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Happy Birthday America!

Photo Credit: Janet Wieczorek

This month we celebrate our freedom and America's 250th birthday! I hope you like seeing all the flags decorating our streets each flag holiday. Thanks neighbors for participating in this fundraiser benefitting all Clarkston students. Check out clarkstonoptimists.org for scholarship opportunities.



Janalee Grainer, Owner and Resident Publisher
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Katie Hess, Local Partner Contributor

Valentina Montano, Junior Resident Writer

Sophia Pickens, Junior Resident Writer

TABLE OF CONTENTS

JOIN THE TEAM

If you'd like to get involved, let's connect. The more of us we can include in an issue, the better the issue will be, right? You can be as involved as you would like and whether it's photography, writing, reporting or sharing ideas, your voice matters.

DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER CONTENT

September Stroll is a great issue to share summer highlights and new school years. There's room for your thumbprint. Reach out at Janalee.grainer@strollmag.com today!

I CAN ANSWER THAT

If you're wondering about a business owner in Stroll, just reach out and I can tell you all about why I invited them to be a part of the magazine and if you want, I can connect you personally. That's one of my favorite things to do.

LET'S CONNECT

I love to meet my neighbors! Over coffee, a cold drink, at the clubhouse or on my pool patio. Find out why Stroll Oakhurst never runs out of content or local businesses that value reaching YOU! It's fun to get involved and make a difference. Let's connect! janalee.grainer@strollmag.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Page 6 - Table of Contents
- Page 8 - Preferred Partners
- Page 14 - Partner Spotlight
- Page 16 - Meet Your Neighbors
- Page 22 - Connecting Clarkston
- Page 24 - Athlete of the Month
- Page 26 - Nutrition Matters
- Page 28 - Making a Difference
- Page 30 - Smile
- Page 32 - Pawsitive Pets
- Page 34 - Growing up in Oakhurst
- Page 36 - Tutoring & Test Prep
- Page 38 - Your Handyman Connection
- Page 40 - Community Banking
- Page 46 - Resident Business Guide
- Page 48 - Gratitude

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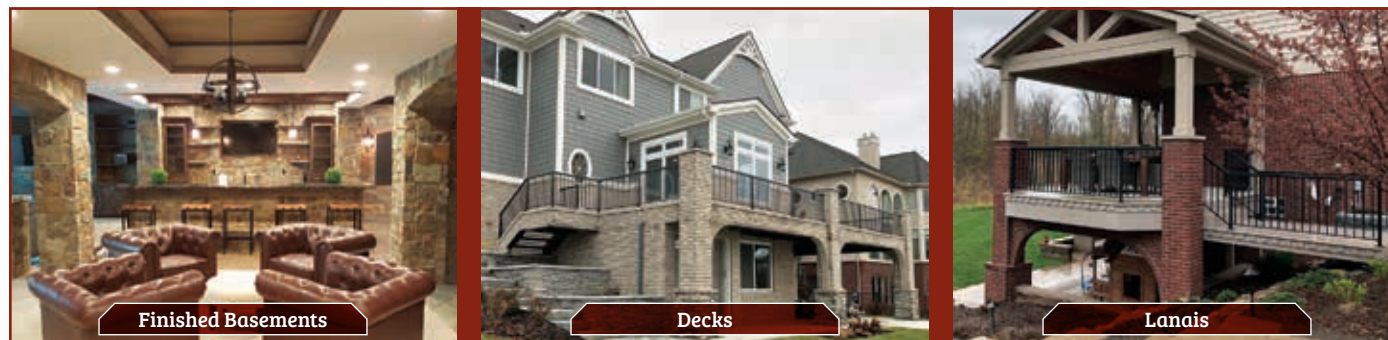
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Alex and ABC Services Can Help Repair Trim and Prevent an Infestation

I like to meet up with Stroll partners and find out how things are going. About mid-May, ABC Services' owner Alex Silva and I had lunch together at one of everyone's favorite local lunch spots, Honcho. He has been treated so well by so many of you. Thank you. Here is just one resident's shout out for Alex:

Thank you Janalee for connecting me with Alex. He has been so helpful. I trust Alex and recommend him if someone needs help with a home repair. I can depend on him to open my home and let workers inside when I can't be there. My basement flooded over the winter and without Alex, I don't know how I could have managed the clean up schedule. He is personable, respectable and knows what he is doing. If he doesn't know how to do something, he'll say so or better yet, figure out how he can help. Really, "No Jobs Too Small" is true. Alex loves what he does and it shows! He is here to help us. - Jill Remick

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-Ed Rhue, your neighbor and owner

Welcome New Partners

Please welcome these local businesses that value reaching you and your family! I am careful to invite businesses that can make a difference in our lives and that want to build business relationships here in Oakhurst. Take a moment to find their ads and make note if you can benefit from giving them a call.



BINS BY BRAYDEN

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Carmen Navarrete has a cleaning crew that has already began working in our neighborhood. After years of working for others, he has created a cleaning company that you can depend on. Enjoy a clean space while they do the dirty work!



RIDER PEST MANAGEMENT

Rey Farah offers pest preventative services so we'll never have to tackle an infestation. Check out his catchy ad that will surely make you smile. He knows many of you already and looks forward to taking care of your home.



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JENNIFER MONTANO, RESIDENT REALTOR

My family and I have proudly lived in Oakhurst since 2014. What I love most about the neighborhood is the strong sense of community, the beautiful surroundings, and the friendships that naturally develop here. My husband and I have raised our three daughters in Oakhurst, and it truly feels like home. From neighborhood events to golf cart rides and watching families grow together over the years, there is something incredibly special about this community.



I am a Realtor and interior designer specializing in helping families buy, sell, and beautifully personalize their homes. I love helping people find the places where they will create their lives and make memories, while also helping them design spaces that feel warm, functional, and authentic to them.

I've always had a passion for homes, architecture, design, and connecting with people. Over time, that passion naturally grew into a career in both real estate and interior design. I've built my business around providing exceptional service, creative marketing, thoughtful guidance, and making the process as smooth and stress-free as possible for my clients.



The most fulfilling part of my career is helping families during such an important chapter of their lives. I love seeing clients truly happy in a home that fits their lifestyle and dreams. Real estate can also be fast-paced and emotional at times, so being dependable, communicative, and solutions-oriented is incredibly important.

I stay current by consistently studying market trends, luxury marketing strategies, interior design inspiration, staging, and industry education. I also spend a lot of time networking with other professionals and staying involved in the local market.

One of the things I'm most proud of is building a business centered around relationships, trust and service. I'm especially proud when clients refer their family and friends to me because it shows they truly value the experience we shared together.

I love supporting local businesses, neighborhood events, and community gatherings throughout Oakhurst and Clarkston. Building connections within the community is something that is very important to me personally and professionally. Just within this last year I have sponsored events at my girls elementary school, Bailey Lake, a community event at The Taste Of Clarkston and several community events right here in our hood such as fall photos in November and an Easter Egg hunt in March!

I look forward to continuing to help Oakhurst families buy and sell homes in the neighborhood I know and love so well,



FIND A REALTOR WHO GENUINELY CARES ABOUT PEOPLE, NOT JUST TRANSACTIONS. HAVING SOMEONE YOU TRUST CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN WHAT CAN OTHERWISE FEEL LIKE AN OVERWHELMING PROCESS.

while also continuing to volunteer in our local community with the Girl Scouts, Grace Centers of Hope Women and Children's shelter and other organizations I love.

In conclusion, Oakhurst is more than a neighborhood to me - it's home. I know this community like the back of my hand, which allows me to share its lifestyle and value with buyers in an authentic way. I love helping families discover everything Oakhurst has to offer. And most importantly, I love showing my three daughters that hard work, passion, and believing in yourself can lead to great things.

Jennifer Montano
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD REALTOR

Whether you're buying or selling, Jennifer Montano, an Oakhurst resident for over a decade, is your trusted neighbor and real estate expert. With a background in interior design, creative marketing strategies, and deep knowledge of the local market, Jennifer offers luxury service with a down-to-earth approach. Call or email anytime - she's just around the corner!

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Giancarlo & Tanya

TONON



I am excited to introduce you all to new neighbors, Giancarlo, Tanya and GiGi. You may have already met them walking their dog, Rizzo or playing outside with their daughter GiGi. If you haven't, stop and say hello. We are all so blessed to have such wonderful people choose Oakhurst to live.

BY TANYA TONAN



Hi neighbors!

I'm Tanya (40), born and raised in Chicago, and my husband, Giancarlo (42), grew up in Farmington Hills and attended St. Mary's Preparatory High School in Orchard Lake. I come from a big family and have four brothers — three still live in the Chicago area, while my youngest brother lives in Long Beach, California. Giancarlo has one older brother who lives in Farmington Hills.

HOW WE MET

We both attended Western Michigan University, where we earned our

Bachelor's degrees. I majored in Advertising and graduated in 2008, while Giancarlo majored in Business Management and graduated in 2007. During our time at Western, we both played lacrosse, and I was also a member of Delta Zeta sorority. Giancarlo and I were introduced to one another at Western, but we didn't start dating until 2010, after graduation when we were both living in Chicago and beginning our professional careers. We built a life together, became engaged in 2015, and a year later, we were married in 2016.

In 2017, we welcomed our French Bulldog, Rizzo, and 5 years later in 2023, we welcomed our perfect daughter, Giuliana — better known as Gigi — through IVF.

OUR LITTLE MIRACLE

Our daughter's name is Giuliana Gabriela Tonon, which is why we lovingly call her "GG" or "Gigi." She is our miracle and celebrated her third birthday this past April. Gigi currently attends The Goddard School in Clarkston, and we're excited about the possibility of her eventually



joining the neighborhood crew at Everest Academy. She has a big personality, endless energy, and keeps us constantly smiling. This summer she'll be busy with swimming, gymnastics, dance, and soccer. She especially loves anything involving music, movement, and dressing up — and if she had it her way, she would wear a tutu dress every single day.

RIZZO
We have one pet, our French Bulldog named Rizzo, who is 9 years old. We've had him since he was a puppy. He's incredibly loving and gentle. Rizzo was named after baseball player Anthony Rizzo when he was playing for the Chicago Cubs — and Giancarlo only approved the name because the Cubs

and Tigers aren't in the same league! He loves his daily walks and is definitely a "water dog." During the summer, you can usually find him relaxing in his doggy pool and soaking up the sun. And a fun fact about Rizzo: while he almost never barks, he more than makes up for it by being an extremely loud sleeper who snores heavily.

OAKHURST
We've lived in the neighborhood since May 2025 - after spending over 15 years together in Chicago. We always loved visiting Giancarlo's mother in Oakhurst, and over time, we realized it was exactly the kind of community where we wanted to raise our family. My family is Puerto Rican, while Giancarlo's parents are Italian, originally from the regions of Ponza and Vittorio Veneto.

After living in the city for so many years, one of our favorite parts of Oakhurst is the sense of safety, calmness, and community it brings to our family.



The move also allowed Giancarlo to become more involved in his family's business and spend more time close to family. Family, tradition, and community have always been central to our lives, which made Oakhurst feel like the perfect fit for this next chapter. We're new here so we're still exploring local restaurants and hot spots, excited to meet neighbors and begin socializing. I would like to learn how to play Mahjong group and see is a group that has recently started playing together.

CAREERS

I work remotely and travel regularly to meet with clients in digital advertising as a Client Partner at Criteo. My career has always been centered around advertising and client partnerships.

Giancarlo works alongside his mother and brother at Café Cortina in Farmington Hills, the family-owned Italian restaurant his parents founded in 1976. As Director of Business Development, he focuses on marketing, strategic growth, partnerships, technology, and helping guide the restaurant's long-term vision while preserving the traditions and hospitality that have defined it for nearly 50 years. If you've never been, we'd love to introduce to a special dining experience.

In addition to the restaurant, he is involved in several entrepreneurial ventures, including real estate development, packaged food distribution, and new hospitality concepts. You can now find Café Cortina lasagna and pasta sauces at the local Meijer Independence Market! He enjoys business strategy, branding, technology, AI, sports, and continuous personal and professional growth.

HOLIDAYS

We absolutely love celebrating as a family — especially when it involves great food and dessert. We're big "cake people," so any holiday, birthday, or special occasion is the perfect excuse for an extra dessert (or two). For us, celebrations are always centered around food. Whether it's a holiday meal, birthday dinner, or casual gathering, there's always a feast involved. Our family is spread across Illinois, Michigan, California, Canada, Puerto Rico, and Italy, so while it's rare that everyone can be together at the same time, we

make every effort to stay connected and spend as much time together as possible.

MAKING MEMORIES HERE

One of our favorite memories so far has simply been getting to know our neighbors — we truly feel like we hit the jackpot with the people around us.

Giancarlo is a die-hard Detroit sports fan and loves all things sports — there honestly isn't a game he won't watch. I enjoy baking — currently hoping to master sourdough bread next. Gigi's favorite part of the neighborhood is definitely the pool, and we know we'll be spending most of our summer there, along with visiting her Nonna down the street and enjoying endless golf cart rides.

GIANCARLO WORKS ALONGSIDE HIS MOTHER AND BROTHER AT CAFÉ CORTINA IN FARMINGTON HILLS, THE FAMILY-OWNED ITALIAN RESTAURANT HIS PARENTS FOUNDED IN 1976.



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July in Clarkston

July is one of the best months to be in Clarkston. Between the parade, concerts, local events, and summer nights out, there is truly something happening every week!

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THIS YEAR'S PARADE THEME:
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Let's fill the streets with patriotic pride, creativity, and community spirit!

Everybody who is in town for INDEPENDENCE FEST every summer had another blast of fireworks and family fun at this year's celebration on June 27th. Let's just say we start celebrating early around here. Check out these gatherings to keep the fun times going!

PARADE AND PANCAKES - JULY 4 at 10:00 am



Jack Hess Memorial Pancake Breakfast

One of the biggest highlights of the summer is the annual 4th of July Parade with this year's theme, "Party Like It's 1776!" Before the parade, stop by the pancake breakfast at the Clarkston Masonic Lodge to kick off the holiday festivities. The parade begins at Renaissance High School and ends at Calvary Lutheran Church as the community comes together to celebrate America's 250th birthday. Grab your lawn chairs, dress in your red, white, and blue, and get ready for one of Clarkston's favorite traditions.



STARS, STRIPES & SIPS PATRIOTIC DRINK HOP - JULY 11

If you're looking for a fun excuse to explore local spots this summer, the Stars, Stripes & Sips Patriotic Drink Hop is happening now through July 11! Hosted by



Stars, Stripes & Sips

Connecting Clarkston and the Clarkston Area Chamber of Commerce, participating restaurants and businesses are featuring festive drinks and summer specials throughout the community. (qr code for more info)



CONCERTS IN DEPOT PARK - JULY 10 and 17

Summer nights also mean Concerts in Depot Park are back on July 10 and 17 at Depot Park. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy live music downtown with family and friends.

PINE KNOB MUSIC THEATRE ENTERTAINMENT

And of course, it wouldn't be summer in Clarkston without a full lineup of concerts at Pine Knob Music Theatre. Their new sign has created quite a buzz around town this summer! Be sure to check the Connecting Clarkston app for upcoming concert dates and plan accordingly for potential traffic delays on busy show nights.

CLARKSTON FARMER'S MARKET - SATURDAYS

Don't forget to stop by the Clarkston Farmers' Market Saturdays for fresh produce, flowers, baked goods, handmade items, and even treats for your pets. It's one of the best ways to spend a Saturday morning while supporting so many wonderful local vendors.

Wishing everyone a fun, safe, and memory-filled July!



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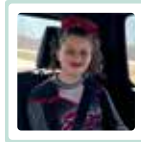
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LUCIA SYBESMA

Cheerleader

LUCIA SYBESMA,



My name is Lucia Sybesma and I'm 12 years old. I have lived here in Oakhurst for 5 years now. What I like best about living here is that there's a lot of kids to hang out with. Let me tell you about my sport:

MY SPORT

I am a cheerleader. I started doing cheer just about a year ago. Cheerleading is a team sport. I am currently part of a youth travel team, but I used to be on a youth prep team.

MY JOB ON THE TEAM

My current position is a Back Spot. According to Wordpress, "The job of Back Spotting is one of the trickiest in cheerleading. As their title implies, they are key to ensuring the safety of the Flyer. Like a lifeguard on the beach, the Back Spot must be constantly vigilant, carefully observing the Flyer's shoulders and hips, looking for any clue that they might be leaning in any direction, and ready to do whatever it takes to stay between them and the ground in the event of a fall."



My favorite memory from this sport was going to competitions with my friends. I liked pinning people too!

MY CHEERLEADERS

I have my own cheerleaders too! My aunt, my mom, my dad, and my brother all inspire me to play this sport. I don't have any sports idols right now, but maybe soon I will.

BALANCE

I balance my school work and sports commitments easily. They don't really interfere with one another. I start cheer practice pretty late so I have plenty of time to do my homework if I need to.

LIFE LESSON

One life lesson that I've learned so far is that you don't think about what you're going to do - you just do it - because if you think about it, you will worry about hurting yourself or messing up. This was important advice my aunt told me when I started cheering.

COACHES MATTER

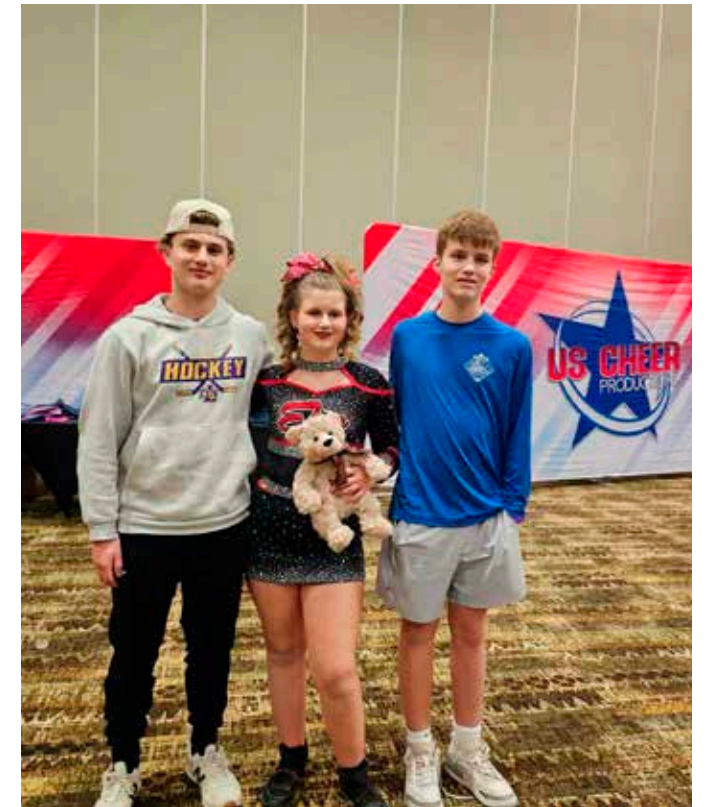
I have three coaches that have played a significant role in my athletic development. Hannah, Hannah and Michelle are special coaches because they help me with tumbling and jumping to achieve my goals. Hannah is a level 5 coach and member of the Worlds Team. She brings tons of experience and has traveled as far as China to compete! The more you practice the better you get!

GOALS

Having a goal when playing sports is important. My goal right now is to become even better at cheering so that I can make a level six team.

LUCIA'S ADVICE

If you would like to play a team sport, I would tell you to find a sport you like and try and stick with it. If you don't love it, don't do it. Find another team sport. There are so many to choose from, right?





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Flourless Chocolate Torte: Rich, Decadent, and Deeply Satisfying

If you're someone who believes chocolate desserts should be rich, indulgent, and deeply satisfying, this flourless chocolate torte is for you. It's fudgy, decadent, intensely chocolatey... everything you'd hope for in a chocolate dessert that doesn't hold back.



SAM KIMBALL, CLINICAL MANAGER AND CERTIFIED NUTRITION COACH

INGREDIENTS:

The Cake:

- 1/2 cup grass fed butter (Kerry Gold or the Kirkland grass fed brand) □ 6 oz unsweetened baking chocolate, roughly chopped
- 1 cup coconut sugar
- 2 tsp pure vanilla extract
- 4 large eggs, room temperature
- 6 tbsp cacao powder
- 1/4 tsp salt

The Ganache:

- 4 oz dark chocolate or chocolate chips (paleo-friendly if needed, I used enjoy life brand) □ 1/2 cup coconut milk (you want to get this from the asian cooking section, its canned coconut milk)

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Prepare the Cake** - Preheat your oven to 350°F and lightly grease or line a cake pan (I used a silicone cake mold so that it's easier to get out of the pan once it's done baking and cooled). In a heat-safe bowl, melt the butter (or ghee) with the chopped unsweetened chocolate until smooth. Let cool slightly. Whisk in the coconut sugar and vanilla extract. Add the eggs one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Stir in the cocoa powder and salt until fully combined and smooth.
- 2. Bake** - Pour the batter into your prepared pan and smooth the top. Bake for 20–25 minutes, or until the center is just set. The cake will still be soft and fudgy...this is what you want. Allow to cool completely in the pan before removing.
- 3. Make the Ganache** - Warm the coconut milk (or heavy cream) until just hot, then pour over the chopped chocolate. Let sit for a minute, then stir until smooth and glossy. You can do this in a sauce pan on the stove or microwave
- 4. Finish & Serve** - Pour the ganache over the cooled cake and spread evenly. Let it set before slicing. Serve in small pieces—it's rich.

This flourless chocolate torte is proof that simple ingredients can create something truly indulgent. It's bold, rich, and unapologetically chocolate-forward, the kind of dessert that doesn't need anything extra to impress.

NATURALLY GLUTEN FREE

This is not your light and fluffy chocolate cake. There's no airy crumb or delicate texture here. Instead, this torte delivers a dense, almost truffle-like bite that melts in your mouth with every forkful. It's the kind of dessert you serve in small slices, savor slowly and come back to again later. Made without traditional flour, this cake leans on simple, real ingredients to create its structure and richness. Butter, while coconut sugar brings a more natural sweetness. Cacao powder intensifies the chocolate flavor, and the eggs give the torte its signature texture. Soft, rich, and just set. Finished with a silky ganache made from dark chocolate and coconut milk or you can use organic heavy cream, this dessert feels elevated without being complicated. It's naturally gluten-free, incredibly satisfying, and perfect for special occasions or when you simply want something a little extra.

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OLD GLORY

Long May She Wave

As we prepare to celebrate our country's 250th birthday next month, I thought it would be fun to share some fun facts about our flag. Thank you Myrna Hirn for sharing flag fun facts with all of us.

SOURCE: [HTTPS://DEFENSE.GOV/NEWS/FEATURE-STORIES/STORY/ARTICLE/1892936](https://defense.gov/news/feature-stories/story/article/1892936)

Born in Philadelphia on June 14, 1777, the flag of the United States of America symbolizes the patriotic ideals of a nation "conceived in liberty" and admired around the world. From the dawn's early light to the twilight's last gleaming, be proud when displaying "Old Glory."

DO'S AND DON'TS FOR DISPLAYING OLD GLORY

Clean and damage-free flags should always be used. When flags are damaged, they should be destroyed in a dignified manner.



The flag should never be on display outdoors during bad weather.

The flag should never touch anything beneath it, this includes water, merchandise and even the floor.

When displayed horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left.

When displaying the U.S. flag with other flags, the U.S. flag comes first and is centered in the middle of a flag display.

The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding or drapery.

FLAGS FOR KIDS

If you and your family would like to participate in the Clarkston Area Optimist Club's annual fundraiser, "Flags For Kids," there is still time to do so. Oakhurst residents like yourselves are big contributors to this fundraiser where every dollar donated goes to kids' programming, student scholarships, and classroom grants. A \$60 donation covers an Optimist member putting up an American flag curbside in front of your home or business in Clarkston, taking it down for each of the following flag waving holidays: Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, September 11th and Veterans Day.

To participate, you may use the application provided here and (1) email it with your check made payable to "Clarkston Optimist Foundation" to flagsforkids@clarkstonoptimists.org or mail it to P.O. Box 891, Clarkston, MI 48347. If you prefer to Venmo your payment, you may do so @ClarkstonOptimists (using 4-digit code if necessary: 1972). BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR LAST NAME AND ADDRESS so the Optimists know where to plant your flag!

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Back to School Mini Sessions return Friday, August 21st.

BY KASEY BLANCK, RESIDENT CONTRIBUTING PARTNER



Back to School. A COVID Fluke. It was 2020. School was... not happening. And I kept thinking about all those parents who wouldn't have a school picture that year. Not even a bad one. Just — nothing.

So I turned my garage into a studio. Quick setup. A safe space. Less than five minutes in front of the camera per child. Almost 200 kids came through that year — and the photos? Waaaay cuter than your average school picture.

Six years later, it's still one of my favorite days of the year. I have met so many Oakhurst families through these sessions — and watching your kids grow up, year after year, in front of my camera? Well, no one warned me how great that part would be.

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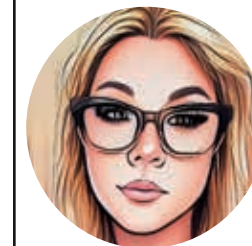
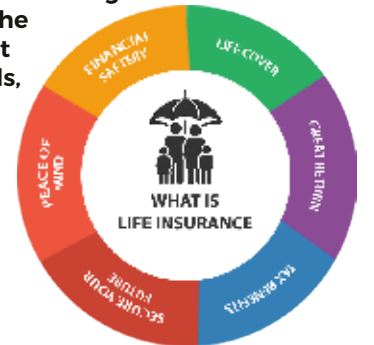
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Riley with one of her litters

RILEY



Riley and Ryan's Graduation



Riley Hanging on the Front Porch

My husband Mike and I moved into Oakhurst the summer of 2005. We had our first son, Aidan in February of 2006 and our second son, Ryan in October 2007. This community has been a wonderful place to raise our family. We consider Riley very much a part of our family. This is her story:

SHARED BY KATIE BARNES, RESIDENT DOG MOM

Our Riley was born on May 8, 2016. She is a black English Labrador Retriever who has a distinct look with a broader, blockier head and shorter, stockier body. Her tail is larger and often referred to as an “otter tail.”

LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND

Riley was a breeding stock dog for Leader Dogs for the Blind. She had two healthy litters and a few of the pups graduated from the program. Today they are providing amazing services and companionship for their owners. The others have been adopted into loving homes.

OUR ADOPTION

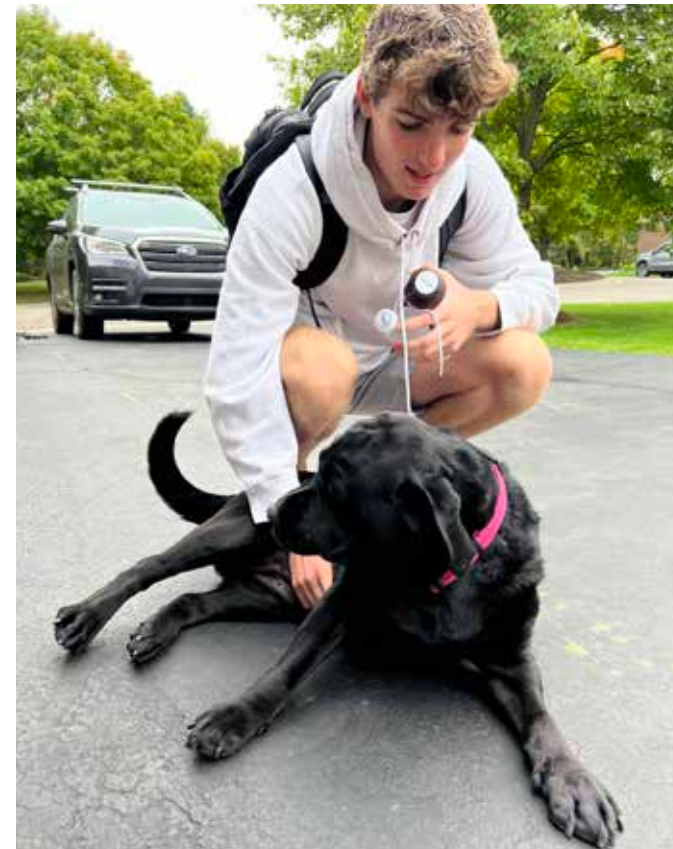
We adopted Riley from her Clarkston foster family who has hosted many dogs for Leader Dogs for the Blind. We were introduced to her in Spring of 2022, a year or so before we adopted her and we had the opportunity to know her during a pregnancy and meet her puppies!



Riley with her Leader Dog Scarf



Ryan with Riley



Aidan with Riley

BROWN EYED GIRL

A calm demeanor and constant need to be right by my side is one of Riley's traits I love the most. She is very cuddly and affectionate. Our family could not have asked for a better dog. Riley is actually our third dog and while we have loved them all, she is extra special. No talents or tricks to speak of but Riley's brown eyes win us over time and time again.

FAVORITES

What dog doesn't love to play ball? Riley has a favorite tennis ball and frozen blueberries are by far her favorite treat! Our favorite memories are many, but watching her with her puppies and the day we brought her home to live with us stand out by far.

SOCIALLY GIFTED

Riley LOVES to take walks or sit on our front porch where she watches neighbors of all ages walk or drive by. She LOVES to visit her foster family to play with their dogs who really are her siblings. After all, she grew up with them a few years. Independence Oaks is also a place she likes to go to play with other dogs or just take a walk with one of us.

ADVENTURE TIME

It's easy to say that Riley's adventures would include a trip up north to Glen Arbor with our family to hike and swim. Heaven on earth for Riley!

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FAMILY ON THE FOURTH!

Valentina shares how she celebrates America's birthday with her family. Next time, we'll share more Oakhurst family traditions.

VALENTINA MONTANO, JUNIOR RESIDENT WRITER



July is my favorite month because of the 4th of July! Every year I get to be in the parade for Chiefs Cheer, and it is so much fun. I love waving to people, giving out candy, and seeing all the cool cars and floats in the parade. It also makes me excited for cheer, dance, and tumbling.

Another reason I love the 4th of July is because we always have parties at our house. I get to see my friends, stay up late, eat cupcakes, and play outside all day. My favorite games are cornhole, basketball, laser tag, soccer, football, and jumping on the trampoline. This year I'm even hoping to finally get my back handspring and maybe my back tuck too!

The best part of the holiday is the fireworks. They are so pretty and exciting to watch. Last year we had our own party at home, and later we walked up the road to watch other people's fireworks too. It was awesome!

I also love how warm and sunny it is outside during the summer. The 4th of July is special because everyone comes together to celebrate America, freedom, family, and fun. It's always one of the happiest days of the year for me!



Richard Paul's Variety Show: July 22nd @ 3pm



Join Richard Paul for his puppet variety show! This event will be held outdoors, weather permitting. Please bring a chair or blanket to sit on. No registration required. This Family Fun Show is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

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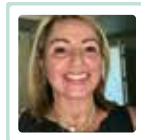
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Your neighbor and mine, Maggie Razdar who has partnered with *Stroll Oakhurst* over the past year, has shared tips and tricks for tutor success. As a mother and owner of TutorMotion, she is committed to student success, pairing each student with the most impactful and qualified tutor.

Her business, TutorMotion is an online virtual tutoring service, created for students of all levels and ages, young and old, in kindergarten through college - even for those changing careers and needing to learn some more! After all, learning lasts a lifetime. We never stop learning, no matter the season.

TutorMotion tutors assist students with homework and to prepare for standardized tests like the SAT, ACT, College Placement, GED, and TOEFL. Tutors even guide students of all ages as they master a new language, reach for job advancements or yes, sometimes a new career!

TutorMotion tutors are specialized in their field. They are professional, yet fun and easygoing. They will work with students to overcome challenges and obstacles on their journey to success. Turn struggles into strengths with tutors that provide support and encouragement. Learning can be enjoyable and effective.

TutorMotion alleviates stress about learning, restores confidence, and helps students of all ages achieve success. Thank you Maggie for having a business that makes a difference in so many ways!

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GUTTER REPAIR

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JUNK AND TRASH REMOVAL

It's good to have a friend with a truck and a trailer... If you don't have that friend, or they're "busy" the next forever weekends, we can HELP! Reach out and give us a call and we'll come collect and haul away what you don't want anymore. Take time this summer to check this project off your list so you'll have more room to make memories tomorrow!

CAULKING AND PAINTING

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Legacy Through Generosity: Giving Back to the Communities We Call Home

BY MATTHEW DEFINIS, SENIOR MARKETING SPECIALIST, OXFORD BANK

For generations, wealth has symbolized not only prosperity but also responsibility. At Oxford Bank, we've had the privilege of walking alongside families who understand that true legacy isn't measured solely by what is accumulated—but by what is given, nurtured, and left behind for others.

In today's world, the call to give back is louder—and more important—than ever. As stewards of capital, our clients are uniquely positioned to make a profound and lasting impact on the communities they care about. Whether through philanthropy, volunteer leadership, or strategic community investments, giving back is more than charity. It's legacy-building.

WHY COMMUNITY INVESTMENT MATTERS

Communities shape us: our values, our relationships, our opportunities. Investing in them strengthens not just local economies, but the social fabric that allows all individuals to thrive. Education, healthcare, affordable housing, and cultural institutions all depend on visionary donors and engaged community members.

At Oxford Bank, we believe giving back is both a moral calling and a strategic opportunity. Philanthropic giving can offer tax advantages, strengthen family bonds, and build a legacy that transcends generations.

WAYS TO GIVE BACK — MEANINGFULLY

1. Family Foundations

Establishing a private foundation offers a structured, enduring way to manage charitable giving. Many Oxford Bank clients use foundations to involve their children and grandchildren in the grant making process, teaching stewardship and values along the way.

2. Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs)

For those seeking flexibility, DAFs provide an immediate tax benefit while allowing donors to recommend grants



over time. They're a powerful tool for those who wish to make a difference now while planning for the future.

3. Local Partnerships

Supporting community organizations, sponsoring local events, or funding small businesses through micro-loans or investment funds are meaningful ways to directly support the neighborhoods that matter most to you. Our very own Jeni Sherby,

Branch Manager at the Clarkston branch, is a board member of the Clarkston Area Youth Assistance. This is one of many Oxford Bank engages with the communities we serve.

4. Strategic Volunteering

Time is one of the most precious gifts you can give. Many of our clients choose to serve on nonprofit boards, offer pro bono services, or mentor aspiring entrepreneurs. These contributions often prove just as impactful—and rewarding—as financial donations.

BUILDING A LEGACY TOGETHER

At Oxford Bank, we understand that wealth management and finances extends beyond portfolios and balance sheets. We help families define what wealth means to them—and how it can serve a larger purpose.

Whether you're looking to create a philanthropic plan, start a family foundation, or explore community-focused investment opportunities, our Wealth Advisory team is here to help you align your financial goals with your values.

Because at the end of the day, legacy is not just about what we leave to our communities—but what we leave in them.

Thank you for being part of our community. Thank you for banking with Oxford.

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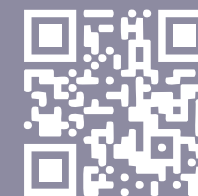
OUR COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

In 2024, Oxford Bank commemorated its 140th anniversary by donating \$150,000 and contributing 750 volunteer hours to local non-profits. These efforts benefited numerous organizations, including Food Gatherers, Habitat for Humanity Michigan, and Covenant House Michigan. The bank's team members participated in activities such as food collection drives and fundraising events to combat homelessness.



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LESSONS FROM BEING A TEAM PLAYER

BY SOPHIA PICKENS - A 12-YEAR-OLD TRAVEL BASKETBALL PLAYER AND COMPETITIVE SWIMMER



People sometimes think basketball and swimming are completely different sports. In basketball, you are always running with teammates, passing the ball, and cheering together. In swimming, you stand alone on the block before your race and compete in your own lane. But after playing travel basketball and being a competitive swimmer, I've learned that both sports teach the same important lesson: how to be a team player. Being on a team is not just about winning trophies or medals. It is about learning how to

support others, work hard, and never give up when things get difficult.

In basketball, teamwork is everything. One player cannot win a game alone. Even if someone scores the most points, the team still needs defense, rebounds, assists, and communication. I learned that sometimes being a good teammate means encouraging someone after they miss a shot or helping each other stay positive when we are losing. During travel tournaments, my teammates and I spend long weekends together in hotels, gyms, and restaurants. We celebrate wins together, but we also learn how to handle

losses together. Those moments make us stronger as a team and as friends.

Swimming has taught me teamwork in a different way. Even though races are individual, swimmers still depend on each other. At meets, my teammates cheer as loud as they can from behind the blocks. When someone is nervous before a race, we encourage them and support them. In relays, every swimmer matters because one person's effort affects the whole team's result. Swimming has taught me responsibility because I know my teammates count on me to do my best.

Both sports have also taught me discipline. There are evening

Being on a team is not just about winning trophies or medals. It is about learning how to support others, work hard, and never give up when things get difficult.

swim practices five days a week and basketball practices after school. Sometimes I feel tired, but I still show up because my teammates depend on me. Being a team player means giving effort even on hard days.

Another lesson I have learned is leadership. Leadership does not always mean being the loudest person. Sometimes it means setting a good example by listening to coaches, working hard, and showing respect. Younger players and swimmers notice actions more than words.

Being a travel basketball player and competitive swimmer has helped me become more confident, responsible, and supportive. The lessons I learn in sports will help me not only in games and races, but also in school, friendships, and life. No matter what sport I play, I know that being a great teammate and leader are the most important skills anyone can have!



THE BIGGEST LESSON

The biggest lesson from sports is that success is better when you share it with others.

A basketball win feels exciting because everyone contributed. A swim meet feels special because teammates celebrate each other's personal records and accomplishments. Team sports teach us how to lift people up instead of only thinking about ourselves.

The lessons I learn in sports will help me not only in games and races, but also in school, friendships, and life.

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resident business guide

If you are a business owner living in Oakhurst, you may list your business here. While the listing is free for all resident business owners, we encourage supporting Stroll Oakhurst as a valuable resource guide. Reach out at janalee.grainer@strollmag.com. Thank you.

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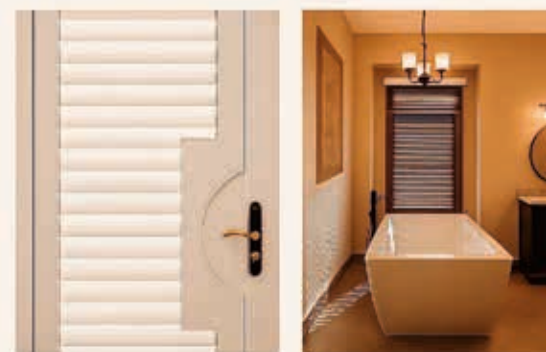
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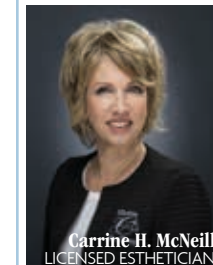
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KNOW THYSELF Create Your Life on Purpose

BY KATLYN AND JOHN BOUCHER, HEALING PRACTITIONERS

Welcome to the heat of July! As we celebrate the freedom and sovereignty of our country, let's also take a moment to appreciate what that means. Freedom provides opportunity, it offers choice. While we each hold our differences, there is far more we have in common. Let's choose to celebrate the goodness in our country, our community, our neighbors, and most importantly see the goodness within ourselves. Freedom also comes with

Let's choose to celebrate the goodness in our country, our community, our neighbors, and most importantly see the goodness within ourselves.

responsibility, so what would you like more of in your life? More goodness? Joy? Fulfillment? For example, when we choose to see goodness, we are turning our attention (our energy, our light) towards what is good and from that place more good can come- like the sun shining on flowers in the garden. What you focus on, grows. That is freedom.

LET FREEDOM RING!

This month, if you find yourself about to complain, gossip, or engage in drama, find something to be grateful for instead. If you'd like to share what this shifted for you reach out to me at katlyn@unityhealingmi.com



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