Update

Volume 51 No. 1
September 2026

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CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITES:

AAUW Michigan:
https://www.aauwmi.org/

AAUW National:
https://www.aauw.org/
connect@aauw.org

AAUW Northville-Novi:
https://aauwnn.org/
info@aauwnn.org
AAUW-NN
P.O. Box 511
Northville, MI 48167

AAUWNN MEETING
September 8 at 6:45 p.m.
Novi Public Library
45255 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi

Programs
Emily Doubler, Facilitator
eajs1976@gmail.com

Resisting Disinformation: How not to misinform

Tuesday, September 8, 6:30 PM at the Novi Public Library the President of the League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County, Carrie Moon-Dupree, will speak to our AAUWNN branch about the critical topic of "**Resisting Disinformation: How not to mis - inform"**

- What are mis- and dis-information
- Why do people spread dis-information
- How dis-information works
- Why it sticks
- When to respond
- How to respond

Carrie Moon-Dupree

Our dynamic and knowledgeable speaker this month is Carrie Moon-Dupree, President of the League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County. She is also a board member of the League of Women Voters of Michigan. While originally from New York, Carrie has been a Michigander for the last 43 years. Empowering voters and defending democracy are the work of the nonpartisan League. Now more than ever we need to fight for our hard-earned voting rights. You are welcome to bring family and friends to this important and timely presentation.

About the September Meeting

If you are hesitating about coming to the meeting on September 8 because you need a ride to the meeting or you feel you can't walk very far, send an email to info@aauwnn.org by September 3.

empowering women since 1881
American Association of University Women Northville-Novi
A non-profit 501(c)(3)

NORTHVILLE-NOVI (MI)
https://aauwnn.org/

President of the Month (July/ August)
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rlyork03@gmail.com

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Mary Ann MacLaren
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AAUW Mission

The AAUW MISSION is to advance gender equality for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

AAUW Diversity Statement

AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership teams and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic basis.

Update is published monthly, August through June, for the members and friends of the American Association of University Women Northville-Novi (MI)

President's Message
Karen Zyczynski
zyczynski2002@aol.com

President of the Month

July and August 2026
Karen Zyczynski

Hello and welcome back to our returning members and welcome to our new members. We look forward to getting to know you in the coming months.

During our election cycle in the spring, we decided we needed to consider a new leadership style for our branch. Several other branches have tried different leadership styles in an effort to make the job of president less cumbersome. Rochester and Farmington have both changed over the last several years. In fact, Rochester made the change over twenty years ago while Farmington's change is more recent.

Each month a different board member will serve as President of AAUWNN. This individual will be responsible for writing the President's Report and chairing the membership meeting and the board meeting. Our Past President Karen Zyczynski will serve as liaison to AAUW, AAUWMI and other branches. Since this is a new format for us, I'm sure we will need to make adjustments along the way; so we ask for your patience. Listed below is the president for each month beginning in July 2026.

July/August	Karen Zyczynski/Past President
September	Mary Jane Kearns/Public Policy Director
October	Ruth Rickard/College Liaison
November	Mary Ann MacLaren/Program VP
December	Emily Doubler/Initiatives and Karen Zyczynski
January	Judy Sherman/Nominating Committee Chair
February	Karen Visger/Treasurer
March	Jackie Duggan/Membership VP
April	Caryn Doehler/Liaison to Interest Groups
May	Rhonda York/Secretary
June	Jane Hecker/Bylaws-Policies and Procedures

Non-Voting members of the Board

Caryn Doehler	Liaison to the Interest Groups
Carol Murchison	Archivist

Initiatives
Emily Doubler, Initiatives Chair
eajs1976@gmail.com

AAUWNN Out and About in Northville

On Wednesday, June 24, 2026, AAUWNN members and like-minded friends and family attended "the Revolutionists", a comedy about four "badass" women during the French Revolution at the Tipping Point Theatre in Northville. Several of us enjoyed lunch together before the matinee at Northville's Exchange Bar & Grill.

AAUWNN Members Ann Ryan, Karen Visger, Emily Doubler, Joyce Murdock, Dianne McCulloch, Carol Murchison, Jane Spence, Kay Bartol along with family and friends at "the Revolutionists"

"Chat over Coffee" New Member Orientation

On Thursday, June 11, Karen Zyczynski, Jackie Duggan, Emily Doubler and Caryn Doehler held a "Chat over Coffee" new member orientation at Sweet Brew Cafe in Northville Square. New members Helen Hanton, Kathleen Jackson, Cindy Haley, Ann Ryan and Tara Michener attended one of the two sessions. This casual format was well received and was found to be a great way to share information about AAUW while getting to know our new members.

If you know of anyone who would like to learn more about AAUW, please contact Jackie Duggan or Emily Doubler.

HOLD THE DATE! …

You are **NOT** going to want to miss it! Lock in **December 8** on your calendar today!

We're going to have a **HOLIDAY PARTY** this year! Mark your calendars NOW for **Tuesday, December 8 in the evening**. We'll share more as the date nears but this year, we're including significant others (yes, that includes spouses!), family and friends. The holiday planning committee (which includes Kay Bartol, Emily Doubler, Mary Ann MacLaren, Pat Noworyta, Ruth Rickard, Rhonda York and Karen Zyczynski) is working hard to make this a fun and festive event.

Board Briefs

The board met on August 25.

Jackie Duggan developed and distributed the fanout phone list. This will be used to call members to remind them of meetings, offer rides, and inform them of meeting cancellations due to weather related or other issues.

A committee will look into alternative methods of investing our money now held in CDs and banking accounts.

Programs are being developed for the 2026-27 year. It was determined by the survey taken that all meetings will be held in the evening.

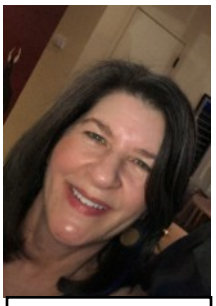
Emily Doubler reported that several initiatives were in progress. The holiday get together will be December 8 and will be held at the Plymouth Historical Museum with a tour of the facility included. Spouses, friends and family will be invited. She has also planned an outing to Belle Isle and Pewabic Pottery on August 28. The Mah Jong Tournament will be held in November. "Small Party" fundraisers were also discussed and could include a tea, wreath making, and bourbon/wine tasting.

Submitted by Rhonda York, Secretary

Here are our new members! Please join us in welcoming Cindy Haley, Marian Mahoney, Tara Michener, and Ann Ryan into our organization!

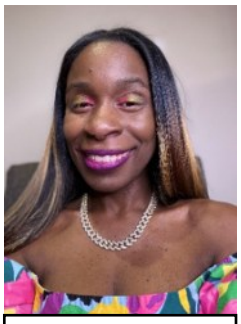
Cindy Haley

Cynthia (Cindy) Haley is a lifelong Michigan resident and a retired General Motors Human Resource Manager. She holds a BA in French and secondary teaching certificate from Eastern Michigan University, a MA in French Language and Literature from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and a MS in Manufacturing Management from Kettering University. She is looking forward to giving back for the scholarship she received many years ago from AAUW and participating in their many activities.



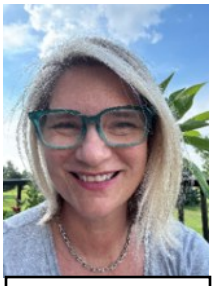
Marian Mahoney

Marian Mahoney has a BS in Mathematics and Computer Science from Lawrence Tech and a MS in Electronics and Computer Controls Systems from Wayne State University. She's a certified Project Management Professional. She retired in 2017 after 30 years in the automotive industry where she held various positions in engineering, program and project management, quality and leadership development. Since retirement she has volunteered in local clubs, including Treasurer and then Chair of the Novi Democratic Club.



Tara Michener

Tara Michener has a B.A. in Journalism & Public Relations and a M.A. in Counseling. She is an award-winning author of 8 books that range from early readers to young adults. She is the founder of Students Against Bullying & Professionals Against Bullying. Tara founded Michener Associates Counseling Center for those seeking therapy, yoga, mindfulness & psycho-educational support. Tara is a TEDx Speaker and the founder & donor of the Michener Associates Counseling Center Mental Health Scholarship for Oakland University & NCSD. She has also held numerous other founder and leadership positions that have helped advance educational effectiveness.



Ann Ryan

Ann Ryan of Northville holds a BA from Michigan State University and an MBA from University of Wisconsin Whitewater. Ann's career was in manufacturing, labor relations and Human Resources at General Motors. She enjoys travel, volunteer work, painting, reading, and playing the piano. Recently she's focused her time on supporting school music programs at Northville High School and MSU.

Deepest Sympathy

Member Betty Mooney's husband Edward Henry Mooney passed away. A Memorial Mass will be held at St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 North Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170, on Saturday September 19, 2026, at 10 A.M. (gathering at 9:30 A.M.). In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Ed's memory to: Detroit Catholic Central High School at 27225 Wixom Road, Novi, MI 48374 or The Solanus Casey Center at 1780 Mount Elliott St, Detroit, MI 48207-3427
Her address is:

Betty Mooney
39626 Muirfield Lane
Northville, MI 48168

Former long time member Val Gagnon's husband Joe Gagnon passed away August 13. Memorial donations may be made to Spectrum Human Services, INC, 28303 Joy Rd., Westland, MI 48185 Attn: Joe Gagnon Scholarship Fund.
Her address is:

Valerie Gagnon
5343 Tennyson
White Lake, MI 48383

If you know of one of our members that we should be thinking of, please send the information to info@aauwnn.org.

$$$ PASSIVE FUNDRAISING $$$

Shopping, it's what we all do well, several times a week. We visit Kroger for food and gasoline and browse AAUWNN spirit clothing from Big Frog. You can EASILY add to the coffers of AUWNN by signing up with these two companies. A portion of your purchase will go directly into our account. You do not have to do a thing but shop! **You know how to do that, don't you???** Sign up now!

KROGER
Sign up for the Kroger Community Rewards Program to help AAUWNN achieve its financial goals! Go online to https://www.kroger.com/o/store-services/community-rewards. Sign in using your email address and designate American Association of University Women Northville-Novi as the recipient of your rewards. If you do not already have a Kroger Plus Card, you will be issued one.

BIG FROG
Sign up from the homepage of our website: https://aauwnn.org/ . Scroll down to Spirit Wear and click to be linked to Big Frog, Novi.

Public Policy
Mary Jane Kearns, Chair
mjkearns1@outlook.com

Public Policy
News You Can Use - AAUW It's My Vote

AAUW introduced an **important new initiative** in July called **"It's My vote!"** It gives us the tools, information , and confidence to make our voices heard in elections. Be sure to check it out at policy@aauw.org/www.aauw.org/ItsMyVote

Included are:

Trusted Election Resources (www.aauw.org/ItsMyVote)

Vote411 (www.vote411.org) (Administered by the League of Women Voters Education Fund)

When We All Vote (www.whenweallvote.org) A national initiative to increase participation in every election, close the race and age voting gaps, and change the culture around voting.

Rock the Vote (www.rockthevote.org) A nonprofit organization dedicated to building the political power of young people.

VoteRiders (www.voteriders.org) They provide free voter ID assistance, including setting up appointments and covering costs to obtain IDs.

Reclaim Our Vote (www.centerforcommonground.org/reclaim-our-vote) Administered by the Center for Common Ground.

There are also several Community Specific Resources, and Campus Resources.

Election Protection Resources. Mis and disinformation are widespread in elections, especially during federal election cycles. This can consist of false rumors and misconceptions about elections, while disinformation can be targeted messages purposely spread to mislead voters. Voters should look at nonpartisan organizations and websites that specialize in verifying political claim, debunking rumors, and analyzing election related misinformation.

Use:

ActCheck.org (www.factcheck.org) Administered by the University of Pennsylvania Anneberg Public Policy Center.

PolitiFact (www.politifact.com) Administered by the Poyner Institute for Media Studies.

Snopes (www.snoopes.com)

Election Protection (www.866ourvote.org) Administered by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

Power the Polls (www.powerthepolls.org)

There are also sources for free and printable materials.

Watch for more information in months ahead for what you can do to get involved.

SAVE THE DATE

September 22, 2026, Farmington Community Library, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. We are proud partners in presenting this forum. Please plan to attend. See the flier of the next page in this newsletter.

KNOW BEFORE YOU VOTE:

What's on the NOVEMBER BALLOT?

Join local AAUW affiliates for an informative, nonpartisan review of what's on the November ballot.

Michigan has a very crowded ballot with the Governor, SOS, AG, every legislative seat, State Supreme Court, Congress, county, judicial and local races. And of course, we have several ballot proposals to review as well.

We will walk you through the offices and initiatives, share candidate and issue resources, and review your absentee, early and polling place voting options.

BRING A FRIEND AND JOIN IN ON THE DISCUSSION!

WHEN
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2026
6:30 – 8:30 PM

WHERE
FARMINGTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY
23500 Liberty St., Farmington
MAP & DIRECTIONS

WHO
Open to all! Everyone is welcome.

WE'LL COVER:

- OFFICES & CANDIDATES
- BALLOT PROPOSALS
- CANDIDATE & ISSUE RESOURCES
- ABSENTEE & EARLY VOTING
- POLLING PLACE VOTING OPTIONS

Your vote makes a difference!

AAUW
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

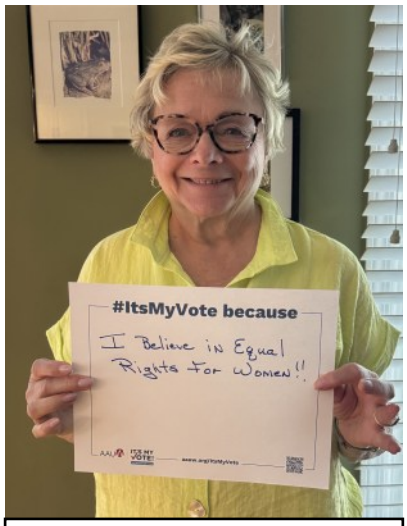
Empowering women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:
christine@cegreig.com

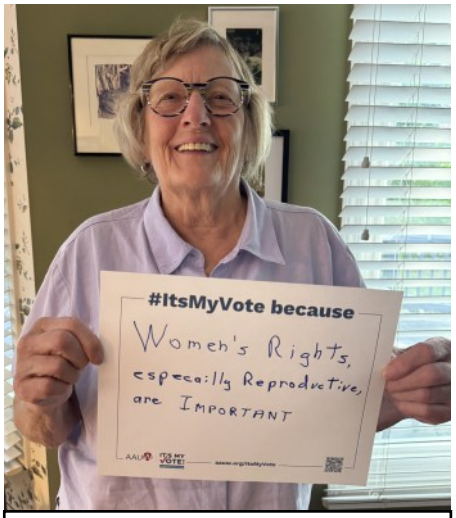
LEARN MORE / REGISTER

★ BE INFORMED. VOTE WITH CONFIDENCE. SHAPE OUR FUTURE. ★

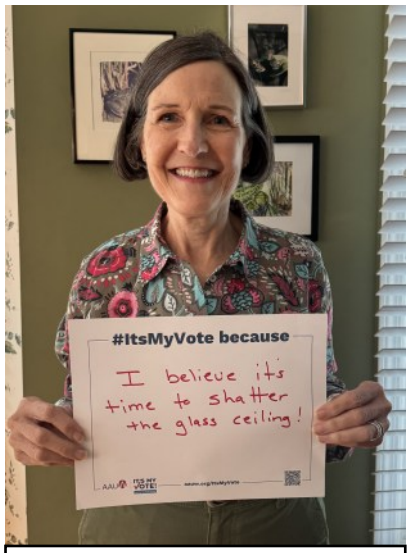
WHY I VOTE



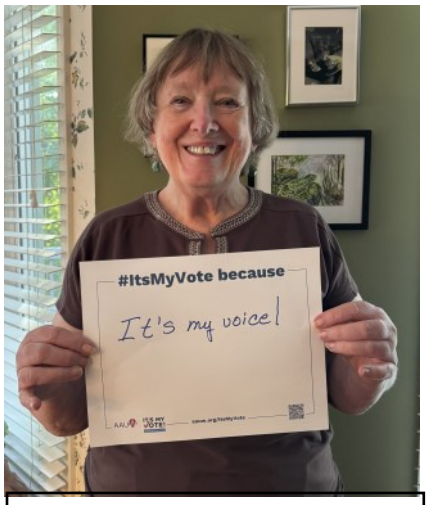
Judy Sherman



Mary Ann MacLaren



Emily Doubler



Rhonda York

Jackie Duggan

Karen Visger

Karen Zyczynski

College/University Relations
Ruth Rickard, Chair
rrickard86@yahoo.com

The following letter was received from a Schoolcraft College student who received a scholarship from the AAUW Northville/Novi Scholarship Endowment for the Winter 2026 semester. For space considerations, the letter has been condensed.

Dear Scholarship Donor,

My name is Amari and I received the AAUW Northville/Novi Branch Award Endowment Scholarship.

I am so thankful to you! I know that scholarships are possible because of the generous support of Foundation donors.

My journey to Schoolcraft College has been shaped by life experiences that changed not only my goals, but the very core of who I am. I am the proud mother of a remarkable little boy who was born prematurely, weighing only 1 lb. 7.5 oz. From the moment he entered this world, he has faced numerous serious health conditions. Watching him fight for his life every day has been both heartbreaking and inspiring. It was through spending countless hours in hospitals, working alongside his medical team, that I discovered a deep passion for nursing. I knew I wanted to be a part of the kind of care and compassion that helped save my son's life, time and time again, I wanted a career where I could not only support my son financially but also be present for him in a meaningful way. Nursing offers that balance - purposeful work with flexibility and stability my family needs.

I applied for a scholarship because, simply put, I'm doing everything I can to provide for my son while pursuing a better future but financially, it's an ongoing challenge. After covering our basic living expenses (rent, utilities, transportation, and medical needs) there is very little left over to put toward my education. A scholarship would significantly ease that burden. It would allow me to stay focused on my Nursing program, keep up with my academic responsibilities, and still be there for my son when he needs me most.

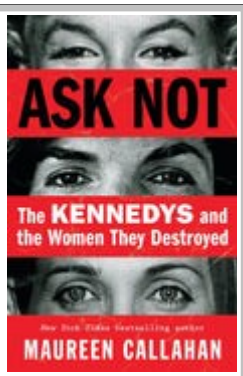
My journey at Schoolcraft College has been both challenging and rewarding. I've completed all my prerequisite courses and recently received my official admission into the Nursing program. My ultimate goal is to specialize in pediatric nursing or possibly become an RN care coordinator, so I can advocate for children with complex medical needs and contribute to improving the healthcare system from both a clinical and personal perspective. Schoolcraft has given me a strong foundation to begin this journey, and I'm determined to see it through.

Sincerely,

Amari McLean

Schoolcraft College
Foundation

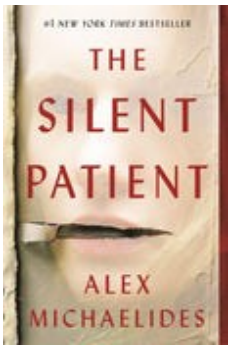
Daytime Book Group
Marian Brockie, Contact



We will be discussing **Ask Not: The Kennedy's and the Women They Destroyed by Maureen Callahan** at our September 10 ZOOM meeting from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. It will be a group lead.

For more information on joining this group please contact Marian Brockie at mbrockie@umich.edu.

Evening Book Group
Mary Jane Kearns, Contact



I am excited to get together in person on September 28 as we begin our year by discussing **The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides**. This meeting will be at Mary Jane's home (43473 Serenity Dr., Northville) and will begin at 7 p.m. Joyce Murdock will be leading our discussion.

Interested in joining? We'd love to have you, and this is the perfect time. Contact Mary Jane at mjkearns1@outlook.com or (248) 449-8693 (Please leave a message.)

Mah Jongg
Mary Jane Kearns, Contact

The Mah Jongg group plays Friday afternoons at members' homes. The September schedule is as follows:

September 4 Emily
September 11 Mary Ann
September 18 Pat
September 25* Mary Jane

Interested in joining us? Contact Mary Jane Kearns to join us. mjkearns1@outlook.com or call and leave a message at (248) 449-8693.

Bridge Group
Marian Brockie, Contact

The Bridge Group currently is meeting at the Laurel Park Food Court area every Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information on joining contact Marian Brockie at mbrockie@umich.edu.

Restaurant Rovers
Joyce Murdock, Contact

On September 16, the Restaurant Rovers will go to J. Alexander's, 19200 Haggerty Road, Livonia, at 6 p.m.

If you would like to join this group, please contact Joyce Murdock at (313) 381-2350 or jgmurdock12051942@wowway.com.

Movie Goers
Rhonda York, Contact

Movie Goers are now meeting the first Tuesday of the month. Rhonda will send an email to those on the list.

To be added to the list or for information, contact Rhonda York at rlyork03@gmail.com.

Great Decisions
Mary Jane Kearns, Contact

We will meet over ZOOM on the third Tuesday of the month. On September 15 at 1:30 p.m. we will discuss Chapter 4 from the 2026 Great Decisions discussion book "Ruptured Alliances & the Risk of Nuclear Proliferation" by Gideon Rose. It examines how U.S. alliance skepticism may prompt nations like Japan and South Korea to reconsider developing nuclear weapons.

We encourage new members and guests. For more information and a ZOOM invitation contact Mary Jane Kearns at mjkearns1@outlook.com or (248) 449-8693.

American Association of University Women Northville-Novi

AAUW Northville-Novi
Shoe Drive Fundraiser
Help Us Meet Our Goal of 2500 pairs of shoes

AAUW
empowering women since 1881
American Association of University Women Northville-Novi
A non-profit 501(c)(3)

- **Collect** new or gently worn shoes of any type (men, women and children) from your closets, and those of friends, neighbors, and family. We accept anything but roller blades and ice skates.
- **Ask everyone** you can think of – we need a LOT of shoes!!
- **Collect and drop off at: Rhonda's, 24423 North LeBost, Novi, 48375-2837**
  (Shoes in bags can be dropped off on the porch)

  Shoes will be distributed to micro-entrepreneurs in developing countries

Deadline is December 31, 2026

WIN – your closet gets cleared of unwanted and cluttering shoes

WIN – Shoes are recycled and not put into the garbage

Win – Assist small entrepreneurs, mostly women, in developing countries

We are a 501 (c) (3) charity supporting education, equity and economic security for women and girls.

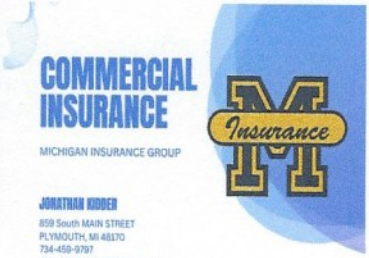
These are pictures from Khris Nedham of the school in Afghanistan. Our International Project is **Kids 4 Afghan Kids.**

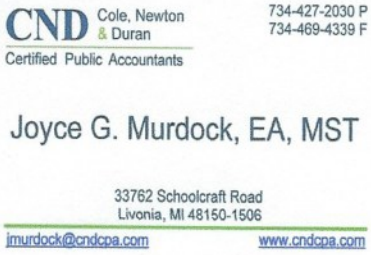
This is what it looked like when they started.

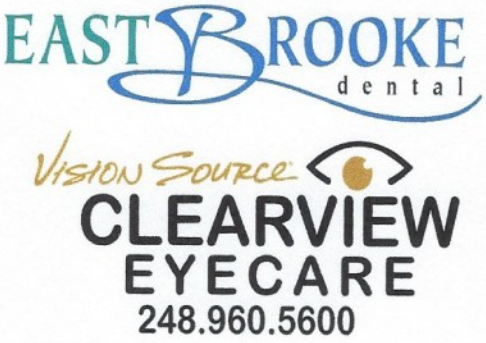
This was after a few years.

This is what it looks like today. The building on the right is the original school with a second story they added.

MICHIGAN FASHION DESIGNER SHOWCASE LUNCHEON 2026 SPONSORS
PLEASE FREQUENT THEIR BUSINESSES







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AAUW

empowering women since 1881

American Association of University Women Northville-Novi
A non-profit 501(c)(3)

Articles for the October 2026 issue due September 20 to:

Mary Ann MacLaren
info@aauwnn.org

AAUW Northville-Novi (MI) Calendar of Events
visit the website for more information at
https://aauwnn.org/

Board Meeting ...……..…Fourth Tuesday, 6:45 p.m.
Bridge Group……..……....Wednesdays, 1 p.m.
Day Book Group…….Second Thursday, 10 a.m.
Evening Book Group……. …….Fourth Monday, 7 p.m.
Great Decisions ……...Third Tuesday, 1:30 p.m.
Mah Jongg…….…… ..Fridays, 1 p.m.
Restaurant Rovers……....Third Wednesday, 6 p.m.