



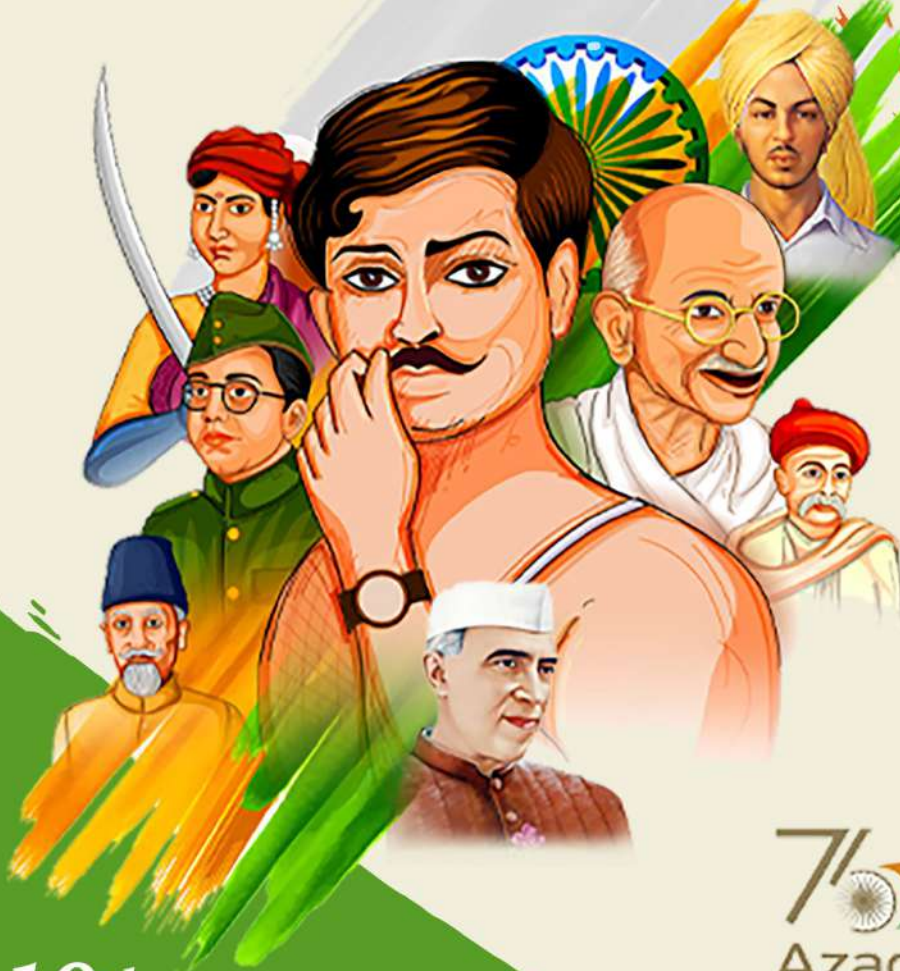
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2023**



**AUGUST 19th
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75
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ILA Chairman and President's Message



George Vannilam
Chairman



Harpreet Singh Ahluwalia
President

Seventy six years ago, at midnight on August 15, India became free from the British colonial rule. Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, the first prime minister of free India called the event, "India's tryst with Destiny." Since then India's rendezvous with destiny has had a much checkered and even tortuous progress. However, lately the trajectory of India's meeting with destiny has taken a path which is mainly progressive and moving upward. There is a renewed sense of optimism in India and people are very hopeful that the country will achieve its well deserved and honored place among the comity of nations. This makes us, the non-resident-Indians, living in metropolitan Detroit area really proud and we should exhibit this pride by participating in our "AQL India Day-2023" with great enthusiasm and vigor.

India, the largest democracy in the world, is not just a nation and a country. It is an ancient civilization which has been in prominence far more than any other civilization. The hallmarks of this civilization are India's diversity and respect for pluralism. We celebrate India Day to showcase the diversity, culture and cuisine of India. India League of America, Michigan (ILA), the only organization in Michigan representing all regions and religions of India, is proud to celebrate India Day: we have been doing it colorfully every year for the last 23 years. This is the occasion when all regional Indian organizations come together to show their solidarity for India and their love for her.

We are fortunate that we, coming from the largest democracy in the world live in the oldest democracy of the world! Both US and India are natural allies. We love and respect both the countries and are dedicated to the principles which these countries stand for.

Indian immigration to US is very popular- US is the second most popular destination for Indians living abroad. Our population in US tops 4.46 million according to the 2020 census. We are about 200,000 in Michigan. ILA has this mission to bring the Indian community together under one umbrella and our voices must be heard. Our voice will be heard when we stand together. As the only umbrella organization of all Indians in Michigan, let us come together and project ILA as the one voice of India in Michigan!

We hope you will enjoy your day at this year's AQL- India Day 2023, feast on the delicious foods and continue shopping for your favorite items.

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ILA Souvenir Editorial Committee



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Satya Injeti
Co-Chair

The India League of America is very proud to host the 76th year of India's Independence Day celebration here in Michigan. For those of us calling Michigan home, in spite of being thousands of miles away from our home country, we are indeed lucky and blessed with this unique opportunity to be a part of this amazing event with all the members of Indian associate organizations, well-wishers, entrepreneurs, businesses, vendors, and everyone representing our home country...India. By celebrating India's Independence Day every year, with the usual grand festivities, we not only celebrate it, but pass on to our younger generation, our rich culture, tradition and heritage that India stands for.

On behalf of the ILA Souvenir committee, we thank each and every one of the sponsors for your extraordinary support in helping us shape this Souvenir and for your unwavering and best wishes for the event. We look forward to working with all of you and your continued support.

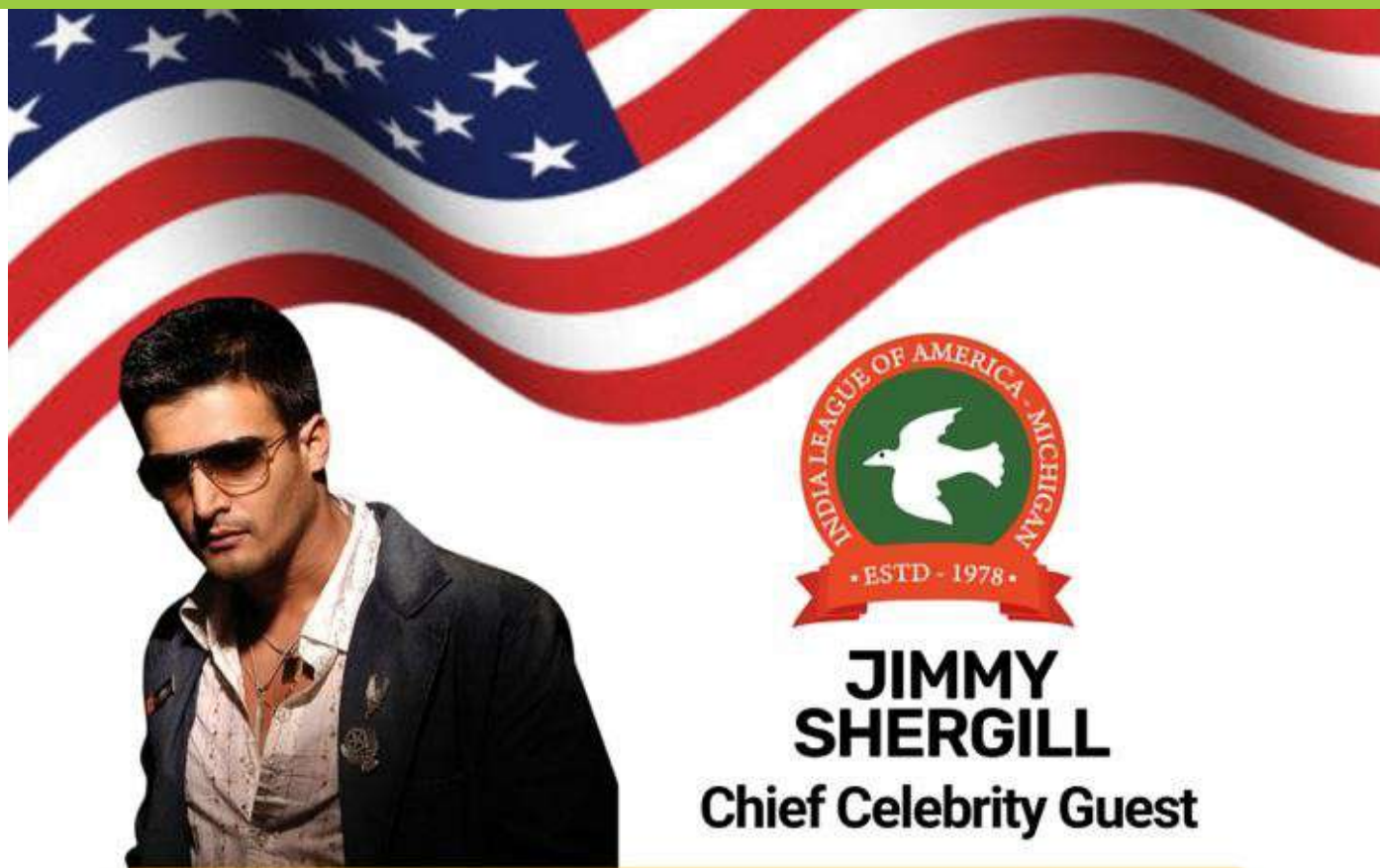
Thank you, and wish you all a great 76th India Independence Day celebrations!



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General Motors proudly supports the India League of America and India Day. We join you in celebrating and promoting the social, educational and economic success of the Indian community. Thank you for sharing your rich, diverse culture with Michigan.



Jimmy Sheirgill (born Jasjit Singh Gill; 3 December 1970), also credited as Jimmy Shergill, is an Indian actor and film producer who works in Hindi and Punjabi films.[1]

Sheirgill began his film career with the 1996 thriller Maachis. His breakthrough came with the blockbuster musical romantic drama Mohabbatein (2000), which became the highest-grossing Bollywood film of the year, following which he starred in several other box-office hits including Mere Yaar Ki Shaadi Hai (2002), Munna Bhai M.B.B.S. (2003), Hum Tum (2004), A Wednesday! (2008), Tanu Weds Manu (2011), Special 26 (2013), Happy Bhag Jayegi (2016) and De De Pyaar De (2019). His highest-grossing releases came with the comedy-drama Lage Raho Munna Bhai (2006), the drama film My Name Is Khan (2010) and the romantic comedy Tanu Weds Manu: Returns (2015), all of which rank among the highest-grossing Indian films of all time. The latter earned him a nomination for the Filmfare Award for Best Supporting Actor.

Sheirgill made his Punjabi film debut with Yaaran Naal Baharan in 2005. His notable work in Punjabi cinema include Mel Karade Rabba (2010), Dharti (2011), Aa Gaye Munde U.K. De (2014), Shareek (2015) and Daana Paani (2018).

Mr.JIMMY SHERGILL , Thank you for joining AQL ILA India Independence Day event.



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For Independence Day



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2023 Honorees



INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA, Michigan (ILA) is pleased to honor Mr. Anand Kumar in appreciation of his services to the Indian American Community in areas of civic representation, through his charitable foundation the Miindia foundation and promoting pluralism and diversity. As a founder of the community portal miindia.com, Anand Kumar has provided the community with an online marketplace and a source for news and networking since 1999. Anand is also a corporate leader whose professional career spans over 25 years of leadership roles in finance, marketing, e-commerce, product, distribution, and diversity at AAA.



Anand Kumar

Anand is a renowned community leader with boards positions with multiple organizations including New Detroit Inc, Indo-American Chamber of Commerce, Corewell Hospital Community Advisory Board, Council of Asian Pacific Americans, Michigan Diversity Council and South Asian American Voices for Impact. Anand also served as a Commissioner with Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission for two terms.



Tel K Ganesh

INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA, Michigan (ILA) is pleased to honor Tel K Ganesan in appreciation of his achievement in the areas of Entrepreneurship, Media, and Film production.

As a founder of the Kyyba group of companies, Tel K Ganesan has emerged as an Indian American Business Leader of repute and has spearheaded diversified businesses that impact our community positively. He founded Kyyba Inc, which evolved under his guidance into a global powerhouse, providing tailored IT and engineering solutions. Ganesan expanded his horizons into film and music. Kyyba Films, under his leadership, produced diverse movies, bridging cinematic cultures between India and the US. Ganesan has a book called "The Pursuit" in which Ganesan shares his journey's intricacies—challenges, risks, and milestones.



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The INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA, Michigan (ILA), is pleased to honor Dr. Pinderjeet Kaur Gill in recognition of her achievements in academic and professional excellence. Dr. Gill serves as an LSA Collegiate Teaching Professor, specializing in the Punjabi and Hindi languages at the University of Michigan. She earned her Ph.D. from Guru Nanak Dev University in Punjab, India, in 1997.



In celebration of International Mother Language Day, Dr. Gill was featured on an Australian Punjabi Channel. In 2021, she was the recipient of the prestigious University Golden Apple Award which celebrates exceptional teaching and is bestowed by students. That same year, she also received the Collegiate Lecturer Award. In 2022, she was honored with a Community Appreciation Award, presented by the Honorable Governor of Michigan- Gretchen Whitmer.

Dr. Gill authored the textbook "Conversational Punjabi". She consistently devises activities that immerse her students in both language and culture, often incorporating games for motivating students.



Dr. Pinderjeet Kaur Gill



INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA, Michigan (ILA) is pleased to honor Mr. Ranjit Singh in appreciation of his service to the Indian American community as a representative of the Indian Consulate in Chicago. He provided exemplary services as a public servant and was a pillar of support to the community seeking help in Consular services during the COVID period.

Mr. Ranjit Singh

INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA, Michigan (ILA) is pleased to honor Dr. Amarnath Gowda in appreciation of his exceptional contribution in the field of Law and Community services. He is the first Indian American lawyer to be licensed in Michigan by the Michigan Board of Law Examiners as a Special Legal Consultant on the laws of India. He provides voluntary legal advice and services to the underserved sections of our community and is actively involved in promoting socio-cultural activities. For his outstanding contributions to the Indian American community, he was conferred the Honorary Degree of "Doctor of Letters" (D.Lit.) by the Bangalore University in the year 2022.



Dr. Amarnath Gowda



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Happy Independence Day
Sanjeev and Renu



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India Independence Day
from
Anand & Neetu Malviya

KHYEN- CHYEN is spreading the magic of Kashmiri cuisine in Michigan. We will be at India Day celebration on Aug 19th from 10 am to 8 pm at Novi Suburban. Please visit, encourage, and enjoy the food!!



KHYEN-CHYEN



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**Wishing a happy
India Independence Day
from
Himanshu and Shikha Dalal**

Let's salute our great nation on its Independence Day! I hope you all feel grateful for the freedom you have and are proud of the nation you were born to.

Jai Hind!

**From
Nikhil Shah and Family**

Nation First Always First!!!!



Ashwini Dole

One the most important day in the life of every Indian 15th August, today we celebrate our 76th Independence day a national pride & unity, we commemorate this day to all the sacrifices made by our freedom fighters & soldiers who struggled due to which we reached at a point today where India has a global recognition. Freedom is something that money can't buy, it's the result of the struggles of many brave hearts. Let us honor them today and always. Defining Indian identity "Matru Devo Bhava" as mentioned in our Vedas, Tridevi the divine trinity or three in one concept of motherhood. Mother is the original source of living matter, mother is the original source of life force, prana or energy obtained by oxidation of food. Mother is the original source of consciousness of intellect. Similarly, mother comes first, Nation comes first always first!

India the land which has time and again insisted the importance of INNER LIGHT. India is sentiment which reerates through our soul, a beautiful symphony of diverse culture religion languages & geography its joy and celebration, India is people whom we love & care for. Its peace and hope yet strength and power during tough times, an amazing amalgamation of ancient wisdom with modern day technology. A colorful celebration. The gift of yoga was born in India which is an imperative part of everyone's life in todays era of stress & technology and to balance the mind body and soul nothing better than yoga to add value in our lives.

Michigan has a big population of Indians & India Day is the proof of our dedicated contribution to keep the patriotism flame burning in each one of us, though we are far from our mother land we all ensure our next generation is aware of our strong roots & culture be it through delicious food, culture & rituals we all follow on daily basis language we speak at home. Celebrating different festivals. Indian diaspora has been the largest in the world since 2010 and is a powerful resource. 4 million Indian's living in the USA are contributing to the development of the nation. This is an opportunity to show unity in diversity through our contribution be it through education and technology through various professions and even sports where our kids display their talent in various forms. Michigan has a good mix of diverse cultures that depict the various states India has and that's how we collectively join hands to be a strong and diverse team to bring every Indian together to show the world who we are & how we can share our culture and food in many forms through this colorful event **India Day!!!**

World's biggest democracy with 1.4 billion people which encompasses, democracy, demography & diversity is our India's strength. As Indians diaspora we represent our nation through our thoughts and actions. India being the oldest living civilization with 29 states 7 union territories & 1652 total languages along with 100's of festivals with rich culture & delicious diversity in food makes it even stronger from every aspect. With a diverse culture & demography India has been instrumental in implementing these initiatives such as "Making in India " "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan," and "Digital India." India is playing a crucial role in promoting developmental and humanitarian goals around the world. As Indians living abroad, we all take pride in our nation & represent ourselves in contributing towards sharing our knowledge, food, culture & diversity with United State of America and the entire world.

Bharat Mata ki Jai !!! Jai Hind

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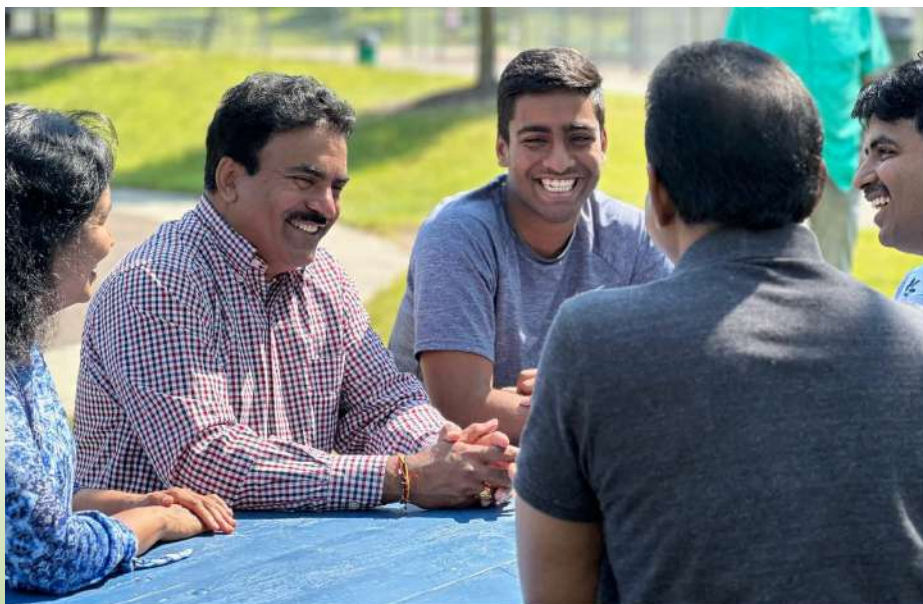
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Mahatma Jyotirao Phule

The Social Reformer of India



JYOTIRAO GOVINDRAO PHULE (11 April 1827 - 28 November 1890) occupies a unique position among the social reformers of India in the nineteenth century. Jyotirao Phule revolted against the unjust caste system under which millions of people had suffered for centuries and developed a critique of Indian social order.

Jyotirao and his wife, Savitribai were pioneers of women's education in India. His work extended to many fields including education, agriculture, caste system, women and widow upliftment and eradication of untouchability. **He is most known for his efforts to educate women and the oppressed castes as well as the masses.**

In 1848, Jyotirao experienced discrimination at a friend's wedding, which made up his mind to defy the prevailing caste-system and social restrictions. This incident took place in his life sparked the revolution in the Indian society. He then started his campaign of serving the people of oppressed caste who were deprived of all their rights as human beings. After reading Thomas Paine's famous book '**The Rights of Man**', Jyotirao was greatly influenced by his ideas. **He believed that enlightenment of the women and oppressed caste people was the only solution to combat the social evils.**

In 1851, Jyotirao established a girls' school and his wife Savitribai taught the girls in the school.

In 1873, Jyotirao Phule formed the Satya Shodhak Samaj (Society of Seekers of Truth). The purpose of the organization was to liberate the people of oppressed castes from the suppression of the privileged.

Jyotirao wrote well known books '**Gulamgiri**' (Slavery) and '**Shetkaryacha Asud**' (The Whip of Farmers).

Mahatma Jyotirao Phule is regarded as the most important figure of social reform movement in India. He is regarded as the father of Indian social revolution.

Jyotirao Phule devoted his entire life for the liberation of untouchables from the exploitation of the privileged. He revolted against the tyranny of the upper castes. On 28 November 1890, the great reformer of India, Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, passed away.

Savitribai Phule

The First Lady Teacher of India



SAVITRIBAI PHULE (3 January 1831 – 10 March 1897) was an Indian social reformer, a poet and first Indian female teacher. Along with her husband, Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, she played an important role in improving women's rights in India during British rule. The couple founded the first women's school at Bhide Wada in Pune in 1848. **She also worked to abolish discrimination and unfair treatment of people based on caste and gender.**

Savitribai worked as both an educational reformer and social reformer, especially for women. During the 19th century, arranged marriages was the norm in the Indian society. Since mortality rates were high, these girls often became widows even before attaining maturity. Due to social and cultural practices of the times, prospects for these young girls were poor. Savitribai and Jyotirao were moved by the plight of these girls.

Savitribai and her husband established a center for caring for pregnant rape victims and delivering their children. The care center was called " Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha " (Infanticide prohibition house). Savitribai ran the home and considered all the children born in the home her own.

Moved by the treatment of the untouchables, who were refused drinking water meant for the privileged, the **Phule couple opened the well in their own house in 1868 for these communities.**



Tiffany Wayne has described Phule as "one of the first-generation modern Indian feminists, and an important contributor to world feminism in general, as she was both addressing and challenging not simply the question of gender in isolation but also issues related to caste and casteist patriarchy."

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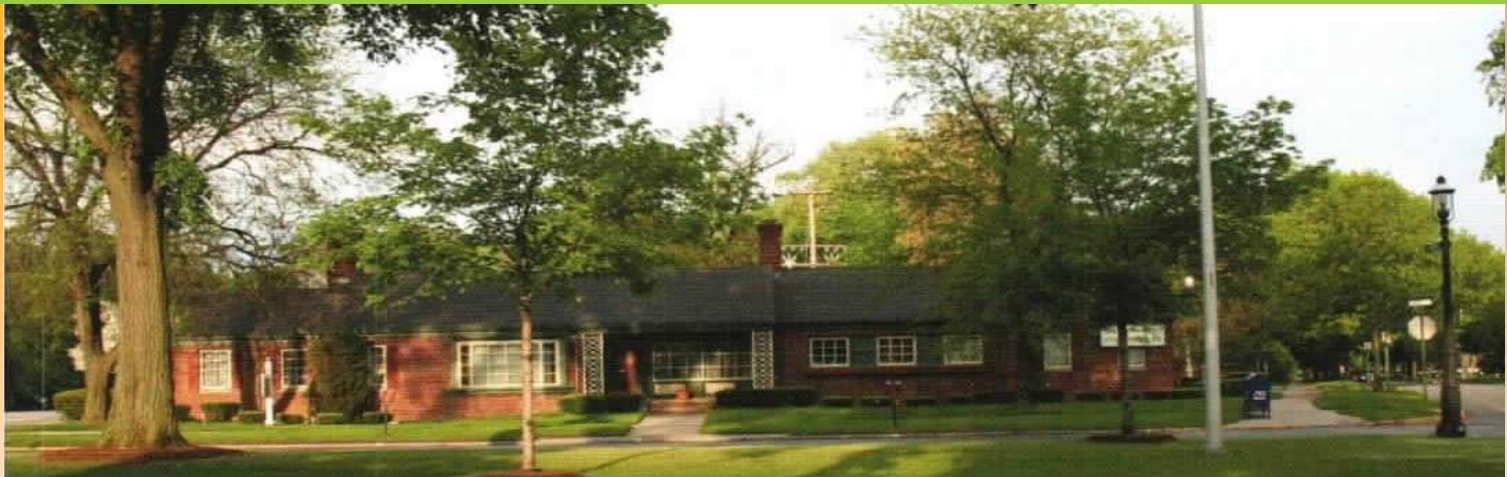
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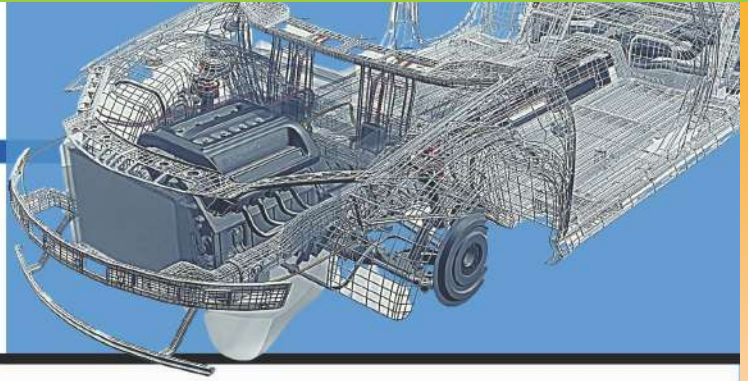
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