

# SENIOR



# HAPPENINGS



## February 2026

TRANSIT UPDATE PG. 5

For even more programs happening this winter, check out our Winter Guide!



*This newsletter was published on 1/16/26  
Information printed considered accurate.*

### WHATS INSIDE:

- COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE.....2
- CONNECT UPDATE.....3
- FEATURED PROGRAMS.....4
- TRIPS AND TRANSPORTATION.....5
- IN THE KNOW.....6
- CONNECT MEMBER SPOTLIGHT .....7
- UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS.....8

# CONNECT COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

## CONNECT AMENITIES TO HELP SENIORS STAY HEALTHY AND ACTIVE!

By Kelly Hyer, Executive Director

Happy new year! Below are more details about Connect Community Center amenities that will be available in 2028 for West Bloomfield seniors. Staying active and connected is an important part of staying healthy and we have designed Connect with seniors in mind. Our programs and classes that will be held in our upgraded spaces will offer new ways to move and socialize with neighbors and friends that are welcoming and accessible.



Rendering of new gymnasium. Final design subject to change.

### GYMNASIUM

The gymnasium will feature two courts, with a divider curtain and acoustic treatments on the ceiling and walls and high-quality lighting including natural light. A dedicated sound system will support instructors during classes and allow for announcements to be shared clearly throughout the space. The flexible gym space will continue to host our popular fitness programs such as Stretch and Tone and table tennis (ping pong), while introducing new activities such as pickleball and bounce volleyball. We will ensure a balanced schedule for all fitness levels and abilities.

### TRACK

The indoor walking track will be available early mornings to late at night, making it easy to fit into your schedule. The track will be divided into three lanes and measure 18 laps per mile. This amenity will ensure a safe, climate-controlled, year-round walking option.

### OUTDOOR PLAZA

The outdoor plaza space will offer seating, shade as well as ample lighting, creating a beautiful new gathering space for socializing and programs or simply enjoying the outdoors. It will serve as another welcoming place for seniors to connect, relax and stay active together.

These amenities are just a few to highlight in the new Community Center that support health, wellness and community. The project is scheduled to break ground in Spring 2026 with construction lasting 16 months. Occupancy is anticipated in Fall 2027 and new amenities are expected to open to the public soon after. In the meantime, watch for more detailed updates about our Connect Community Center on our social media channels, at Park Commission meetings or online at [wbparks.org/bond](http://wbparks.org/bond).

# CONNECT UPDATE

**Happy New Year Connect!** We are excited to continue to be your place to socialize and learn about topics that matter to you. It's hard to believe that we've been in our current space for two and a half years. As we prepare for construction of the new Connect Community Center, additional recreation programming staff are now working alongside us here at Connect. We also have re-designed our Customer Services desk. Please introduce yourself if you see a new face! We also have two staff updates to share. Kelly LoGiudice has accepted an internal promotion and is now serving as our travel coordinator. Additionally, Heidi Russell retired in December and we wish her the best in this next chapter.

Our staff is still hard at work to provide exciting and updated programming! Our Senior Staff is continuously improving our programs and service to seniors, utilizing your feedback. A great example are the enhancements we've made to our travel programs. This year, we have partnered with Bianco tours, expanded our day trips and planned two extended travel trips set to depart before September, all on page 5. Additionally, we have a new unique mushroom exploration program designed for more time with our Nature Team on page 4! We also are looking forward to our newest intergenerational program experience, see page 8, that allows you opportunities to connect with your grandchildren.

Are you a Connect Member? If not, it's a great time to join us as we have lots of exciting things on the horizon! Membership also includes free drop-in programs, free coffee and tea each visit and membership only events, see below! Learn more about becoming a Connect Member at [wbparks.org/connect-memberships](http://wbparks.org/connect-memberships).

## 2026 Membership Rates:

- \$30 non-resident / \$55 non-resident couple
- \$20 resident / \$35 resident couple

Enjoy time at Connect with us in 2026!

Senior Services Manager, Bernadette Hudgins



**Tuesday, February 17 • 2-3:30 pm • Connect**

**Celebrate Fat Tuesday with a free donut or paczki and hot coffee or tea.**

**Connect Members only.  
Pre-registration required.**



**Friday, April 11**

**2-3:30 pm**

**Connect**

**Connect  
Members  
only.**

Join us for an afternoon social hour with coffee, tea, and sweets! Enjoy delicious treats and fun ice breakers to get to know your fellow Connect members! Pre-registration required.

# FEATURED PROGRAMS

## OPEN TECH HELP-FREE!

Technology is ever-changing and it can feel impossible to keep up! Let our teen volunteers help you navigate technology questions with patience and knowledge. Technanagy™ strives to help seniors find joy in technology. The program is free and pre-registration is required. Fully charge your device(s) prior to participation.



Location: WB Library

3/2 | M | 4-5:30P

4/6 | M | 4-5:30P

## MOBILE SECRETARY OF STATE

The Michigan Secretary of State Mobile Office is providing their services here at WB Parks' Connect! pre-registration is recommended! Drop-ins are welcome.

Onsite services include:

- Applying for OR renewing a disability placard
- Applying for first-time Michigan ID
- Renewing Michigan ID OR driver's license
- Transferring titles

Location: Connect

3/12 | Th | 10A-3P

Tuesday	3/03	Marshbank Park
Sunday	3/08	West Bloomfield High School
Tuesday	3/10	Vibe Credit Union
Sunday	3/15	Lederman
Tuesday	3/17	The Shops at OL
Sunday	3/22	Sylvan Manor
Tuesday	3/24	Drake Sports Park
Sunday	3/29	Pleasant Lake Elementary
Tuesday	3/31	Crosswind Mall
Sunday	4/05	No walk - Easter Sunday
Tuesday	4/07	Henry Ford Health
Sunday	4/12	Lone Pine Elementary School
Tuesday	4/14	Henry Ford Hospital
Sunday	4/19	Bloomin Kids School
Tuesday	4/21	Busch's Market
Sunday	4/26	Marshbank Park

## FUNGI 101

Get to know the strange and fascinating world of fungi in this informative presentation led by a certified wild mushroom forager. This program blends science, safety and real-life specimen exploration to gain a better understanding of the mycological world. Perfect for beginners, nature lovers and the fungus-curious.

Location: Marshbank Park

2/24 | Tu | 6:30-8P | \$8/\$6

## THRIVE OVER 55-FREE!

Alliance's Thrive Over 55 program is a free three-week program that provides tools for navigating issues often faced by older adults. This session will support you as you create a balanced lifestyle by addressing topics including healthy aging, understanding risks associated with substance and medication misuse, embracing diversity and combating ageism.

Location: Marshbank Park

3/12-3/26 | Th | 10:30A-12P

# TRIPS & TRANSPORTATION

**CHARTER BUS TRIPS LED BY BIANCO TOURS** - All trips leave from Drake Sports Park

## HISTORIC MARSHALL: MUSEUMS

Hop aboard a luxury motorcoach with Bianco's tour-trained driver and get ready for a day of history, charm, and great food in Marshall!

Explore the one-of-a-kind Honolulu House, peek inside the Governor's Mansion, and dive into the treasures of the U.S. Postal Museum. Then savor a hearty lunch at the legendary Schuler's Restaurant & Pub, with your choice of chicken marsala or Lake Erie walleye. The registration deadline is 3/20.

4/30 | F | 7:00A-5:45P | \$135/\$120

## KELLOGG MANOR

Enjoy a day of history, beauty, and flavor with WB Parks! Bianco's tour-trained driver will lead our group to the elegant W.K. Kellogg Manor House overlooking Gull Lake, explore its grand estate grounds, and savor a delicious lunch with your choice of chicken pot pie or Michigan harvest salad.

Next, we head to Cherry Creek Cellars, a cozy winery in a restored 1870 schoolhouse, where you'll sample up to four award-winning wines in a warm, welcoming setting. The registration deadline is 4/17.  
5/20 | W | 6:45A-7:00P | \$144/\$129

## HURON LADY

Set sail on the Huron Lady II for a narrated cruise along the St. Clair River, complete with a buffet lunch featuring your choice of chicken or cod. Then, treat yourself at Sweet Tooth of Marine City with nostalgic candies and creamy ice cream! The registration deadline is 5/18.

6/17 | W | 8:15A-6:15P | \$135/\$120



## COMMUNITY TRANSIT

West Bloomfield Parks offers low cost transportation services for West Bloomfield Residents who are Senior Citizens, age 55 and over. Disabled Citizens, age 16 and over.

The fare is \$3 each way, paid as you board the vehicle. Pre-paid punch cards available for rider convenience at a cost of \$30 per card. The first increase in over 12 years, this minor fare adjustment ensures no interruptions to our available transportation services.

Medical appointments can be scheduled up to 28 days in advance. Non-medical appointments can be scheduled up to 14 days in advance. If you must cancel a ride, cancellations need to be called in by 4 pm the day prior to the date of the scheduled ride. Wheelchair/Scooter service available.

### Bus Operation:

- Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 am - 4 pm
- Wednesday & Friday 8:30 am - 5 pm

(Please note, the Bus Operation schedule excludes major holidays)

Ready to reserve a ride? Call 248-706-2411 and leave a voicemail. Messages are returned daily.



**WB PARKS' TRANSIT TEAM**

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: KELLY, TIM, BEN, MICHAEL, HAROLD & JACK

# IN THE KNOW

## FEBRUARY IS HEART MONTH

February is a month dedicated to both physical and emotional heart health! A strong heart can help you enjoy a healthier life and improved longevity. Great tips to improve or maintain cardiovascular health include:

- Eating better
- Being more active
- Quitting tobacco
- Getting good sleep
- Maintaining areas such as cholesterol, blood sugar, blood pressure and weight

And as for your other “heart,” we know that it’s just as important to nurture our emotional health as well! International Friendship Day, which is also celebrated in February, honors the beauty and necessity of friendships and socialization in our lives. Bring a friend or make a new one! Join us this month for some fun, heart-related programs:

- **Exercise Your Mind-Heart Health** - February 6 from 11:15 am-12:15 pm at Connect
- **SRG - For the Love of Chocolate, Connection and A Healthy Heart** - February 18 from 10-11:30 am at Connect
- **Snowshoe With Your Sweetie** - February 8 from 2-3:30 pm at Drake Sports Park

To learn more or to register, visit: [wbparks.org](http://wbparks.org) or call 248-451-1935.

## HEART MONTH WORD SEARCH

F	O	H	V	F	E	B	R	U	A	R	Y
A	U	E	C	N	W	G	C	N	S	T	L
L	A	A	L	O	U	T	P	K	Y	N	T
O	A	R	N	T	C	D	O	H	C	I	C
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H	S	W	N	P	U	L	Q	M	P	K	A
A	T	N	G	C	A	R	D	I	O	R	B
R	O	S	B	E	R	I	O	K	C	T	R
C	C	T	H	P	A	Q	H	Z	R	E	L
E	A	R	M	G	A	T	H	E	R	I	Y
S	F	C	U	Y	F	H	S	I	D	U	N
T	S	P	H	A	L	I	D	E	Q	R	Y

1. GATHER
2. FEBRUARY
3. HEART
4. CONNECT
5. HEALTHY
6. CARDIO

View answers at [wbparks.org/connect!](http://wbparks.org/connect!)

# CONNECT MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## PERCY STAMPS

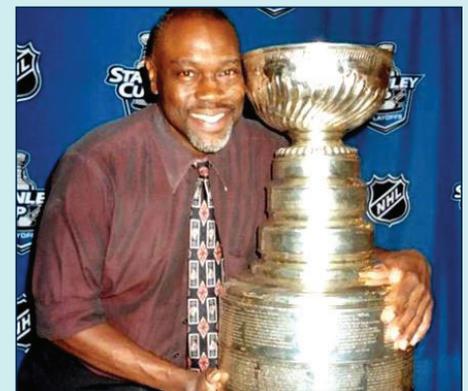
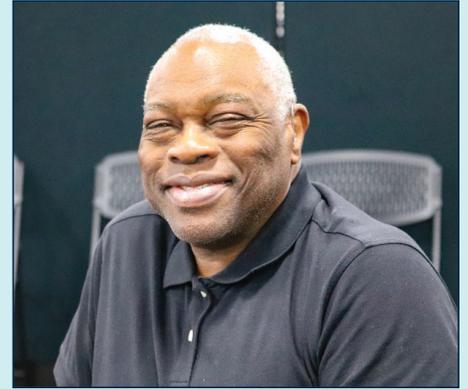
It is an honor to share our 2026 Connect Membership Spotlight featuring Percy Stamps!

Born in Chicago and raised in Detroit, Percy has long enjoyed the best of both cities—so much so that he has lived in each at different points in his life. He is a proud graduate of Eastern Michigan University (EMU).

A devoted local sports fan, Percy brings enthusiasm and energy to everything he does. Percy’s smooth, recognizable voice has been a gift to the community for decades. He has provided public address announcements for collegiate events at the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Madonna University and especially at his alma mater, EMU. He also worked in the radio field on stations; WEMU-AM, WNRS-AM and WIQB-FM. Today, you can still find Percy behind the microphone, announcing sports for three high schools, covering soccer, basketball and volleyball.

According to Percy, “I’ve volunteered all my life.” Here at WB Parks, we know that is a fact, helping others comes naturally to him. Over the years, he has generously contributed his time to WEMU, Focus: HOPE and the Costick Center in Farmington Hills, where he most recently volunteered calling Bingo. His longest-standing volunteer commitment has been with Focus: HOPE’s Trade and Technical Program, where he has served since 1996. Percy finds great fulfillment in giving back and supporting the communities he cares about.

Percy has been a Connect member for several years. When asked what Connect means to him, he shared that it provides opportunities for seniors to enjoy all that the community has to offer and to continue learning and experiencing new things. He is an enthusiastic participant in Connect activities, including member events, happy hours, holiday lunches, drop-in games, lectures and countless trips. You’ll often find Percy making his tablemates laugh with his sparkling wit, enjoying WB Parks activities and offering thoughtful recommendations on how we can continue to make Connect a welcoming and vibrant place to spend time!



## CONNECT HOLIDAY AND SEASONAL HOURS

Connect is located at 33230 W 14 Mile Rd., West Bloomfield, 48322

Now open 8 am-4:30 pm!

5/25 Closed for Memorial Day

6/19 Closed for Juneteenth

# UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS



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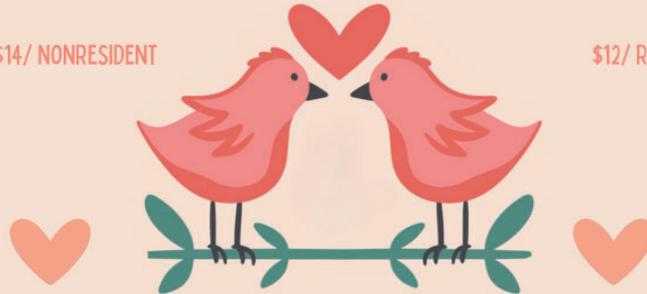
## VALENTINE'S DAY LUNCH

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13 ♥ 12-1:30 PM ♥ CONNECT

AMORE! JOIN US AT CONNECT FOR A VALENTINE'S DAY LUNCH AND LIVE ENTERTAINMENT BY STEFAN KUKURUGYA. ENJOY A DELICIOUS LUNCH INCLUDING BAKED PENNE PASTA, CRISPELLI'S SALAD AND ARTISAN BREAD AND BUTTER. AND WHAT IS VALENTINE'S DAY WITHOUT SOME CHOCOLATE AND SWEET TREATS?

\$14/ NONRESIDENT

\$12/ RESIDENT



## Shortcake Social

A SWEET INTERGENERATIONAL EVENT FOR KIDS AGES 3-11 & THEIR FAVORITE OLDER ADULTS!

SATURDAY, MARCH 21 \* 10:30 AM-12 PM \* CONNECT

SPEND TIME WITH YOUR SHORTCAKE AND DECORATE STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKES, PLAY SPRING-THEMED GAMES, CREATE A FUN, TAKE-HOME CRAFT AND MORE!

NONRESIDENT: \$12 PER PERSON  
RESIDENT: \$10 PER PERSON

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
BY MARCH 12!





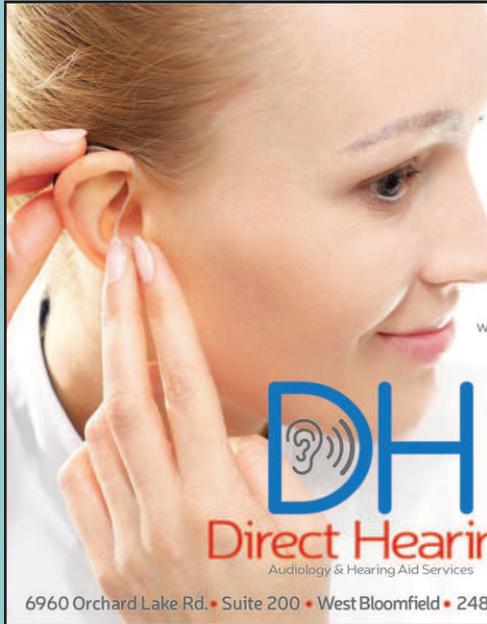
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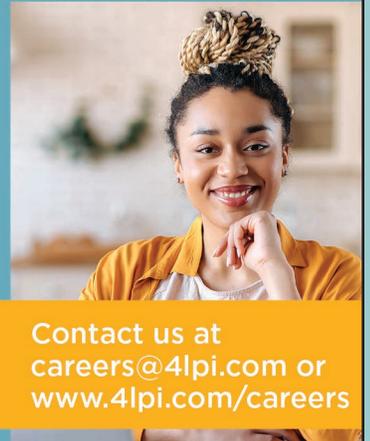
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West Bloomfield Parks has contracted with LPI to print this newsletter with the majority of costs covered by local business advertisements. We will be mailing this newsletter out three times annually. If you'd like to be added to our distribution list, please call 248.451.1900.

\$9/NONRESIDENT  
\$7/RESIDENT



# FABULOUS 50'S

FRIDAY, APRIL 10 \* 12-1:30 PM \* CONNECT

JOIN MUSICIAN KEVIN WILLS AND LISTEN TO HITS FROM THE 50'S ERA! ENJOY A FINGER FOOD LUNCH OF WRAPS, FRUIT, CHIPS AND MORE AND LEARN HOW MUSIC CAN BE AN EDUCATIONAL TOOL FOR SENIORS!

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# 2026 GRAND EXPERIENCE



**Sunday, September 27 – Wednesday, September 30, 2026**

Join other Michigan communities on a 4 day / 3 night escape complete with horse-drawn carriages, tours, live entertainment & more!

Learn more at [wbparks.org/travel](http://wbparks.org/travel).

Registration ends April 22!

