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MICHIGAN ATTRACTIONS



Coffee shops have sprouted up across Dearborn, sometimes within steps of each other, and the city has embraced its characterization as the “Coffee Capital of America.” *MLive.com files*

Behind Dearborn’s caffeinated claim as the ‘Coffee Capital’

The city has embraced its identity as the “Coffee Capital of America” as Yemeni coffeehouses and other local cafes fuel a booming coffee scene.

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DEARBORN — In Dearborn, getting a cup of coffee isn’t the hard part. Choosing where to get it might be.

Coffee shops have sprouted up across the city, sometimes within steps of one another. They serve traditional Yemeni coffee, Turkish coffee, espresso drinks, matcha, refreshers and just about everything in between.

The city has more than 45 coffee shops — and has leaned into the boom by branding Dearborn as a “Coffee Capital.”

But how did a city of about 110,000 people end up with so many places to grab a cup?

LEAVE IT TO YEMEN

Yemeni coffee has been a major part of the answer.

A wave of Yemeni-inspired coffeehouses has helped transform Dearborn’s coffee scene over the past decade, with



Pictured is a layered iced coffee drink from Shibam Coffee in Dearborn. *Courtesy of Shibam*

some homegrown brands now expanding across Michigan, the United States and even internationally.

The growth has become big enough to warrant its own celebration.

Dearborn’s third annual Coffee Week kicked off Sept. 25 at PEACE Park West, where local shops poured samples and showed off their drinks. Events and specials continued across the city through Oct. 2.

Mayor Abdullah Hammoud said the concentration of independent coffee shops is what makes Dearborn’s scene stand out.

“I don’t think you find too many cities like Dearborn of our size that at every block, even in the same plaza, you have multiple small, independent coffee

shops,” Hammoud said at the kickoff.

IN THE BEGINNING

The rise has been especially noticeable in the years since the city’s first modern Yemeni coffeehouse opened in 2016.

Coffee and Yemen have a relationship stretching back centuries. While the coffee plant traces its origins to Ethiopia, Yemen became an early center for coffee cultivation, brewing and global trade.

The port city of Mocha became so closely associated with the trade that its name remains part of the coffee lexicon today.

In Dearborn, that history has been reimaged by a generation of Yemeni-American entrepreneurs.

IF YOU CAN MAKE IT THERE

Eysa Muhsen knows just how competitive Dearborn’s coffee market can be.

His family is behind Jabal Coffee House, which opened in west Dearborn nearly three years ago.

Before Jabal, the family operated Mocha Bistro on Michigan Avenue. But after the COVID-19 pandemic, Muhsen said rising food costs prompted conversations about moving away from the restaurant business.

His brother was an engineer and coffee enthusiast. Muhsen was interested in tea, smoothies and developing drinks. Along with longtime friends and business partners, they decided to try something different.

They chose coffee.
And they chose Dearborn.
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MICHIGAN HEALTH

State lawmakers push to reform hidden fees costing millions

You may be paying for hospital upkeep, even if you’ve never been there.

Robin Erb *Bridge Michigan*

LANSING — Michiganders are paying millions of extra dollars in health care bills each year, often paying to help operate hospitals they’ve never even visited.

There’s no way to tell precisely how much they’re paying: “Facility fees” are usually buried deep in bills, and hospitals aren’t required to publicly disclose how much they collect from them.

The fees traditionally cover costs associated with health care, such as laundry, computer networks and security. Hospitals say they need the money to stay afloat and are increasingly adding the charges to outpatient services, such as labs and physicians’ offices.

But they don’t disclose many basic details about the fees, prompting a bipartisan push for reform. In Lansing, legislation would prohibit the fees when care is provided at sites outside of hospitals, telemedicine appointments and some in-hospital outpatient services.

THE DISCOVERY

The legislation came after state Rep. Curt VanderWall, R-Ludington, requested an itemized bill for a routine blood test. He said he had heard from constituents about their bills increasing after their doctors’ offices and labs were purchased by large health care systems.

A single draw yielded three vials of blood to be tested, VanderWall said.

“I was shocked to see that I was charged a facility fee for each vial of blood that was drawn — nearly an extra \$75 just for that one case of the blood draw,” he **SEE MICHIGAN HEALTH, A3**

YESTERDAY’S EDITION

Plan an unusual stay — or six

Road trip: These six Michigan Airbnbs might prove to be more memorable than the destination.

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193rd year. No. 2
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