



## Meet Your Unadilla Township Fire Department



UTFD personnel train in water and ice rescue procedures on a local lake. Crews learn the various methods to rescue victims while keeping each other safe. **Photo Credit Wendy Hause**



Left to right: Firefighter Jeff Finke, Fire Chief Mark Schroeder, Assistant Fire Chief Wendy Hause, and Firefighter Blake Allen stand beside Engine 761 at Jeff's and Blake's fire academy graduation ceremony. **Photo Credit Wendy Hause**

### by Assistant Fire Chief Wendy Hause

The Unadilla Township Fire Department has 19 dedicated, enthusiastic members, led by Fire Chief Mark Schroeder, Deputy Chief Dave Curtis, Assistant Chief Wendy Hause and two lieutenants. Most members are medically licensed as Medical First Responders, EMTs, or Paramedics.

Firefighting requires dedication to training. Initial academy generally takes six to seven long months of weeknight classes, with many full days of weekend practical training. Once a trainee becomes State of Michigan certified firefighter, there are many hours spent on additional training at the fire house, out in the community, joint exercises with other departments, and in classrooms. A volunteer firefighter must continue each year to fulfill the same state mandates of those required in career departments. Medical licenses require ongoing continuing education credits classes as well. Since each volunteer is employed in 'regular' day jobs, this training must occur in the evenings and on weekends. Attendance at regular local and county meetings is also required to ensure efficient information sharing.

Our team responds to many types of emergencies. In addition to structure, wildland and grass fires, we answer calls for accidents, medical emergencies, lost persons, ice and water rescues, trees and wires down, animal rescues, mutual aid to neighboring fire departments, citizens assists, and more. In 2016, UTFD responded to 266 calls, the majority being medical emergencies and vehicle accidents. Each year, the volume of emergencies increases.

Aside from run responses and training, the team must maintain the fire house inside and out, and volunteers work regularly to keep apparatus and equipment cleaned, stocked and ready for service, which also includes preventative maintenance duties.

The contributions of the fire department team to the community do not end there. The Unadilla Firefighters Association (UFFA), along with a small citizens group, sponsors the wonderful, small-town themed Gregory Annual 4th of July Celebration, meeting often beginning in January of each year to plan a safe and fun parade, park activities, chicken barbeque, and, of course, fireworks.

Fundraising is a critical activity, and UTFD wishes to thank readers who have participated in our chili cook-offs, car washes, dinners, can drives, sent donations or paid for booklet ads and dropped money in our collection cans at area businesses. It is community support that allows the UTFD to continue this event year after year.

On their own time, UTFD firefighters also raise funds for Gregory's street flag displays, sponsoring a needy family during the Christmas holiday, a smoke-alarm give-away program (and installations when needed), fire prevention days, equipment purchases, and much, much more.

Of note are the endless hours that UTFD and their families make every day to answer calls and participate in the above-mentioned activities.

Communities across the United States are struggling a great deal to maintain their emergency response departments. It is increasingly difficult to find people willing to devote their lives to the volunteer fire service. Here in Unadilla Township, we are all blessed to have a great group of devoted men and women who are, without a doubt, the "Good Guys."

Hear sirens? Help is on the way!

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## Gary Topping Receives an America's Farmers Grow Communities Donation

Gary Topping of Stockbridge was recently awarded an America's Farmers Grow Communities donation of \$2,500, which he generously directed to the Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation. The funds used will help the SAEF continue to provide scholarships and grants to help the Stockbridge community.

The America's Farmers campaign highlights the importance of modern US Agriculture through communications and community outreach programs that partner with farmers to impact rural America. To learn more, visit America's Farmers at [www.AmericasFarmers.com](http://www.AmericasFarmers.com).

The Monsanto Fund, the philanthropic arm of the Monsanto Company, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening farm communities and the communities where Monsanto employees live and work.

For additional inquiries, please contact Jennifer Hammerberg at [jhammer70@gmail.com](mailto:jhammer70@gmail.com)

## Echo center launches bringing selflessness to the camp



### by Sarah Salow

Situated on over 150 wooded acres at 4624 Parman Road, Stockbridge, MI., the new Echo Center will soon offer a unique humanitarian combination of a conference center and camping experience. Outdoor education and fitness opportunities, arts and crafts, and exciting new experiences such as zip lining will be available for rental by small groups and non-profit organizations.

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit supported by local donations, the Echo Center is inspired by Stalow's "William Hawk" novel series, providing visitors with opportunities to encounter selfless love: a central theme in the series and Echo Center programming through fun and exciting experiences.

"Selfless love emphasizes acts of giving back that push the boundaries of our comfort zone," explained Sarah Salow, director of the Echo Center. "It means relinquishing something meaningful in order to help somebody else who may need it more or stretching ourselves to lend a hand in situations that might feel awkward and unfamiliar." She added that doing so provides an invaluable service to others, and "it forces people to dig deep, look inside, and evaluate what level of giving is, subjectively, truly selfless."

The Echo Center upholds Judeo-Christian values, though it welcomes all secular groups working to promote the mission of selflessness. In this spirit, the Center prides itself on being a minimal fee facility for those of economic need. It will offer the following unique, sliding-scale contribution structure:

- Play It Forward: Fees give each visitor the opportunity to act selflessly by funding their own trip and the trip of a future visitor.
- Zip Through: Rate will fund the actual cost of operating the Echo Center, per visitor.
- Climb Up: Fee will cover as much of the actual cost of admission as a visitor can contribute.

Upcoming events include a gathering for Crossroads Church in May, a Girl Scouts camp in July, and a University of Michigan Burn Center fundraiser in October. In August, the Echo Center will host Spring Hill Day Camp for an entire week. For more information, call (517) 565-3330, email [ssalow@EchoCenter.org](mailto:ssalow@EchoCenter.org), or visit [www.EchoCenter.org](http://www.EchoCenter.org).

### Who We Are

The Stockbridge Community News is a Michigan nonprofit organization, (#C4-4001565), operated by an unpaid, volunteer board of directors. Our print newsletter serves 7,900-plus households in the 34-square mile area of the Stockbridge school district, reaching approximately 24,000 residents. Our Website and Facebook pages are pleased to serve more than 2,000 viewers each week with a growing list of followers. Any proceeds beyond one year's operating expenses will be donated to a charity of the Board's choice.

### Our Mission

To promote the common good and general welfare of residents in the local Stockbridge, Munnith, Gregory and Fitchburg community through the collection and dissemination of local educational news and social-benefit information.

### Our Board of Directors:

|                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Patrice Johnson, President    | Bev Glynn      |
| Molly Howlett, Vice President | Roberta Ludtke |
| Judy Williams, Treasurer      | Diane Rockall  |
| Debbie Nogle, Secretary       | Hope Salyer    |
| Rose Collison                 | Nancy Wisman   |

### CONTACT US:

www.facebook.com/stockbridgecommunitynews  
www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com  
stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com

### THANK YOU CHARTER SPONSORS

We are grateful for the encouragement and support of all who have helped bring the Stockbridge Community News to light. While those who have contributed their time and effort are too numerous to mention here, the News gratefully wishes to recognize our Charter Sponsors for their monetary donations.

**Gold** \$2,000 or \$4,999

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· Stockbridge Area Arts Council

· Stockbridge Community Education

· Stockbridge Area Garden Club

· Wendy and Mitch Hause

For Up-To-The-Minute News and Information

Visit our Website:

[www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com](http://www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com)

## Looking to advertise your business or service?

This could be your spot. Contact the Stockbridge Community News to place your advertisement in the May edition.

[stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com](mailto:stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com)

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Apr. 1** - 8th Annual Chili Cook Off, 1-4 pm at the Mackinder Glenn American Legion Post.

**Apr. 3-5** - Friends of the Leslie Library Annual Book Sale at Woodworth Elementary School. 3rd 4-7 pm; 4th 2-7 pm; 5th 2-7 pm.

**Apr. 8** - Open Air Market of Stockbridge, 11 am to 3 pm at the First Presbyterian Church CE Building.

**Apr. 13** - Minecraft Nights at the Library, 7 to 8:30 pm at the Stockbridge Library.

**Apr. 15** - First Presbyterian Church Easter Cantata, 7 to 8 pm at the First Presbyterian Church.

**Apr. 20** - Late Start Day for Stockbridge Community School District.

**Apr. 20** - Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition Meeting, 6 to 7:30 pm at the Old Middle School room 305.

**Apr. 21-23** - Town Hall Players present *Blather, Blarney and Balderdash* at the Stockbridge Town Hall. General Admission \$8. 21st 7 pm; 22nd 2 pm and 7 pm; 23rd 7 pm.

**Apr. 25** - Historical Society to Host Speaker on Native American History, 7 to 8 pm at the Stockbridge Town Hall.

**Apr. 28** - 4th Friday Fishes & Loaves free community dinner, 5:30 to 7 pm at the First Presbyterian Church.

For more visit:

[www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com](http://www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com)

## EASTER CHURCH SERVICES

**First Presbyterian Church of Stockbridge** 101 Center Street, Stockbridge

Apr. 13 - Maundy Thursday Service, 7 pm

Apr. 14 - Good Friday Service 7 pm

April 16 - Easter Services 10:30 am with an Easter Egg Hunt immediately following the service

**First Presbyterian Church of Stockbridge** 101 Center Street, Stockbridge

April 15 - Easter Cantata, 7 pm - "Come to the Cross and Remember" Performed by Marina Stojanovska

and the FPC Choir Featuring Michigan State University musicians. Light reception immediately following.

## Volunteers needed for the Stockbridge Community News

"Many hands make light work," as the saying goes, and the nonprofit Stockbridge Community News needs volunteers. Interested in getting out and meeting people? Or maybe you would prefer to contribute from your home or the library? Whether you have one hour or five available to contribute on a one-time or ongoing basis, we need and will appreciate your help (and we're a fun group.).

Here are a few of the myriad tasks that go into producing quality, consistent educational information for the benefit of our local community.

- Follow up with existing advertisers and sponsors.
- Research microfiche library files of the original Brief Sun and old Town Crier issues to help us publish a "Remember When" column for our readers.
- Help maintain the website to ensure that all information is current, correct and relevant
- Help spread the word to potential advertisers
- Report on events and activities of interest to local residents. For example, you might like to cover various school, village, township, DDA or other board meetings, sports events, church or group activities, individual resident achievements, issues and opportunities. If something interests you, chances are it'll be of interest to other local residents.
- Maintain spreadsheets
- Edit articles and print editions
- Ensure that we respond promptly to all emails and Facebook comments
- Assist with designing and laying out newsprint editions
- Plan upcoming editions
- Post articles as they arrive from the community
- Track and report website and Facebook analytics
- Put together and manage a fund-raiser for the News

Yes! I'm interested in discussing ways I may help out with the task(s) I've indicated above, and my contact information is as follows:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you accept texts at the number above? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Please copy and paste this completed form into an email and send to [stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com](mailto:stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com), or print and mail to Stockbridge Community News, P.O. Box 83, Gregory, MI 48137.

Thank you for considering ways to lend your community a hand.

# Congratulations to the Underwater Robotics Team for Their Performance at Competition.



Gold Team L-R. Colin Lilley, Michelle Zemke, Jake Chapman, Madi Howard and Faith Whitt. **Photo Credit Bob Richards**



Orange Team L-R: Sylvia Whitt, Baylee Heidrich, Haley Howard, Noah Ford, William Fredenberg. **Photo Credit Bob Richards**

## by Bob Richards

The Stockbridge High School Robotics team put their marine robotics knowledge to work in force March 4 at the Square One Education Network's Underwater Innovative Vehicle Design (IVD) Challenge in Waterford Mott High School, Mich. At this year's event, student teams competed in various underwater, remotely operated IVD challenges that encouraged speed, agility, fun, problem solving and teamwork. The Gold Team of Madi Howard, Colin Lilley, Michelle Zemke, Jake Chapman and Faith Whitt took first place in Design and Craftsmanship, Ambassadorship and Social Media & Public Relations. The team also took second place for their presentation and underwater mission performance.

The Orange Team of Sylvia Whitt, Baylee Heirich, Haley Howard, Chelsey Asquith, Noah Ford, and William Fredenberg took first place for their technical presentation.

*Robert L. Richards is the Business and Technology Teacher at Stockbridge High School.*

## Be on the lookout



The Chelsea Police Department released this image of a van that may be in the area outside Chelsea going door to door and using the cover story of selling cleaning supplies or vacuum cleaners, all in an attempt to gain access to residents' homes or determine if they are home.

The vehicle, according to pictures, is a late model possibly Dodge Caravan that is light in color, possibly gray or silver, with damage to the passenger-side rear sliding door.

Contact SPD (or their local police department) if seen.

Johnnie W. Torres, Jr., Chief of Police



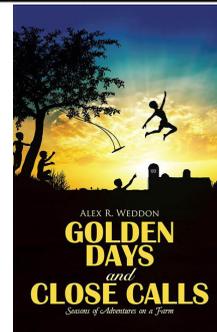
Interested in Volunteering for the Stockbridge Community News Paper?

Want to write, take photos or volunteer for the Stockbridge Community News? Stockbridge Community News is looking for volunteers to fill these needs. Contact any Board of Directors Member or email us at [stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com](mailto:stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com)

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Show and Tell was never this funny! Golden Days and Close Calls is the abridged edition of Alex Weddon's Close Calls on the Farm trilogy about growing up in Stockbridge, MI. Now available in paperback (\$17.95), Hardcover (\$33.00) and ebook from [www.westbowpress.com](http://www.westbowpress.com), a division of Zondervan and Thomas Nelson publishing.

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**SRSLY**

## Specialty Satellite: High Tech Meets Down-Home Good Neighbors



Tom and Janice Lovachis stand before a warm fireplace and a streaming HDTV. **Photo Credit Patrice Johnson**

by **Patrice Johnson**

President Reagan's famous demand that the Soviet Union's Mikhail Gorbachev "Tear down this wall!" strikes a personal note with Tom and Janice Lovachis of Specialty Satellite. Eleven years ago this March, after renting business space for 19 years in Gregory, the couple took the plunge and purchased the massive brick building on 100 S. Clinton in Stockbridge. With more than \$100,000 into the renovations and their savings depleted, the Lovachises were away one evening when Tom's mobile phone rang.

"You need to come back right now," his employee said. "The wall just fell down." Twenty-five percent of building's 50-foot brick exterior had collapsed in rubble.

"It was a scary time," recalled Tom. "But it motivated us to borrow the rest of the funds we needed to finish

the job." The building was renovated with quality features including a spacious upstairs apartment, leaded glass windows and doors, and marble-tiled bathrooms. Even the ornate tin ceiling was restored to its original glory, and Specialty Satellite has been a fixture on the corner of Main Street ever since.

"We've installed satellite, surveillance and customer audio-video systems for public and private schools, for universities and local churches from Bloomfield Hills to Mt. Pleasant," Tom said with gentle pride. Whether it's rebooting a system so a local senior citizen can watch his beloved Tigers play or assisting Homeland Security with an intricate install, the Lovachises have provided friendly, expert solutions for over 30 years, all told.

Apparently, business and civic responsibility go hand in hand for the couple. For years, Tom coached wrestling at the high school. When asked about Specialty Satellite, Gregory-resident Judy Williams, a customer and a director on the Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation, was quick to reply, "Tom and Janice are always willing to help with school and community events."

Consummate dog lovers, they recently adopted Reggie, a boxer puppy. "He's our greeter." Janice grinned as she politely, and repeatedly, asked the high-energy dog to stop pouncing on this reporter.

What is the couple's biggest concern? "Scammers," Tom replied with a look of concern. "We don't solicit door-to-door or telemarket, but some do, and they claim to be affiliated with us."

Specialty Satellite currently employs seven people. "We're looking to hire," Tom added. Judging the owners' friendly natures, Satellite Specialty would be a special place to work.

## Historical society to host speaker on Native American history

by **Laura Walsh**

In the early 1800s, much of the land surrounding Stockbridge was wet and mucky – a characteristic which would prove lucrative for the vegetable farming that would later typify agriculture in the area, but it did not lend itself to permanent settlement.

Native American trails traversed the land, however, and temporary encampments were situated on high spots, one of which eventually became the site of the village of Stockbridge. These were the people known as the Anishinaabe – those of the Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Odawa nations, known as the Three Fires people.

Despite the lack of permanent settlements nearby, Stockbridge's early pioneers regularly encountered and traded with the native peoples of Michigan, and well into recent years residents have found artifacts such as arrowheads scattered through the neighboring townships.

Hear more about the Anishinaabe at the next public meeting of the Stockbridge Area Genealogical/Historical Society on April 25, 2017 at 7 p.m. at the Stockbridge Town Hall. Speaking will be Victoria Voges, educational director of the Nokomis Learning Center in Okemos.

The Nokomis Native American Cultural Learning Center is dedicated to the preservation and presentation of the history, arts, and culture of the Anishinaabe people – the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi nations. The Center fulfills this mission through programs, exhibitions and special events.

More information on events and learning at the Center is available at their Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/nokomislearningcenter](http://www.facebook.com/nokomislearningcenter).

The Stockbridge Area Genealogical/Historical Society is a non-profit organization whose goals are to preserve and promote genealogical and historical information throughout the Stockbridge community.

More information on the Society can be found at their website: [www.stockbridgeareaghs.org](http://www.stockbridgeareaghs.org).

## Chief Torres Warns of Tax Scams

**Beware of this Year's Tax-Scams**

The Michigan Sheriff's Association has published some very helpful tips to make sure you are aware of this year's tax-related scams.

The IRS recently released the top-12 scams that taxpayers may encounter. They include:

1. Phishing
2. Phone Scams
3. Identity Theft
4. Return Preparer Fraud
5. Fake Charities
6. Inflated Refund Claims
7. Excessive Claims for Business Credits
8. Falsely Padding Deductions on Returns
9. Falsifying Income to Claim Credits
10. Abusive Tax Shelters
11. Frivolous Tax Arguments
12. Offshore Tax Avoidance

## Stockbridge Native Authors Fourth Book



Stockbridge grads may recognize Mr. Howlett and other High School and Elementary school staff in Alex Weddon's latest book, *Golden Days and Close Calls*.

Weddon, a 1972 graduate, has just released his fourth book about growing up on his family's Dexter Trail farm and going to school in Stockbridge, MI. The book is an abridged edition of his popular *Close Calls on the Farm* trilogy and is now available as an eBook,

paperback and hardcover.

"If you grew up in Stockbridge, you'll recognize many elementary and high school teachers and classes, and those lucky enough to have a farm background will relate to many of the near misses every farm kid experiences," offered Alex when asked about his latest tome.

"Show and Tell was never this funny," commented his fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Wilde after reading his first book *Close Calls on the Farm, Survival of the Funniest*.

Camping out, swimming, hunting, elementary school lunches, drivers ed., 4-H, bullies, school fights, study hall, grassers, proms, detentions and other creative forms of student punishments are recounted in humorous chapters of the 235-page book.

Many readers will remember Weddon's father as the town doctor for forty-six years and his mother as part owner of the town's newspaper, The Brief Sun.

"Looking back, those were wild times, but seemed normal to me and my friends as we grew up in the wonderful, wide open fields of Stockbridge," added Alex who lives with his wife, Colleen in the Waterloo area. The two have four grown children and two grandsons. (See ad.)

## Kids' Community Read 2017 Arrives in Stockbridge



Rick Kelley delivers an energetic, musical pro-reading show for Smith Elementary students. **Photo Credit Paul Crandall**



SRSly volunteers stickering and stamping books for Kids' Community Read 2017. **Photo Credit Paul Crandall**



Stockbridge Head Librarian Paul Crandall surrounded by CADL totes containing Kids' Community Read books bound for teachers' classrooms.

### by Paul Crandall

March was Reading Month! And what better time to kick off the 2017 Kids' Community Read in Stockbridge – a joint project of Stockbridge Community Schools, Stockbridge Community Education, SRSly-Stockbridge and the Stockbridge Library of the Capital Area District Libraries?

In this year's edition of the Read, the partners provided all students of Smith Elementary School plus early childhood education classes with free books picked out by the teachers and Principal of the school, Brad Edwards. About 400 students gathered for an assembly March 1 to kick off the event, and again later in the month to enjoy a pro-literacy performance by musician Rick Kelley. Weekly prize drawings for all grades throughout the month completed the festivities.

A total of 517 copies were purchased for the project, which included different titles for different grades: *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, by Eric Carle (K and pre-K); *Pete the Cat and His Magic Sunglasses* by Kimberly & James Dean (1st grade), *Flat Stanley: His Original Adventure*, by Jeff Brown (2nd grade), and *Charlotte's Web*, by E.B. White (3rd grade).

Student members of SRSly-Stockbridge, a community coalition dedicated to preventing substance abuse in youth, volunteered to process the books by adding stamps and stickers that identify them as part of Kids' Community Read 2017.

"I can't think of a better effort for Stockbridge Community Education to be a part of," said soon-to-retire Community Education Director Jo Mayer. "Literacy is so important to a happy, healthy life, and these are some really fun books! I greatly appreciated the inclusion of our preschool programs in this endeavor, too!" The 2017 effort followed on the heels of a 2016 Kids' Community Read carried out by the same partners at the Heritage school (grades 4-7) in Stockbridge. In that effort, the partners distributed 500 copies of the Newbery Medal-winning *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate. Funding for both efforts was provided by SRSly-Stockbridge and by CADL.

## Bus trip to Sauder Village quilt show

by Vickie Vandenbelt, for Friends of the Leslie Library; 517-589-5051

Reservations are now being accepted for a bus trip to Historic Sauder Village on May 2nd for the Annual Quilt Show.

The cost of \$65 includes bus transportation, lunch at The Barn Restaurant, entrance to the Village and entrance to the Quilt Show exhibit featuring over 450 quilts. The bus will depart from the Leslie city parking lot (100 Commercial Drive) adjacent to the police station at 8:00am and return around 5:00pm.

This trip is hosted by the Friends of the Leslie Library. For more information, contact CADL-Leslie Branch; 201 Pennsylvania Street; 517-589-9400.

For more information about Sauder Village, visit [saudervillage.com](http://saudervillage.com).

## Young Eagle Aviation Days to Host Free Airplane Rides for Kids

by Vickie Vandenbelt

Mark your calendars for YOUNG EAGLE AVIATION DAYS from 10:00 am until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 10th; Saturday, July 8th; and Saturday, August 12th at the Mason Jewett Airport.

Local pilots will be offering area youngsters ages 8 to 17 an opportunity to go flying in a general aviation airplane (weather permitting). These flights are offered FREE of charge and are made possible through the generosity of EAA member pilots and volunteers. Flights will be on a first-come, first-served basis; approximately 20 minutes in length. A parent or guardian MUST be present or provide a signed permission slip.

Young Eagles Aviation Day is part of the National EAA Young Eagles Program. Local Chapter 55 pilots have flown over 4,000 youngsters from the mid-Michigan area.

All Chapter 55 events are held at Mason Jewett Airport; Eden Road @ Kipp Road (south of the Ingham County Fairgrounds). Admission and parking for all events is FREE. Donations benefit the Newberry Aviation Scholarship Fund.

For more information contact [Vickie@eaa55.org](mailto:Vickie@eaa55.org) or visit [www.EAA55.org](http://www.EAA55.org).

## Wind hits a trifecta in White Oak Township: tree, propane tank and electrical wires



Thanks to the local Fire Department on March 8, a home in White Oak Township is safe and sound after the wind knocked over a tree that pulled down electrical wires and toppled a propane tank. **Photo credit Sarah Robinson**

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The logo for Hickory Ridge Farm & Feed features a stylized illustration of a farm scene. It includes a red barn with a white roof, a white house with a red roof, and several farm animals: a rooster, a pig, a horse, and a cow. The background is a light gray color.



# More Village News



## SPRING IS HERE! So remember....

The Village of Stockbridge has many great outdoor amenities for the whole family! Do you enjoy hiking, bicycling, walking or jogging in a peaceful and serene environment? If you do, please visit the LakeLand Trail State Park, the Village of Stockbridge maintains the recreation trail through the Village and Stockbridge Township containing 4.25 miles, formerly the Grand Trunk Western Railroad Company corridor. Motorized vehicles are not permitted on the recreational trail.

## Street-side Yard Waste

As a convenient alternative to hauling yard waste to Granger Compost Services, curbside yard waste collection is available seasonally. Granger will collect brush, grass clippings, leaves and tree trimmings at the curb.

- Use your own 30-gallon paper yard waste bags or rigid containers.
- Reusable containers should be clearly labeled to avoid being disposed of accidentally. Granger is not responsible for damage to non-commercial grade containers.
- Brush and tree trimmings should be no longer than 4' and less than 2" in diameter. Tie with string or twine into 12" bundles.
- Each bag, rigid container or bundle should not exceed 30 pounds.
- Limited to six (6) bags, rigid containers, and/or bundles per week
- Service is available April through November only.



**View and/or pay your water and sewer bills or Tax Bills online or by telephone (additional fee applies) – Go to the following link to pay:**

<https://accessmygov.com/?uid=319>

Payments by telephone: (888) 272-9829 (use Jurisdiction Code 3289)

Pay in person: Village Office at 305 W Elizabeth St., Rm. 107 (or place in Village Drop Box just outside the main doors).



## VILLAGE OF STOCKBRIDGE WATER AND SEWER INFORMATION:

**PLEASE REMEMBER:** The following items are harmful to our sewer system, please be sure to never flush the following in your toilet: *cigarette butts, disposable diapers, bathroom wipes, cotton balls and swabs, prescription medicine, paper towels, dental floss, women's hygiene products, Band Aids, fats, oils, grease.*

## Oaklawn Cemetery Regulations

When you decorate a grave in Oaklawn Cemetery, please keep in mind the regulations that govern what can and cannot be put on the grave. For a complete list of rules, please visit [www.vosmi.org](http://www.vosmi.org)

## Open Burning Prohibited in the Village

As a reminder, there is a Village Ordinance banning open burning. Yard waste and construction materials are not allowed to be burned. Small, supervised bonfires in containers are allowed under the ordinance.

## DDA News:

The Village of Stockbridge Downtown Development Authority has many projects coming up in the year ahead. In the Spring of 2017, construction will start on new tennis courts in Memorial Park.

The DDA is also working to develop a Christmas Program of Lights to have 1 million lights shining on the downtown businesses and Town Hall. The DDA plans on keeping track of all purchases and how many lights are in each strand and/or decoration.

We will be purchasing wayfinding signs for our landmarks in the village and purchasing new banners and brackets to post on the light poles.

## Façade Incentive Program

ALL Downtown businesses located in the TIF District are encouraged to apply for the Façade Incentive Program.

The DDA has budgeted \$50,000 toward helping businesses invest in their buildings in the DDA district. Please call the Village offices to obtain your application and for further details.

**We are very excited about the great things that will be happening in 2017!**

## Jo Mayer retires after 20 years of service



Jo Mayer cleans out her office as she prepares to move on to new adventures. Photo Credit Patrice Johnson.

by Patrice Johnson

Which pillar in the Stockbridge School System taught English in Japan for two years, met her future husband on a goodwill trip to Nicaragua, and was the first-ever employee to receive the prestigious SAEF Employee of the Year Award?

If you guessed the unassuming Jo Mayer, you were correct. On March 31, after more than 20 years of service to the community, Mayer added retiree to her list of adventures.

According to Karl Heidrich, Superintendent of Schools, “Jo Mayer has done a great job as Director of Community Education. She has helped develop, lead, and guide many projects and programs that have benefited students, parents, and the community. Recently, Jo assisted and guided several projects such as the playground, greenhouse, pavilion, and dugouts to mention a few. Jo represents in every aspect a school and community leader.”

Mayer, whose self-described flaw is “liking to start new programs,” plans to focus on organizing her life and “finishing off home improvement projects.” Oh, yes, she intends to continue helping with Outreach, and the Wellness Coalition, and Friends of the Library, and...

Those who know Mayer, who holds a master’s degree in Adult Education from Michigan State University, have no doubt that she will continue to pursue her passions full steam ahead.

Secretary Heidi L. Pierce summed up Mayer’s impact. “Jo is truly a gem and has made a difference in the lives of so many at Stockbridge Community Schools. Her creativity has brought to life a number of enriching, fun activities for both students and our community members. She has a remarkable giving soul and a keen sense for keeping everyone active and included.”

According to Matt Pegouskie, Community Investment Manager for 5 Healthy Towns, “I cannot begin to express our gratitude for everything Jo has done in Stockbridge. Her tireless efforts have helped make the entire Stockbridge community a healthier place.”

“Jo is a wonderful inspiration, role model and mentor,” Ms. Pierce added. “I will miss her.”

Thankfully—hopefully—we won’t have to look far to find Jo charging headlong into a new project.

## A look back in time

by Diane Rockall

With today’s issue we, or I, begin a new column for the Stockbridge Community News, but a concept used by other community publications of an earlier date. We will look back into our community history for little bits of fact, significant to many or only a few. Because this column is the first, it seems somewhat appropriate to begin at or near the beginning. As luck would have it, some very important dates occurred in or near April.

In April 1834 David Rogers built the first permanent settlement in the township of Stockbridge also known as T1N1R2E. T for town, N for north, R for range and E for east. Stockbridge is the first township north of the baseline and the second east of the meridian line.

On March 20, 1836, the Township of Stockbridge was officially organized. On April 3 Oren Gregory was named clerk, Evan Webster treasurer, David Rogers, Royal Stephens and Heman Lowe were named Justices of the Peace. Richard Lowe of Stockbridge was at that time acting County Clerk.

The Masonic Lodge began in January 1862, but its female counterpart the Eastern Star was chartered on April 2, 1895.

On April 4, 1892, there was a vote to bond a Town Hall for the Town Square donated earlier to the village. The building was completed with announcements for program and event rates being advertised by August 1893. The cost of construction was \$5,500.

Stockbridges’ only Revolutionary War veteran Ephraim Wheeler died April 37, 1853.

These segments of early history were obtained from A Corner of Ingham – Stockbridge prepared and published by Stockbridges’ Bicentennial Committee in 1976 for the U.S. Bicentennial.

According to the text extant articles from local newspapers as well as memories of local citizens were used as sources. Many if not all of those newspapers are now available on microfilm at the Stockbridge Public Library and are the sources of the remaining information in this article.

An April 8, 1897 issue announced Measles were prevalent in North Waterloo, George Hannewald raised a barn and a “come and see” was to be held at the home of Spencer Howlett on April 16. The WCTU met at the Methodist Church.

One April 15 it was reported that the Munith Maccabees purposed to build a hall. Also that 100 people attended the wedding of Albert Remnant and Orra Alien at her parents’ home in Unadilla. White Oak reported Miss Frankie Keene was to teach at Meadville and Miss Anna Diehl was to teach at Hoffman. In Munith Will Mayer dug a cellar for a new house.

## Fourth graders bring Heritage to life with wax museum



Pictured L to R: Megan Mackinder and Kaden Carpenter. Photo Credit Heritage Facebook Page



Pictured L to R: Finn Coffman and Jordan Jarrell. Photo Credit Heritage Facebook Page

by Patrice Johnson

The halls of Heritage Elementary became a living Wax Museum on March 8th and 9th as fourth graders donned period clothing, posted written reports, and impersonated people of note.

Kudos to teachers Katherine Andersen, Luke Thorburn, Angie Nichols, and Travis Sparks for undertaking a work-intense project that literally brought history to life to both young actors and families alike.

**Munith Mane Event**  
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