

# Hometown Life

## NEWS

# \$29 million senior wellness center opens in Livonia



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### Key Points AI-assisted summary ⓘ

Livonia has opened a new \$28.67 million Senior Wellness Center to serve its large senior population.

The 30,000-square-foot facility was primarily funded by federal, state, and county grants without a tax increase.

The center includes a large dining commons, a coffee shop, exercise rooms, and artisan workshops.

**LIVONIA** — The city is celebrating its 75th anniversary along with citizens of a similar age with the opening of a \$28.67 million, 30,000-square-foot Senior Wellness Center.

A ribbon-cutting for the center, located at 32001 Five Mile Road, adjacent to the northeast corner of the Jack E. Kirksey Recreation Center, was held Nov. 13. The center will welcome seniors for its official opening Nov. 17.

"This is truly a historic day for the City of Livonia," Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan said during a ceremony attended by an estimated 150 stakeholders. "A lot of people thought we were just talking and dreaming big, (but) we secured the grant funding to make this possible."

The city obtained \$20.75 million in funding from federal, state and county grants for the project, which took nearly a year-and-a-half to complete. The remainder of the cost was financed from the city's American Rescue Plan and building improvement funds, with no increase in taxes.

Brosnan noted that Livonia has the largest senior citizen population in all of Wayne County, with one in every three residents a senior, and adds that every inch of the new facility has been designed with them in mind.

"It's a warm, inviting space that we wanted to feel cozy," Brosnan said while speaking in the Commons, which she called the "heart of the building."

The space, also referred to by Senior Center Director Karl Peters and by some of the future users who already toured the facility as "the party room," has a capacity of 240 and will be where seniors dine and celebrate various occasions.

A gleaming, expansive new kitchen with ADA accessibility will also assist in the center's Meals on Wheels service to homebound seniors.

While the Commons may be a central gathering space for the new center, Peters led a tour of the facility that showed many more delights waiting around multiple corners - including a partnership with Anastasia and Katie's for the coffee shop's second cafe in the center, complete with a reading area with books supplied by the Livonia Library; a large room dedicated to group exercise classes; a conference room for educational seminars; rooms for card-playing and billiards; and artisan workshops dedicated to activities including woodworking and stained glass-making.

Some of these spaces are located on a second-floor accessible by two elevators, one that holds up to 20 people, with the other having a capacity for eight.

Peters has been director for more than a decade at the former 25,000-square-foot senior center that opened in 1976 at Five Mile and Farmington roads.

He is excited to be moving to the new facility with wider hallways, more closets for storage, room partitions for adapting spaces and the ability to offer more varied programming.

"I think it's great for seniors and the future of Livonia residents," he said. "They can grow with the facility and it gives seniors a purpose. Senior centers extend people's

lives and gives them things to look forward to. When I retire, I get to come here, too."

For more information, visit [livonia.gov/1899](https://livonia.gov/1899)

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