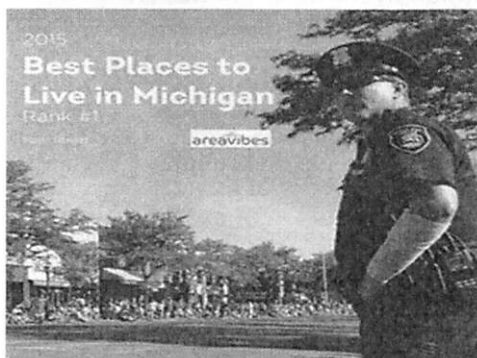
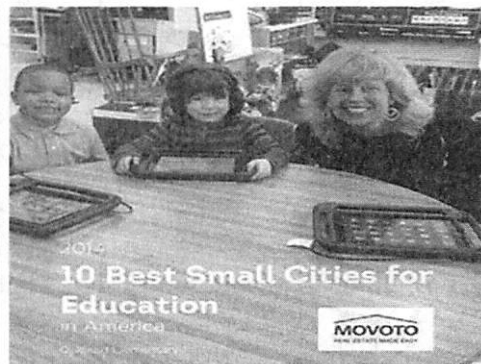
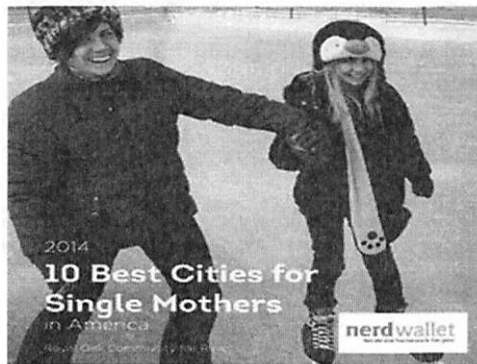
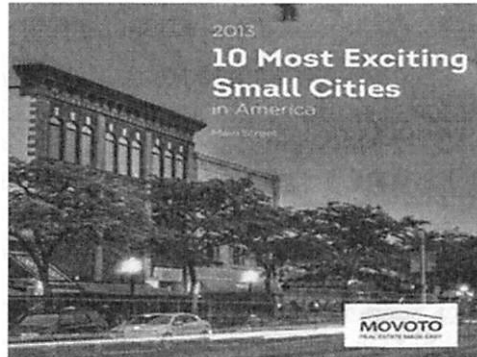


Royal Oak: Life Now Playing

The City of Royal Oak requires no introduction to the Detroit metropolitan area. Conveniently located near several major thoroughfares, Royal Oak's location is prime. This is evident in the steady rise of property values throughout the city. Royal Oak has maintained the appeal of a small town, while affording many of the amenities of a large metropolis. Because of its respect for diversity, the city's composition is truly eclectic. The population represents a diverse mix of individuals, age groups, incomes, and myriad of residential home styles. Combined efforts of a proactive city government and Downtown Development Authority over the past several years have brought about a metamorphosis of the city's central business district. Downtown improvements have included changes to the landscape that encourage socialization.



Downtown businesses have created a diverse, one-stop commercial district where customers find quality and personal service. Retail shops offer specialty items and many restaurants feature outdoor patios that connect visitors to the heart of Royal Oak. Street furniture provides convenient resting places and vantage points to observe the flurry of activity.

The renaissance of Royal Oak unveiled the city's charm. Visitors to Main, Washington and other downtown streets experience the city's unique sense of place and identity, unlike cities without downtown districts. This sentiment can be shared by pedestrians ambling along the downtown streetscapes that feature brick paving, street furniture, tree and flower plantings. It can be felt among patrons of the theaters, upscale restaurants, coffeehouses and distinctive shops. Visitors to downtown Royal Oak enjoy the pedestrian-friendly atmosphere and social interaction.

Education

Royal Oak was recently named one of the "Best Places in America to Raise Kids" by BusinessWeek Magazine. According to the magazine, school performance and safety were weighted most heavily. The Royal Oak Neighborhood Schools K-12 program addresses the needs of all students with highly-qualified, caring teachers helping children reach their potential as they prepare for the future. There is foreign language instruction for Kindergarten through 12th grades and an expansive fine and performing arts program. In addition, the District utilizes a broad array of technology across all grade levels and subjects. Academically, Royal Oak students score well above the State average on MEAP tests. Royal Oak's MEAP and MME scores compare favorably with other Oakland County school districts. The Royal Oak Neighborhood School District includes six elementary schools, Royal Oak Middle School and Royal Oak High School. Churchill Community Education Center offers two alternative high school programs, adult English as a Second Language, GED classes and testing, and a variety of adult enrichment classes. Addams Early Childhood Center features child care for toddlers 2 *Yi* to 5 years of age, and preschool classes for eligible 3- and 4-year-old children. Visit our schools and experience the Royal Oak Neighborhood Schools Difference! www.royaloakschools.org.

Several parochial schools exist in Royal Oak. St. Dennis, St. Mary Elementary, and St. Paul Lutheran offer instruction for preschool through eighth grade. Shrine of the Little Flower provides instruction for preschool through sixth grade, and Shrine High School and Academy for grades 7-12.

Higher Education

The Royal Oak campus of Oakland Community College is located in the heart of downtown. Approximately 6,000 students attend day, evening and weekend classes to upgrade job skills, complete associate degrees, earn transfer credits to universities, and for personal enrichment. The average student age is 28 years old. About 30 percent of its enrollment is from minority groups, and international students represent about 50 different countries. Along with traditional undergraduate courses, the campus offers outstanding programs in computer information systems, ceramics, photography, and English as a second language. The city's cultural life is enhanced by the campus' 400 seat theater that holds musical performances and free lectures by renowned photographers and authors. The Royal Oak campus is one of five countywide campuses that make up Oakland Community College, one of the largest multi-campus systems in the nation.

Health Care

Residents from Royal Oak and surrounding communities can receive top quality health care from William Beaumont Hospital, the primary health care facility in the Royal Oak area. The hospital is a major teaching center and receives referrals from doctors and hospitals in other states and around the world. It ranks among the five top hospitals in the nation for its number of admissions and surgeries. Beaumont has a staff of over 7,500 full and part-time employees. Beaumont has been included on the U.S. News & World Report's annual "America's Best Hospitals" list since 1995 and was named in 10 of 16 medical specialties in 1999. Beaumont has been designated as one of the "100 Top Hospitals" by health care consultants HCIA Inc. and William M. Mercer Inc., in recognition of high quality, cost-efficient care.

Leisure and Special Events

Municipal Golf Courses

Two nine-hole municipal golf courses are open to Royal Oak residents and businesses. Royal Oak Golf Club and Normandy Oaks offer open golf, with league play available at Normandy Oaks. Both courses feature a pro shop and individual or group instruction by the golf pro.

Family Golf Center

If you enjoy playing golf or would like to learn, Golden Bear and Adventure Miniature Golf (Family Golf Center) will appeal to your needs. The pro shop extends a full line of golf equipment, accessories and services. Complete instruction is available from one of several golf pros on staff, as are junior and adult clinics. There are 70 lighted hitting areas, including 10 covered tees that are heated for year-round practice. An elaborate and challenging miniature golf course will entice even the most discriminating miniature golfer. Location: 3500 Edgar Ave (Just East of Coolidge and on the North side of 13 Mile Rd). Phone: (248)549-4653. Web: Royal Oak Golf Center.

Red Run Golf Club

Established in Royal Oak in 1914, the posh, private golf club features an 18-hole golf course, pool, tennis courts, three dining rooms and meeting rooms for members. Location: 2036 Rochester Rd (Just North of 12 Mile Rd) Phone: (248) 548-7500. Web: Red Run Golf Club

Grand Slam Baseball Training Center

Grand Slam Baseball Training Center, a full service training facility, provides seasonal camps for little league through college age baseball players, as well as slow pitch and girl's fast pitch softball. Grand Slam is contracted by some area schools to provide instruction to their teams. Location: 3530 Coolidge Highway (Just North of 13 Mile Rd). Phone: 248-549-7100.

Total Soccer

The indoor, bubble-domed structure has been operating in Royal Oak for over 13 years. The facility offers soccer leagues, camps, clinics and tournaments for soccer players from age 4 to 40 and older. Total Soccer operates seasonally from October to April. Location: 1319 Lexington Blvd (North of 13 Mile, East of Crooks). Phone: 248-288-2110; Web: <http://www.totalsoccerinc.com/royaloak.htm>

Special Events

Throughout the year, Royal Oak hosts a number of social events that bring families together from Royal Oak and surrounding areas. Some events are centered in Royal Oak's enchanting downtown district, while others are held at other locations throughout the city. Some celebrated activities held in Royal Oak are:

- Royal Oak in Bloom (sale of annuals and perennials)
- Memorial Day Parade
- Oak Apple Run (10-K foot race)
- Royal Oak Clay, Glass & Metal (downtown art show)
- Royal Oak Outdoor Art Fair (at Memorial Park)

- Fire & Ice Charity Softball Game between the Detroit Red Wings and Royal Oak Firefighters (at Memorial Park);
- Corn Roast & Country Fair (Farmers Market)
- Arts, Beats and Eats (Oakland County Festival held in downtown Royal Oak)
- Aids Walk Detroit, sponsored by Steppin' Out
- Spooktacular (Halloween event)
- Holiday Magic Parade and Events (S Washington Ave)
- Tree Lighting Ceremony (City Hall/Farmers Market Plaza)

Woodward Dream Cruise

Collectively, Royal Oak and six other cities welcome over 1 million spectators to the area for the annual Woodward Dream Cruise. Held in August, the one-day event is the world's largest classic car cruise, drawing cruisers and spectators from around the world to ogle autos of yesteryear. Participating communities provide optimal viewing, cruise-related activities and entertainment throughout the day.

Local Attractions

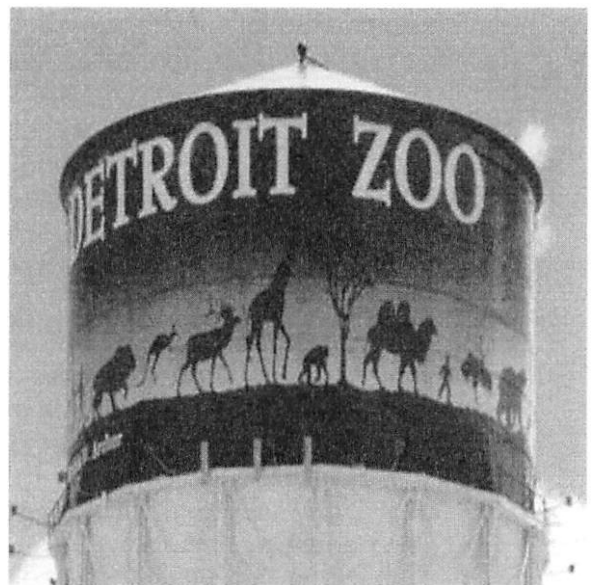
Farmers Market

The freshest in-season produce can be found at the Royal Oak Farmers Market, located at 316 E 11 Mile Rd (just 2 blocks east of Main Street). A legacy since 1927, the market sells only food products that Michigan farmers grow themselves. Some of the farmers who bring their crops to the market travel from locations up to four hours from Royal Oak, extending the seasons availability for many varieties of fruits and vegetables. In addition to food products, the Farmers Market sells numerous varieties of annuals and perennials in the spring and summer, and greenery and pine trees in December. Crafts and antiques are often available at the Farmers Market.



Detroit Zoo

Children and adults of all ages enjoy an excursion to the Detroit Zoo, conveniently located in Royal Oak at the intersections of Interstate 696, Woodward Avenue and Ten Mile Road. Sprawling over 125 acres, the zoo's naturalistic exhibits house 1,500 mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates of 275 different species. Opened in 1928, it was the first zoo in the United States to use natural exhibits without barriers. Recent additions to the Detroit Zoo include the National Amphibian Conservation Center, a facility devoted entirely to the research and exhibition of amphibians, and the Arctic Ring of Life showcasing polar bears and recreating the North Pole environment. These new exhibits are two of the world's largest animal exhibits.
<http://www.detroitzoo.org>



Parks & Recreation

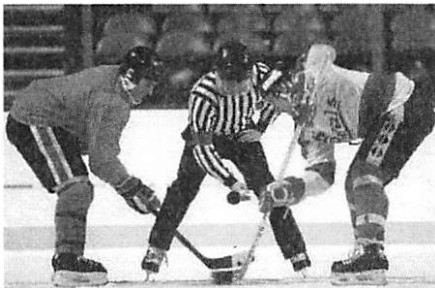
Parks

Royal Oak is proud of its 50 scenic parks, including two that are natural pristine reserves (Cummingston Park and Tehave Woods in Quickstad Park). Aggregately, they provide over 310 acres of natural woodlands and support a variety of interests. Some nestled in quiet neighborhoods focus on solace and retreat. Some have playscape equipment for children. Others provide tennis courts, frisbee-golf or play fields for organized team sporting events. Memorial Park, located at Woodward Avenue and Thirteen Mile Road, features three lighted ball diamonds and concession services.



Recreation and Sports

Assorted activities are available to Royal Oak youth, adults and families through school, recreation and organization facilities. Sports-minded youth can play on a number of athletic leagues including hockey, baseball, basketball, soccer and girls softball. Adult leagues provide play in basketball, touch football, softball and sand volleyball. Swim instruction and open swim are available to all ages through the school district facilities. Children and adults can participate in instructional programs for dance, golf, tennis, badminton, tai chi, general fitness and other



activities. The city's John Lindell Ice Arena houses two indoor ice rinks for hockey leagues, year-round open skating and instructional classes for figure, hockey and speed skating. The hazy days of summer need not be lazy, as the summer months hold a variety of options for youth. They can attend general day camps or day camps providing instruction in football, in-line skating, in-line hockey, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, girls volleyball, girls softball and cheerleading. Activity centers at several elementary schools provide supervised play, outings, games, and special projects in arts and crafts.

Services

Community Services

The Royal Oak Senior/Community Center offers enrichment programs and activities that encourage participation, independence and self-fulfillment for the mature adult population. Some include fitness, workshops, discussion groups, card parties and billiards tournaments. Instruction is available in crochet, art, dancing and investment planning. Other programs include outreach, hot meals, transportation, legal aid and support groups. Royal Oak residents age 60 and older can obtain in-home services through Royal Oak Senior Emergency Services (R.O.S.E.S.).

An archetype of valuable information to the community since 1852, the Royal Oak Public Library has served to support the continuous enhancement of knowledge. The library is a member of a multi-library network serving over 2.4 million residents in six counties. The network is comprised of over 65 public and several academic libraries, and is the largest library cooperative in the state. As the information network has evolved, so has the Royal Oak Public Library. It provides Internet access for research and other online services. The Royal Oak Public Library is committed to be an informational, intellectual and cultural resource for the community.

The Royal Oak community is dedicated to preserving quality of life. This is evidenced by the more than 400 volunteer members serving on at least 60 city boards, committees and groups. Neighborhood associations have been created to address specific local interests. The Royal Oak community recognizes the importance of investing in tomorrow's adults. Youth programs are offered through the Boys and Girls Club, Salvation Army, Judson Center, and several fraternal and philanthropic groups. Other community resources include the Royal Oak Youth Assistance and the Royal Oak Community Coalition. These and other great community resources can be found on the Community Links area of the web site.