized guidance.

As we look to the future, the landscape of financial planning is more dynamic than ever. Market fluctuations, tax law amendments, evolving retirement strategies, and emerging technologies necessitate a proactive and adaptable approach.

In response to these changes, we are constantly evolving our service offerings and expanding our expertise to meet the ever-changing needs of our clients. This includes comprehensive estate planning, ensuring financial security for future generations and providing guidance on navigating complex tax laws and regulations.

Furthermore, we are committed to promoting financial literacy and empowering our clients to make informed decisions in an ever-changing world. Through personalized planning sessions, educational workshops, and ongoing strategic guidance, we equip our clients with the knowledge and tools they need to achieve financial well-being. We believe that an educated client is an empowered client, and we are dedicated to providing our clients with the resources and support they need to take control of their financial futures.

The road ahead is full of possibilities, and we are privileged to be a part of our clients' financial journeys and this community. We remain dedicated to providing unwavering support and expert guidance, helping our clients navigate the complexities of financial planning and build a secure and prosperous future. Our commitment to our clients goes beyond simply managing their money – we strive to be their trusted partners, guiding them through every step of their financial journey and helping them achieve their dreams and aspirations.

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Wholesome Health: A Purpose-Driven Approach to Functional Medicine

We are joined by Cindy Crandell RN Functional Medicine Nutritionist and CEO Wholesome Health.

Cindy, you had a successful journey with Nuview Nutrition for 25 years and was voted best of the best for ten years in a row, what led you to Wholesome Health?

After selling Nuview Nutrition, I realized my passion for functional medicine and helping others was something I couldn't step away from. It's a purpose-driving calling for me. However, I wanted the freedom to travel and have a more flexible lifestyle. That's what inspired me to create Wholesome Health – a remote functional medicine telehealth practice that allows me to continue making a difference while maintaining a flexibility to enjoy life on my terms.

What makes Wholesome Health different from other functional medicine practices?

Our approach is fully customized which also includes education and tools to make each client successful. We are dedicated to finding the root cause of health concerns rather than just treating symptoms. We offer personalized nutrition plans combined with prescribed nutraceuticals to bring balance and healing to the body. Every person is unique and by using a functional medicine approach we can develop targeted solutions that truly support long-term wellness. The convenience of



telehealth also means that clients can access expert guidance and care from anywhere.

What types of clients do you typically work with?

Many of my clients struggle with chronic conditions, weight management, gut health issues, hormone imbalances or general wellness concerns. They often come to us after years of frustration with traditional healthcare approaches that treat symptoms without addressing the underlying causes. Our goal is to empower them with the right nutrition, supplementation, education and lifestyle strategies to help their bodies heal naturally.

How has transitioning to a telehealth model impacted both your work and personal life?

It's been an incredible shift. Professionally, now I can reach a wider audience and offer high-quality, individualized care without the constraints of a physical office. Personally, it has given me the freedom to travel and enjoy a flexible schedule while still doing what I love. It's truly the best of both worlds – helping people achieve better health while creating a lifestyle that aligns with my values. For those clients who want in person visits, Taylor Lang offers in person visits in the Clarkston area.

What's next for Wholesome Health?

I'm always looking for ways to expand and improve our offerings. Whether it's developing new wellness programs, offering more educational resources or enhancing the client experience, my focus remains on making functional medicine more accessible and effective. The future of

healthcare is shifting toward a more personalized and preventative approach. I'm excited to be part of that transformation.

You've mentioned that Wholesome Health takes a different approach compared to traditional functional medicine office. Can you elaborate on that?

Absolutely. Many functional medicine offices focus primarily on treating symptoms with supplements. Clients come to us because they are not getting the results desired and complain about numerous supplements even supplement fatigue. This is not different than just prescribing medicine, true healing goes beyond that. The key is combining a customized nutrition plan and lifestyle changes with prescribed nutraceuticals based on individual findings. This creates a powerful synergistic effect, allowing the body to heal at a deeper level, reverse disease and restore vitality.

That's a compelling approach. Is there another aspect that sets you apart?

Yes – the missing pieces in many practices is education. Most healthcare offices are rushed, and visits too short to cover lifestyle and customized nutrition a client needs the full package to truly see lasting results. Education is key to long-term success. That's why we have created an educational hub each client has access to. It's packed with evergreen courses, cooking videos and educational handouts to empower clients with the knowledge they need to take control of their health. By building this toolbox, we set our clients up for sustainable, long-term wellness rather than short-term

symptom relief. It is also important to educate clients on keeping their immune system healthy and how to treat illness if it arises to decrease need for frequent use of antibiotics.

It sounds like Wholesome Health is growing into something really impactful. Could you share some future plans with us?

Yes! I'm excited to share Taylor Lang has joined me with plans to take over ownership of Wholesome Health in the next 3-5 years. Taylor shares the same passion and vision for functional medicine, and I couldn't be happier to have someone on board who will continue to expand, elevate and continue our mission.

Additionally, in 2025, we're launching a new weight loss and detox membership. This program will be done in a group format making it a cost-effective option for those who enjoy the camaraderie and support of working alongside others. We've seen how powerful community-based programs can be, and this membership is designed to restore health and vitality while fostering a supportive environment for success.

That is amazing news! Any final thoughts for your clients and supporters?

I just want to give a heartfelt thank you to all of our clients who have trusted us with their health. Your dedication and commitment inspire us every day. We're honored to be a part of your wellness journey. We're excited for what's ahead and look forward to continuing to serve you with even more innovative, effective health solutions for years to come.

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The Boat Bar, Ortonville's hotspot on Bald Eagle Lake

Chances are stagecoach passengers riding between Flint and Pontiac in the 1890s would tie-up at a small inn on the east side of Bald Eagle Lake. By 1910 the inn owner was given a keg of beer and a keg of whiskey for their thirsty patrons. Over the next 150 years the iconic establishment thrived as a local spot where travelers along with community members would gather. Since Sept. 3, 2003 John and Kim Hagar have owned the Boat Bar where the tradition of food, fun on the shores of Bald Eagle Lake continues.

"We want to say a huge thank you to all of our amazing customers and dedicated employees," said Jessica Payne, social media manager and bartender. "To our customers, thank you for your continued support over the years and for making the Boat Bar such a special place. Your loyalty and friendship mean the world to us. To our employees, we're incredibly grateful for your hard work, enthusiasm, and the positive energy you bring every day. You all



make this place feel like home, and we couldn't do it without you."

The Boat Bar offers 6 beers on tap and over 50 bottles and cans of customers' favorite beverages. They also serve wine, liquor, or check out their signature rum punch served in a hefty 32 ounce bucket. There's also plenty of entertainment, including the Michigan Lottery, Club Keno, Pull Tabs, Scratch- Off tickets, and Fast Cash. During the week,

there's Trivia, Karaoke, 9-Ball Pool Tournaments, Live Music, Pool Tables, and Darts. In the summer, watch the sunsets over Bald Eagle Lake. The kitchen is also open until 2 a.m. each day serving Boat Bar favorites including the famous Butter Burger, Pretzel Bites, Philly Cheese Steak, Sliders, and the popular Fish Fry.

"We appreciate the community," said Payne. "We strive to give back

whenever possible."

On Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Boat Bar provides complimentary dinners to those who need a place to go,

"We're your home away from home," she said. They also donate to local sports teams, the Ortonville Lions Club, cancer foundations, and support the local police, firefighters, and military."

In 2025 and beyond, we're excited to continue growing and offering even more for our customers. We

plan to expand our events, bringing in more live music, fun activities, and community gatherings. We're also looking to introduce new menu items and drink specials to keep things fresh and exciting. "As always, we'll keep serving up great food, drinks, and good times," she said. "We can't wait to keep making memories with our loyal customers and welcoming new faces to the Boat Bar"

The Boat Bar is open seven days a week, 365 days a year, from 9 a.m. until 2 a.m.



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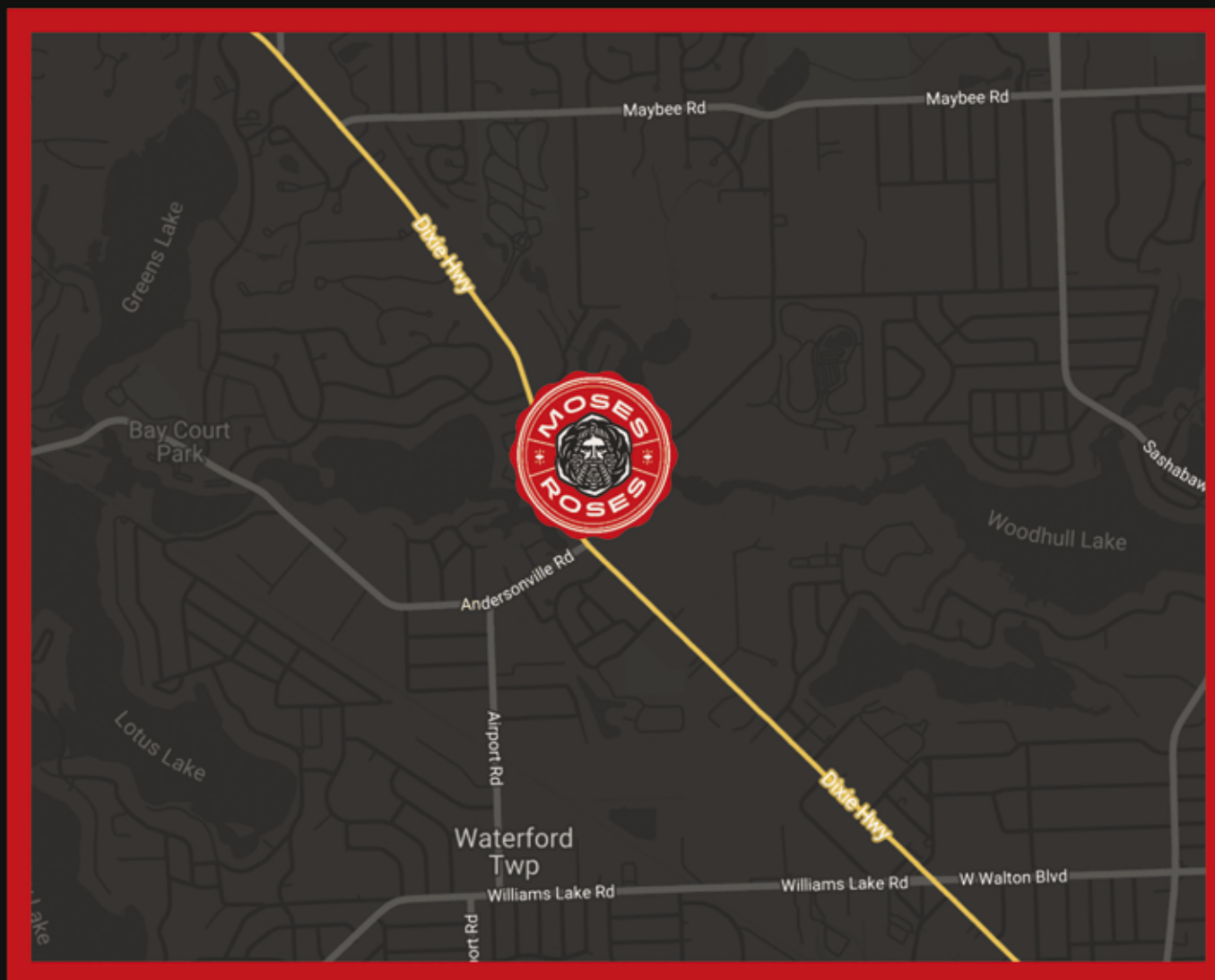


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Groveland Township outdoor life at its best

Nestled in the northern fringes of Oakland County and founded in 1838, Groveland Township features plenty of state-owned property, private camps along with a variety of state and county beaches. The solitude of wilderness coupled with the amenities of natural gas lines, a stellar fire department and close proximity to the Dixie Byway and I-75 provide the perfect mix for quiet living.

“We’re a cozy, recreational community nestled in the midst of all of the busyness,” said Jenell Keller, Groveland Township clerk. “We pride ourselves in being a recreational hub with an ‘up north’ feel due to our many campgrounds, HollyOaks ORV State Park, Holly Recreation Area, and Mt. Holly Ski & Snowboard Resort.”

The welcoming Groveland Township office staff, 4695 Grange Hall Road provide the direction for elections, collection of taxes, and services for the community. Residents can obtain dog licenses, building, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing permits, local cemetery options/information, West Nile deterrents, Western Oakland



Front from left: Theresa Bills, Laura Baughey, Angela Grogan, Jenell Keller and John Williams. Back from left: Kevin Scramlin, Danielle Willcock, and Keith Wiederhold. The staff at Groveland Township.

Transportation Authority information to name a few.

The township staff includes elected officials and three full-time office staff. The fire department consists of another five full-time staff and many part-time and on-call firefighters/EMTs.

“Together we believe we make a fantastic team,” said Keller. “Within the past few months we have welcomed

new members to our team including a new Supervisor, Kevin Scramlin, a new trustee, Keith Wiederhold, a new Fire Chief, John Williams II, and a new full-time Firefighter/Paramedic, Kyle Bruder. With so many staff changes, we’ve been busy,”

Groveland Township provides many community outreach services including the Brandon Groveland

Youth Association and the Holly Area Youth Association. In addition the fire department consistently provides community outreach opportunities over the holidays for those in need.

“We are proud to offer a number of services through the township and fire department,” she said.

While Groveland Township provides a rural living for residents, the community is moving forward thanks to dynamic Tech Park/Mines of Oakland Site near the intersection of Grange Hall Road and I-75

“The development of the Tech Park has been an ongoing project,” said Keller. “With the ongoing marketing projects and consultants on the job, signs of progress are on the horizon.”

The industrial innovation park, which features proximity to the off-road testing landscape of the Holly Oaks state park encompasses more than 188 acres, a five-inch natural gas line established on a major aquifer. Later in 2025, the new Groveland Township Fire Station One and Michigan State Police detachment will be completed on the Tech Park site.



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After more than 40 years in the legal profession, attorney Bob DeWitt is now providing his sound legal advice full time in Ortonville. “I love this community and want to get to know you and understand your problem and legal needs.”

“Give me a call, stop by for a cup of coffee, we’re a small law firm right here in town, and we would love to meet you” said DeWitt, 67. “When we meet for the first time you’re meeting with me,

Robert P. DeWitt, Attorney at Law

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and I take the time to get to know you and understand your problem along with your needs.” “From walking in the door, we try to make you feel at ease and as comfortable as possible, because we know it can be overwhelming, and in some case an intimidating experience.”

Whether estate planning, wills, trusts, probate, divorce, drunk driving, bankruptcies or business planning—DeWitt’s experience in these areas, professionalism and personal attention is just a phone call away.

Not every client is the same. For over four decades it has been said I make friends with my clients, and that makes a positive difference. It’s because I care about my clients and to me it’s a matter of integrity and honesty.”

“Legal issues can be very complex, each person’s question is unique, and the standard internet solution rarely gives a complete answer to meet your needs though it may look like it at first,” he said. “Time will reveal the advice found on the internet caused a bigger problem, headaches, and costs more money in the long term.” “When trying to do legal work yourself it’s easy to

make mistakes that can cost way more in the long run. Taking advice from the internet or thinking you can do it yourself cannot replace consulting an experienced attorney and give you peace of mind.”

“I like my clients to be part of the decision making process,” he said. “It’s important to me that my clients understand the often complicated legal framework, and explain why they need to have an estate plan, especially in these uncertain and difficult times. These social and economic times have made people think more about the legacy they want to leave behind and how to preserve their assets. I’m happy to explain the difference between a will and a trust, why you need a will, and what happens when there’s no will in place.”

DeWitt emphasizes that everyone should have at least a will and a financial power of attorney.

“If you have a will you’re making these decisions, not the state laws,” he said. “Many clients think a will avoids probate, when it does not. My clients will know what the difference is between a will and a trust, and how to avoid probate by using a

deed or a trust.”

“I’ve noticed a lot of people, whether with a modest estate or a large one, have different needs and I have the background to put all the pieces together,” he said. “It’s amazing how people spend their life building their estates but have no plan in the case of an emergency. Families, even the closest knit ones, are going to be scrambling when that time comes. They all ask the same question, ‘how do you keep that business going when you’re not there?’”

“Today our population is aging and there are many more complicated family situations. The need for estate plans is greater than ever for the surviving spouse, children and blended families.”

DeWitt earned bachelor’s degrees in Economics and History from the University of Michigan. He later received a law degree from Detroit College of Law at Michigan State University.

He is a member of the Addison Township Zoning Board of Appeals, St. Anne’s Church, and Knights of Columbus. He is also a past Brandon Township Trustee and Fire Board Member.

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Neiman's Family Market continues to provide fresh produce and stellar customer service to Clarkston community

Last year, Neiman's Family Market celebrated its 41st year in business.

The grocery store started in Alpena when Hal Neiman moved up there to open the store after being a teacher for much of his life. Currently, Neiman's has stores in Tawas, St. Clair and Clarkston and opened its Mayville location last October.

After 41 years, it's no secret what keeps the business going strong, especially the Clarkston location at 7121 Dixie Highway.

"We carry a large selection of fresh products with our focus being concentrated on ready-to-go products in our Deli, Produce and Meat departments," said Ryan Pizzo, store director for the Clarkston Neiman's. "We also have a cafe that is highlighted by our store-made bagels and donuts as well as an extensive salad bar."

Pizzo explained how the store prides itself on listening to its most valuable assets, its customers.

"We pride ourselves on our customer service and being able to help people find products other competitors can't," Pizzo said.

Neiman's thanks the Clarkston Community and its customers



for all of their support over the years and hope to continue to show Clarkston the value and customer services in each shopping experience.

"The customers of Clarkston have been so great to us over the first 10 years of being in town. Many of our regular shoppers have become friends over the years."

The Clarkston location currently has 70 employees and Pizzo said the management team is one of the

store's strengths with many managers having worked for Neiman's for 10-plus years.

Outside of the day-to-day operations, Neiman's can regularly be seen in the local Clarkston area giving back to many area schools, churches and other organizations.

"We work very closely with our community," said Pizzo. "We work closely with many nonprofits like Lighthouse, New Horizons and Clarkston SCAMP. We also work with the local Knights of Columbus and Lions Club."

Pizzo also noted that Neiman's will continue to be more than just a grocery store for those in and around the Clarkston area.

"Neiman's will continue to show the Clarkston community how we're trying everything to bring value to their shopping experience," Pizzo said. "We will have numerous special events and one-day sales throughout the rest of this year."

For more information, visit neimansfamilymarket.com or call 248-625-6460.



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purchases of \$5 or more, excluding ATM transactions. Since launching Genius Checking, the credit union has helped members put more money back in their pockets. Genisys believes that financial health should be attainable for everyone; Genius Checking is a tool for members to earn more while using their money on everyday needs. In addition, the credit union rewarded members with

higher savings and certificate rates, earning members over \$100 million in savings dividends in 2024. They also offer a Financial Empowerment Center on their website. The Empowerment Center has tools and information about budgeting and spending, saving, managing debt, retirement planning, and more. For both members and non-members alike, this resource provides a financial toolbox with links to ebooks and videos, budget calculators, webinars, subject quizzes, and more. Genisys goes beyond banking by strengthening their local economies and empowering individuals, families, and businesses with trustworthy and convenient financial solutions. Thank you for being part of the Genisys community; we look forward to helping you achieve your financial goals today and in the years to come.



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From our family to yours, Happy Easter from the Culver's family

Culver's of Lake Orion has been honored to be a part of the community for over 18 years. What really makes the Culver's experience come together is the hospitality we strive to provide, and we are grateful to employ over 100 outstanding employees between our two locations, who are eager to serve this community.

While we are known for our butterburgers and fresh frozen custard, serving each meal with a smile is equally as important to us.

In addition to our staple menu items, we are pleased to offer our seafood dinners, perfect for a traditional Lent fish fry. Walleye is back for another season while supplies last, and our cod and shrimp will be offered year-round as always.

As we enter the spring season, we are excited to announce that our iconic Culver's Car Cruise will be starting on Tuesday, April 29th at our location off

of Lapeer and Dutton Road, and will continue each Tuesday throughout the entire summer. Be sure to stop in from 4 - 8 p.m. and see the hundreds of classic cars that our Cruisers bring each week.

We also look forward to extending our reach through DoorDash and Uber Eats. Some days you may not have time to leave the house for a butterburger and milkshake, and we are excited to have our food delivered directly to you.

We extend the utmost thanks to all of our loyal guests for allowing us to help serve this wonderful community.

Please see us at one of our two locations, at Lapeer and Dutton, and our new location on Brown across the street from Costco.

We look forward to serving you in the future, and we wish you and your family a very happy Easter and a fun and safe summer!

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Skrine Insurance Agency excels at guiding clients through all of their insurance needs

At the Christy L. Skrine Insurance Agency Inc., providing that extra personal guidance to help their clients navigate their insurance needs is at the core of what they do.

"I'm proud to serve Lake Orion and its surrounding areas as your local Farmers Agent. At The Christy Skrine Agency Inc., we will guide you through the insurance process to ensure that you receive proper coverage and at a competitive rate," Skrine said.

Skrine has been part of the Farmers Insurance Agency family for 30 years and has owned her own agency for the past 25 years, providing services on all lines of insurance, including commercial, business, auto, life, home/condo, recreational vehicles and renter's insurance.

"I have a wonderful team surrounding my agency to deliver the best service to our clients," Skrine said. "We are happy to work around your schedule and find a time to sit down and review your current coverage together, or simply examine your specific insurance needs. My staff

and I will make the insurance process easy and personalized so that you can rest well knowing you are covered."

Skrine and her team offer evening and weekend appointments because they know that with work, kids, school and other activities, their clients need flexibility and time to examine all of their insurance options – and understand them – because customer service and building long-lasting personal relationships remains at the heart of Skrine Agency.

"In this fast-paced world we still value taking all the time our clients need to make informed decisions on their insurance," Skrine said. "We will still go out and meet that at their home or business."

Skrine Insurance Agency also offer Farmers Financial Solutions to help clients build a solid financial plan and works with them on how they can reach their financial goals.

"It's an absolute pleasure to provide excellent customer service and guidance to help our clients. We're looking forward to continued success and growth in the years to come," Skrine said.

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ChoiceOne Bank CEO Kelly Potes, center with the scissors, celebrates after cutting the ceremonial ribbon to mark the name change from The State Bank to ChoiceOne Bank in Fenton on Monday, March 17. To the left of Potes is Ronald Justice, Fentura CEO and president, and behind Justice is ChoiceOne President Michael Burke, Jr.

ChoiceOne Financial Services, Inc. completes successful consolidation of ChoiceOne Bank and The State Bank

In a move set to strengthen its ties with local communities, ChoiceOne Financial Services, Inc. proudly announced the acquisition of Fentura Financial, Inc. and The State Bank. This brings together two community-focused institutions, marking a significant milestone for ChoiceOne.

“We are excited to welcome The State Bank into our ChoiceOne family,” said ChoiceOne CEO Kelly Potes. “This is a geographical and cultural fit for ChoiceOne and allows us to expand our community bank franchise further into Central and Southeast Michigan. Our combined company offers greater range and capacity for commercial and consumer lending as well as leading advancements in technology. We believe ChoiceOne offers substantial opportunity for our collective communities, customers, and employees while adding significant value for our shareholders. ChoiceOne will offer small businesses and consumers in West, Central and Southeast Michigan an extensive line of products and services delivered through an enhanced retail network including digital and branch banking.”

For 126 years, both ChoiceOne and The State Bank have been pillars of their communities, providing more than just financial services—they have been trusted partners in growth and prosperity. With the combined assets now exceeding \$4 billion, the expanded ChoiceOne family extends its reach

to 56 offices across West, Central, and Southeast Michigan.

Reflecting on a record-breaking year in 2024, where ChoiceOne reported over \$26.7 million in Net Income, ChoiceOne President Michael J. Burke, Jr. attributed the success to the dedication and hard work of the bank’s employees. “Our team’s unwavering commitment to relationship banking has been crucial. We’re excited to bring that same level of dedication to even more communities.”

Part of ChoiceOne’s success as a community bank over the years has been the time and commitment employees extend to the communities ChoiceOne serves. ChoiceOne employees generously serve in leadership and volunteer positions. In 2024, ChoiceOne donated approximately \$420,000 to local communities and employees volunteered 6,000 hours in community service.

At a time when personal connections and community support are more important than ever, ChoiceOne’s expansion is a beacon of hope and a testament to the enduring power of community banking. As the bank grows, so does its commitment to the people it serves. ChoiceOne’s mission is clear - to provide superior service, quality advice, and show utmost respect to everyone they meet. This isn’t just about banking—it’s about building a brighter future together.

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**Requirements apply to earn 7.00% APY. Requirements include direct deposit (ACH credit) of at least \$900 into membership account, enrollment in e-statements, and 25 posted debit card and/or credit card transactions to the account per month. Card purchases must post in the qualifying cycle to the same membership number as your Boost Checking account. ATM and remote deposit capture transactions do not count. Credit card cash advances are excluded. An APY of .01% will apply in the months when all requirements are not met and on balances over \$10,000. Limit one (1) checking account per membership. Dividend rates subject to change. Business accounts do not qualify.

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APY*

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*APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Boost Savings will pay 4.25% APY when requirements for Boost Checking are met each month. If the Boost Checking requirements are not met, the account will pay .01% APY. Boost Checking is required to earn the highest rate. Limit one (1) Boost Savings account per membership. Dividend rates are subject to change. Business accounts do not qualify.

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LAPEER — There is never a bad time to develop and maintain good financial habits. Whether you are just beginning your journey into financial fitness or you are well on your way to meeting your financial goals, Dort Financial Credit Union is available to assist you with our convenient products and services.

The team put together some tips to facilitate you on your way to improving your finances, including small changes you can make to start being proactive about your financially fit future.

Sign up for Direct Deposit and Benefit from Dividend Accounts

Chances are your employer provides direct deposit. You can set up your direct deposit to automatically deposit a specific amount or percentage of your pay into your checking account and another amount into your savings, allowing you to save without even thinking about it.

Get a step ahead with your savings by signing up for an account that lets you earn interest on your money. You could be earning up to \$700 a year when you switch to a Boost Checking account with Dort Financial. The qualifications are simple, make 25 or more purchases using your Dort VISA debit and/or credit card, enroll in e-statements, and have a direct deposit of at least \$900 each month. With Boost Checking there are no monthly service fees, no minimum balance, and no hassle!

Pair your Boost Checking account with a Boost Savings account and earn even more! Earn up to 4.25% Annual Percentage Yield in your Boost Savings when you qualify for the high rate in your Boost Checking Account! You can earn up to 7.00% APY on balances up to \$10,000 in your Boost Checking and earn 4.25% on your Boost Savings as well!

Switch to a Rewards or Low-Rate Card or Consolidate Your Credit Cards

Do you have a credit card with a high interest rate, or a store credit card that you can only afford to make the minimum payments on? Consider switching to a lower rate with the Dort Financial Visa Signature Credit Card — you will earn 2% cash back or rewards for every dollar you spend. With all current Dort Financial Visa programs you will have low monthly payments, instantly receive a debit card, and you will not pay an annual or balance transfer fee. Interested

in consolidating your debt? Consolidating your credit cards into one payment can lower your interest rate and allows you to pay your credit debts all at once, instead of making multiple monthly payments. Dort Financial Credit Union offers promotional rates as low as 2.99% APR on balance transfers. Our promotional rates are effective for 9-months from the date of transfer. After that, your APR will be restored to your qualifying rate disclosed at account origination. Make sure you are getting the most out of your credit cards and avoid paying excess fees and interest by:

- Making every payment on time each month.
- Paying the total balance each month. When you only pay the minimum balance you are incurring interest on the total balance.
- Avoid cash advances — the rate on an advance is significantly higher than on purchases.

Fix Your Finances with a HELOC

Let the equity you've built into your home make your dreams a reality. A home equity line of credit (HELOC) is a line of credit secured by your home that gives you a revolving credit line. A HELOC can be used for renovations in your home or even to help pay off other high-interest debt. Currently, Dort Financial offers both a HELOC and a Renovation HELOC to help with any projects you may have. Keep this advice in mind when considering opening a HELOC:

- Once a HELOC has been opened it isn't necessary to draw on the loan, but you will have the comfort of knowing it's there if needed.

- If you are currently carrying too much debt, borrowing more may not be the best solution.

Be Cautious with Your Personal Information

It's inevitable that there are scammers everywhere. Being aware of the latest scams and knowing how to keep your information private is a great start to avoiding any mishaps with your finances.

- If you receive an unexpected call, text, or email from someone claiming to be a representative of a business, do not provide your personal information like account numbers, social security number, or other identifying information. Instead, do not respond and contact the business directly.

- The saying "if it sounds too good to be true, it must be" is applicable here.

Dort Financial Credit Union is a not-for-profit financial institution. As a credit union member you can receive lower rates and fees compared to other financial institutions, due in part to each member owning a share of our cooperative. Credit unions offer many of the same products and services as national banks, with personalized service and competitive rates. Interested in joining Dort Financial Credit Union and learning how you could be on your way to a more financially fit future? Visit our website, DortOnline.org, or call

Sullivan Law provides comprehensive estate planning services

Attorney Alaina S. Sullivan became a lawyer because she wanted to help people, and has dedicated the last 14 years to doing that.

Prior to opening her firm, Sullivan was practicing family law and probate, and working as a child protective services attorney for the State of Indiana. In 2014,



she started her own firm as a family law-focused firm and moved to Oxford in 2016, completely rebranding and changing her focus to estate planning and probate.

"It was the best decision I have ever made. I absolutely love what I do, being able to help my clients set up their estate plans and give them peace of mind on a daily basis," Sullivan said.

Sullivan provides estate planning services ranging from trusts, last will and testaments, powers of attorney (both financial and medical), living wills, funeral planning declaration, deeds putting properties into trusts, Ladybird

deeds and probate services.

"Many attorneys dabble in a little bit of this and that, but for me, comprehensive estate planning is what I do. I am also in this truly for my client's best interests. I am not in this for the money. I will not push you into something that I do not think you need," Sullivan said. "I will look at each client's unique situation and recommend what works best for that person, and I will listen to what they want and need."

Sullivan is actively involved in the community as a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, and has an Adopt a Shelf at Oxford-Orion FISH.

"I moved here in 2016 not knowing anyone in the community. I would like to thank the people in Oxford for making me feel so welcome. I have grown to love this community and the people here," Sullivan said.

For more information or to arrange a consultation, contact Sullivan Law Office, 20 Hudson St., Oxford, MI 48371 at 248-800-4321. Website: sullivanlawonline.com.

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Demand for print products keeps team at MWP busy

DAVISBURG — 2024 was another big year for Michigan Web Press and the numbers prove it. The company, which also owns and operates Stafford Printing in Greenville, Mich., printed more than 130 million pieces and mailed more than 70 million pieces. To do so their team put in more than 134,000 production hours and used more than 350,000 pounds of ink and 7,000 tons of recycled newsprint.

As the largest commercial newspaper printer in Michigan, Michigan Web Press / Stafford Printing is proud to serve more than 250 clients.

“The numbers prove the demand for printed products continues because the products we print, bind, insert and mail get results for customers,” said Todd Hagerman, Michigan Web Press general manager. “Printed products have a great shelf-life, and studies show that even younger consumers prefer to receive marketing messages in print versus digital.”

The products produced and mailed at Michigan Web Press include direct mail pieces, advertising inserts, annual reports, catalogs, shopping guides and, of course, newspapers – including the 21 community papers published by their sister company, View Newspaper Group.

“There is no doubt of the power of print,



With a combined more than 80 years of service to the company, Todd Hagerman, general manager; Myles Burrough, logistics coordinator; Don Yost, production manager and Cecil Batchelor, plant manager, keep the wheels turning at Michigan Web Press.

especially community newspapers. The last few years has really proven the critical role that local community newspapers serve for their readers and advertisers. We salute our publishing clients who provide a vital connection between schools, families, businesses and nonprofits in the communities they serve,” Hagerman said. “Community newspapers remain a trusted source of information.”

Hagerman also noted he sees an uptick in Michigan Web Press newspaper clients’ page counts and special sections as evidence that local, community newspapers that leverage print for their readers and advertisers are seeing growth.

Michigan Web Press / Stafford Printing’s four press lines, made up of 68 printing units



customers, including daily, weekly and monthly publications covering the same geography. The company recently added a group of seven weekly publications in Indianapolis to their client list.

“Our team comes to work every day to fulfill our customers’ orders. We know they depend on us to get the job done and delivered on time, every time. We all take great pride in the part we play in keeping local newspapers alive and well,” said Hagerman.

Locally and independently owned, Michigan Web Press will continue to grow, and customers will remain the top priority. “We are a leader in the printing business with resources to serve clients with high quality printing, delivered on time, at a fair price,” said Burrough. “As publishers of Michigan’s largest, independently-owned community newspaper group, we provide our clients with unparalleled support, whether it is graphics backup, advertising ideas and contacts or journalism networking. We are committed to our print clients, committed to print newspapers, including their advertisers and readers, and committed to the communities we serve.”

For more information about Michigan Web Press, please visit the company online at www.michiganwebpress.com or call 248-620-2990.

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Dynamic Wellness Collaborative provides personalized mind-body services for the overall well-being

Co-owners Karyn Skiba and Tammi Antishin founded Dynamic Wellness Collaborative in 2021 as a virtual therapy practice and expanded into a wellness collaborative in 2024 to deliver a variety of whole-health wellness services in one place.

Their personalized mind-body services support well-being both in person and online, including mental health therapy for all ages, couples counseling, parent training, school advocacy, EMDR, perinatal therapy, performance consulting, massage, CST, EFT, and breathwork.

By integrating mental health therapy with holistic, body-based healing, Dynamic Wellness offers a unique, evidence-based approach to whole-body wellness in a trusted, community-driven space. Their team includes 13 wellness providers, a Director of Operations, a Marketing Director, and a contracted billing/credentialing team. All are 1099



contractors, empowering flexibility and independence.

“As a proud new Chamber member, we look forward to engaging with our community and growing alongside it,” Skiba and Antishin said. “We are incredibly grateful to be here. To our valued clients and dedicated team – thank you for being in the arena with us. Your trust, commitment, and courage make our collaborative a space for true healing, authenticity, and belonging. We are honored to walk this journey with you!”

In 2025, Skiba and Antishin are introducing group therapy, IEP/504 workshops, psychological testing, and hopefully esthetics and red-light therapy.

“Looking ahead, we plan to expand our offerings with Pilates, yoga, retreats, and more!” Skiba and Antishin said. “We have big ideas and are excited for what’s to come!”

Contact Dynamic Wellness Collaborative, 2633 S. Lapeer Rd, Suite G, Lake Orion, MI 48360, at 248-270-5660 or email info@dynamicwellnesscollaborative.com for more information. Online: dynamicwellnesscollaborative.com.

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Our team is proud to have served our clients in 2024
and looks forward to another great year in 2025

As the largest commercial newspaper printer in Michigan, Michigan Web Press / Stafford Printing is proud to serve more than 250 clients. The numbers above prove the demand for printed products continues because the products we print, bind, insert and mail get results for our customers. Those products include direct mail pieces, advertising inserts, annual reports, catalogs, shopping guides and, of course, newspapers – including the 22 community papers published by our sister company, View Newspaper Group. Locally and independently owned, Michigan Web Press / Stafford Printing and View Newspaper Group will continue to grow, and our customers will remain our top priority.

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PLEASE CONTACT OUR TEAM TO DISCUSS HOW WE CAN WORK TOGETHER
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Pioneer Door Company is proud to celebrate their 31st year in business!

As a family owned and operated business for three generations, Pioneer Door is among the premier garage door installation and repair companies in southeast Michigan. In addition to garage doors, they install and service commercial entry doors, driveway gates and openers. They cater to residential and commercial clients alike, leveraging decades of experience to offer quick, hassle-free installations and repairs of all products. Pioneer Door is proud to service several community establishments such as the Oxford Fire Department, Oxford Schools, and the Township Parks and Recreation Offices.

When George and Janet Shick, along with their sons Greg and Jeff, opened the business in 1994 their goal was to provide honest service at a fair price. In the early years, Janet worked hard to establish the office by setting up the showroom, spreading the word about their new business and managing all the administrative work that goes into running a small business. Jeff began as the residential installer and has perfected his craft over these three decades of experience. Current owners Greg and Dawn have put countless hours into making the business successful through good and bad economic times. Their children, Kyle, Taylor, and Ryan, all work in the business now, with the goal of taking over for Greg and



Dawn when they retire. The family deeply cares about the reputation of their business and takes all customer feedback to heart.

Pioneer Door is fortunate to have long-term knowledgeable and friendly staff that cares about their customers just as much as the owners. They are thankful for all their past and present installation, repair, and office staff who have worked hard to maintain their goal. In addition to Jeff Shick who has been their primary residential installer for 30+ years, they have many invaluable employees; Mike Hauxwell who has been with them for 20+ years and is an expert in commercial and residential repairs, Darlene Powelson who has worked in their office for 10+

years and enthusiastically helps each customer, and Jeremy Ward and Jeff Trudeau who have been with them for several years, bringing a wealth of commercial and residential repair knowledge from their previous employers.

This past year Pioneer Door has worked hard to improve their building both inside and out. The showroom has been completely remodeled with new epoxy flooring, a fresh coat of paint and a larger variety of door sample displays for customers to see in person.

There are some exciting changes coming in 2025! Pioneer Door is looking to grow their business by offering a greater variety of products and services. As always, they are committed to serving their customers with honest and quality repairs, installations and products.

Pioneer Door is grateful to the community for their decades of support, referrals, and positive reviews. They have dozens of customers who have stayed with them from the beginning and recommended them to their friends and family. They take your customer recommendations and repeat business as the highest compliment.

Visit their Oxford Showroom at 1100 South Lapeer Road to view their products firsthand - they'll help you pick the door that matches your needs!



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Can't wait to get on the road again? 4M Collision Center can help!

Getting into an accident can be devastating to you and to your car.

Should one occur, 4M Collision Center in Oxford will be here to aid you in the recovery process.

4M Collision Center can repair scratches, dents and major collision damage—helping to restore the look and performance of your vehicle.

Touting a collective 86 years of experience, owner Mitch Mayer and his staff of six technicians have the skills and the know-how to get you back on the road.

Whether your vehicle is a car, truck, motor home or trailer - 4M can fix all makes and models fast.

The entire staff is trained and certified by the I-Car Gold Class Professionals program, which means they have undergone the most thorough training available in the collision repair industry.

4M Collision Center has also been designated a certified "Assured Performance Repair Shop." That means the 4M uses the same specifications for repairs as were used in the manufacturing of your vehicle.

On a more local note, 4M has been selected multiple times be readers of the



Oxford Leader as Oxford's "best" auto collision shop six times.

You can rest assured that, at 4M Collision Center, your car will be fixed quickly, efficiently and properly.

All repairs also come with a lifetime warranty. "As the shop owner, I know how to repair a vehicle and make a vehicle as safe as possible after an accident," said Mayer, who has over 35 years of collision repair experience. "I take a more hands-on approach so that each car turns out perfectly. At this point, there's nothing that I haven't fixed and nothing I can't do."

Whether your car's body is made of steel, aluminum or plastic, the staff at 4M knows how to make repairs last and how to prevent corrosion to your vehicle

in the long run.

And, while many repair shops may tell you 'It's our way or the highway' when they give you an estimate, the staff at 4M Collision Center knows there's always more than one way to get the job done—and they'll do it your way.

"We try to bring our customers options," Mayer explained. "There are 10 to 15 different ways to fix any car and some of those ways are cheaper than others. I give people options depending on what their circumstances are. We try to offer affordable repairs while also offering ones which are going to last for a long time. I'll write customers three or four estimates, so they can decide what works best for them."

Once your car has been fully

repaired, you can expect that it will be painted with precision. Using computerized paint matching, 4M Collision Center can match any car's color on the very first try.

After an accident, there's no better place to start picking up the pieces than 4M Collision Center.

4M Collision Center customers are welcome to bring their vehicle straight to the shop for assistance in the insurance claim process and to check for hidden damage. Since the shop is authorized by insurance companies to write their estimates, this can make the entire process go much more smoothly.

4M can provide you with a rough estimate before you ever set foot in the shop. Just take photos of the damage, along with your car's Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) and email them to mitch@4mcollision.com.

4M Collision Center's Oxford office is located at 1663 N. Lapeer Rd. and can be reached at (248) 572-4844. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. To learn more, visit 4mcollision.com.



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i9 Sports: Bringing fun, skill building and sportsmanship to children for over 15 years

Sixteen years ago, i9 Sports franchise owner Chris Novak traded his accounting job with late-night deadlines and spreadsheets to inspire young athletes, build strong communities and make sports fun for kids.



Since then, i9 has expanded to 13 venues across Oakland and Macomb Counties to offer kids aged 3-13 exciting sports including flag football, soccer, basketball, lacrosse, volleyball, T-ball and coach pitch baseball. It focuses on fun, safety and inclusivity while ensuring every child gets to play and build skills and sportsmanship.

"Our organization stands out by combining a dedicated team of both paid staff and passionate volunteer coaches, ensuring the best possible experience for every team each week," Novak said. "We prioritize exceptional customer service, a user-friendly website and a strong emphasis on fun (and) creating an engaging and enjoyable environment for all participants."

i9 Sports is also "deeply" committed to supporting its local community by making youth sports accessible to all children in their area. The business donates thousands of dollars each year in cash and registration fees to local school PTOs, organizes sweatshirt and coat

drives for those in need and offers discounted seasons to families with limited budgets.

Their team has grown substantially after experiencing minimal turnover during the COVID-19 pandemic, and Novak is eager to see how their commitment will continue creating lasting memories for families participating in i9's programs.

Daily operations are managed by four full-time employees, brothers Chris, John, Tom and Jim Novak, and two part time team members, their father Mike and sister-in-law Stacie. i9 has around 75 paid staff and coaches on game days who support i9 volunteers. These dedicated team members range from local high-school students to grandparents who share a passion for youth development and coaching.

"Team sports have profoundly shaped my life and the lives of many others," Novak said. "I'm deeply grateful to our customers for entrusting us with providing these valuable experiences to their children. I also sincerely appreciate our staff's dedication to going the extra mile to ensure every child has fun."

i9 Sports is located at 3100 Walnut Hills in Leonard. For more information visit i9sports.com, email leagueoffice199@i9sports.com or call 248-632-6166.



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Pet Wants is your trusted source for pet supplies

Pet Wants is thrilled to be named the Best Pet Supply Store in Independence Township again this year and extend a massive thank you.

"A heartfelt thank you to our valued customers for your continued support. We are grateful for choosing us time and again," said owner Joe Alnaraie. "We strive to provide the best experience and appreciate your trust in our products and service."

As a small family-owned business, Pet Wants prides itself in providing the best products and care for your pets.

Joe and his wife have lived in Clarkston since 1999 and have three children. Their journey to Pet Wants started in 2019 when they adopted their dog, Max. Max had all kinds of food sensitivities.

In researching a variety of foods, they found a company in Ohio that makes premium small batch food. Max tried the food, his issues got much better and he refused to eat old food. When they realized there wasn't a Pet Wants local to Clarkston, we saw an opportunity to be a resource.

Over the years, the entire family have become active members in the community; donating to school fundraisers, charities and events with gift baskets, sponsoring sports teams and beloved programs like Clarkston SCAMP, participating in events through Independence Township, the SOGGY DOGGY and Canine Rescue Centers' Pawstival, and supporting the Humane Society of Genesee County, Paradise Animal



Rescue in Lapeer and Canine Companion Rescue Center in Clarkston.

Pet Wants focuses on holistic foods and supplements and prides themselves on having Michigan companies represented in their store. With transparency of ingredients and sourcing, a knowledgeable and caring staff and a sincere passion to be the best for you and your pet.

Pet Wants Clarkston currently has four employees and groomers that are highly trained and certified to offer premium grooming for dogs.

This involves a range of high-quality services and products tailored to enhance a pet's hygiene, health and appearance.

This includes services like luxury baths with appropriate coat shampoos, professional haircuts, nail trimming, ear cleaning and teeth brushing, often conducted in serene, spa-like environments. Premium grooming also focuses on individualized care, using natural grooming products made in the U.S.A., which can be gentler on a dog's skin and coat. They aim at providing a stress-free and pampering experience. Ultimately, premium grooming not only results in a well-groomed dog but also promotes overall well-being and strengthens the bond between the owner and their pet.

This year, Pet Wants Clarkston is happy to announce expanded grooming options, new items at the all-natural chew bar and multiple new food options including Dr. Marty and Badlands Ranch.

For more information on services or to schedule an appointment, call 248-969-0419 or visit their website at petwantsclarkston.com.

Make sure to check them out on Facebook and Instagram too or stop by and say hello.

Pet Wants Clarkston is located at 6469 Sashabaw Rd.

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Melisa Counelis is all for Oxford. As a business owner in downtown Oxford, that includes finding the best ways to serve her clients' insurance needs and ensure that they receive the best advice and policies available.

"My mission as a Farm Bureau Insurance agent is to help customers understand our products. I take pride in making the insurance process less painful. Anyone can sell a policy. I will work with you like you are part of my family," Counelis said.

Counelis's insurance agency is a full-service agency, offering life, auto, home, business insurance and more. And many people may be unaware of what coverage they actually need – or to what extent. Life happens.

"Too many people do not have a plan for any of the unexpected things that may happen in their future. This could be anything; from a fender bender, to your home burning to the ground, or worse, a family member not making it home. I want my clients to know the

peace of mind that comes with having your financial future in good hands," Counelis said.

Counelis opened her agency in 2017 in downtown Oxford and she has become immersed in several Oxford-area organizations.

"I am a mother to students in the community and I live and participate in all things Oxford," Counelis said. "We are a member of four local Chambers of Commerce. I am on the promo committee with the Oxford DDA, manager for the Davis Family Farmers market for 2025, founding member of OWLs, and more," she said. "After years of working for other agents, I felt it was time to go off on my own. Many things I learned over the years set me up with a great base to move forward in my role as the leader."

Contact the Counelis Agency Inc., 115 S. Washington St. at 248-929-5896 or email m.counelis@fbinsmi.com. Online: InsuranceMomMI.com.



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Tri County Equipment celebrates 40 years

LAPEER — For four decades, Tri County Equipment has been committed to serving Michigan's agricultural, commercial, and residential equipment needs with integrity and dedication.

Founded in 1985 in Sandusky, the family-owned business has grown to 11 locations across the Thumb and Mid-Michigan, becoming the go-to source for high-quality John Deere equipment and exceptional customer service.

"We have a great team of individuals who all pride themselves on doing what we've done best for the past 40 years — taking care of our customers," said Scotty Wadsworth, sales manager and part of the family that has owned and operated Tri County Equipment since its founding. "We know most of our customers by name and can almost predict what they need when they walk in our doors. We're here to help their business go right, even if that business is just the best yard on the block."

Although Tri County Equipment's



Celebrating 40 years in business, Tri County Equipment continues to serve Michigan's agricultural, commercial, and residential equipment needs with 11 locations across the Thumb and Mid-Michigan.

main focus is agricultural equipment, including tractors, combines, sprayers, balers, and more, the company also offers a wide range of residential and landscaping products. Homeowners can find everything from John Deere riding mowers to side-by-side vehicles, as well

as equipment for workshops and property maintenance. No matter the job, Tri County Equipment has the right tool to get it done.

What started in Sandusky has expanded to Bad Axe, Birch Run, Burton, Caro, Fenton, Lapeer, Marlette, Reese, Auburn Hills, and

Saginaw — a reflection of Tri County Equipment's commitment to serving its customers wherever they need reliable equipment and support.

Beyond equipment sales, Tri County Equipment is deeply rooted in the communities it serves, supporting local programs such as 4-H, Future Farmers of America (FFA), and county fairs. Wadsworth himself is a founding member of the Goodtimers, a nonprofit group dedicated to giving back to local communities in times of need.

"Giving back has always been a large part of who we are as a company, and I'm happy to carry on that tradition," Wadsworth added.

As Tri County Equipment celebrates 40 years of doing the right thing, the company looks forward to continuing its legacy of customer-first service and community support.

For more information, visit www.tricountyequipment.com or stop by one of their 11 locations. In Auburn Hills, visit 3700 Lapeer Rd. or call 248-373-5000 to learn more about their full line of John Deere products.





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Dr. Becker provides low vision services, which helps visually impaired patients learn how use the vision that they have left. Dr. Nielubowicz sees many children and offers vision therapy services. Children and adults with eye teaming difficulties, especially while reading, double vision, reading/learning difficulties, and persistent eye fatigue can be improved with vision therapy exercises.

We have also started to offer myopia management. This is done by using a specialty type of soft contact lens that helps to slow down the progression of nearsightedness in children.

During online schooling, many parents noticed the struggles their children had seeing while studying, but now that they are back in the classroom parents may not be as aware of any new or ongoing struggles. Children often do not voice their difficulties and so problems with eye muscle teaming go unnoticed. This can look like laziness or poor concentration when in fact the eyes are struggling to work together. A comprehensive eye exam can discover these problems and a course of Vision Therapy may be recommended to retrain the eyes for correct eye teaming.

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Dr. Wendy Nielubowicz and Dr. Elizabeth Becker.

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Journey Therapy Center enriches the lives of children across the autism spectrum

LAKE ORION — Since September 2023, Journey Therapy Center has been offering services to Oakland County families from its Clarkston Road location, with three additional locations in Lapeer County.

Unable to find an appropriate place for her son’s Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services, Claudia Leandres rolled up her sleeves, took matters into her own hands, and planted the seeds to grow something she needed but couldn’t find. Her vision — Journey Therapy Center — blossomed into reality seven years ago. Since then, Journey Therapy Center has helped more than 100 families achieve ongoing success while navigating life with autism.

After Leandres’ oldest son was diagnosed with autism, she left behind an established legal career to learn as much as she could about autism to help him. When her family relo-



Journey Therapy Center serves families in Oakland County at their Clarkston Road location. They also have three locations in Lapeer County.

cated from Brazil to Michigan, she was dismayed by the lack of ABA services, so she decided to open a center of her own in Lapeer to make ABA therapy more accessible to local families. That was Journey’s first location at 1100 W. Newark Rd., Lapeer which opened in 2018.

As she became established and earned the trust of local families, the demand for services grew, and Leandres opened two more loca-

tions in Lapeer and then purchased the former North Oakland Autism Center in Lake Orion.

Journey Therapy Center has not only expanded in the number of locations but also in the services offered, including ABA, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, and Feeding Therapy, all provided with a focus on excellence. As a result, demand for services continues to grow.

“We are accepting new clients,” said Leandres. “We are excited to be in Oakland County.”

Journey currently has a dedicated team of over 80 employees on staff, including Board-Certified Behavior Analysts, Behavior Technicians, Occupational Therapists, and Speech Pathologists. At the helm, Leandres has completed her PhD in Applied Behavior Analysis, with a focus on autism. She is working hard to raise a new generation of therapists who will approach treatment in multifaceted ways that best help their clients succeed.

The success of Journey Therapy Center is directly linked to the success of the families who entrust JTC with their children, and Leandres finds deep personal satisfaction in every little win.

“This is living life with a purpose,” she said. “Our goal is to ensure that our treatment is effective and has a positive impact on people’s lives.”



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Wednesday, March 26, 2025



Honor Roll *of* BUSINESS

Oakland County's business community has a rich history of entrepreneurship, multi-generation family ownership and bootstrap determination to succeed. Our annual Progress Honor Roll of Business recognizes the years of community commitment by our

local businesses and the success they have achieved. These businesses and institutions support our communities by providing products, services and employment. They pay local taxes and support local nonprofits. Whether established for one year or 100 years,

our businesses, their owners, managers and employees can be proud to say, "We're open... for business." The Oxford Leader and Lake Orion Review are proud to lead this list and we salute all our business colleagues.

— Wes Smith, Publisher

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Alpine Roofing puts community, customer first

For 35 years, Alpine Roofing Complete, Inc. has been servicing the Ortonville community and beyond.

“We started in 1990 when a customer needed a roof repair,” said owner Joe Harrison.

Harrison and his team at Alpine Roofing Complete, Inc. are ready to take on any project that the customer is thinking of, including roofing, siding, framing, windows and garage doors. Harrison is a licensed builder, and has another licensed builder working with him to be able to tackle any project.

“We have a hands on approach that delivers high-quality work,” said Harrison. “We are a family-run business, so everyone has a vested interest.”

Alpine Roofing Complete also does insurance work, and Harrison has over 30 years of experience adjusting insurance claims for homeowners. They also have financing options available to customers to make payment easier.

Harrison and Alpine Roofing Complete have also remained involved with community partners and organizations, including helping to collect donations for the annual Stamp Out Hunger



Noelle Harrison collecting donations for Stamp Out Hunger in 2024.

food drive in partnership with the post office.

“We do a lot for our community and our neighbors,” he said. “From food drives to free service work and sponsorships.”

Their service to the community and service at a great price have won them the title of Best of the Best for 15 years, and Harrison attributes that to his great crew and customers.

“We appreciate all the great customers who have allowed us to make their homes a bit nicer,” he said.

In 2025, they plan to continue to better their service, and to continue to improve their materials with the best they can offer. They work with the idea in mind that if the work is done right the first time, it will pay for itself in the long run.

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