



Heritage Greenhouse Springs to Life



The Heritage Greenhouse. Photo Credit Josh Nichols

There are greenhouses, and then there are Greenhouses. The new 25-by-40 foot, year-round Stockbridge Community Greenhouse—complete with a furnace and ventilation sensors that control temperature and airflow—warrants a capital G, and it is up and running at Heritage School.

“I started growing plants with my students in my classroom years ago,” fourth grade teacher Josh Nichols said. “That’s when I realized how engaging this was for them.” Nichols invited area gardeners to come in and discuss their knowledge with his class. “The students would go apply what they had learned,” he said.

Then Nichols had an idea. Why not build a greenhouse that could provide opportunity for the entire community? He approached Jo Mayer, then Director of Community Education. “It took three years to raise funds,” the recently retired Mayer said. “We couldn’t have done it without the generous support from the community.”

She cited the Stockbridge Parent Teachers Organization (PTO), 5 Healthy Towns Foundation, Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation, Lowe’s, and the “awesome construction skills” of Dalton & Zick Builders. “There’s a ripple effect,” she added. “The greenhouse gives students from Stockbridge an opportunity to learn about plants, healthy eating, science experiments and life cycles.”

“The students built all the tables from scratch,” Nichols added with pride, “using measurement skills, drills, levels, collaboration, communication and critical thinking skills. It’s important for students learn by doing, and the greenhouse space offers students an opportunity to do exactly that.”

Nichols stressed the importance of young people developing the practice of looking at connections between their experiences and planting a garden. “The process gives students an experience that every human should have. Students need to know that they have choices to purchase food or to grow their own. Studies show that when students have the experience of

growing their own food, they typically lead healthier lives.”

Nichols is seeking community members to come in and share their gardening experiences with small groups of students. “The Stockbridge community is full of avid and amateur gardeners, and the students here would love to hear about their successes and failures. We also would love to learn from specialty gardeners.” At the moment, Heritage teachers are also seeking gardeners to teach canning classes.

Those interested should contact Nichols at 517-851-8600 ext. 4424.

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Randall Whitaker Selected to the Capital Area Career Center’s Wall of Fame.



Whitaker attends “Wall of Fame” dinner hosted by the Capital Area Career Center. Photo Credit Theresa Whitaker

by Larrel Whitaker

Congratulations to Randall Whitaker for his recent selection to the Capital Area Career Center’s “Wall of Fame.” Whitaker, along with five other honorees, was given the honor at the Career Center’s Scholarship Night held this past March.

Whitaker, a 1997 Graduate of Stockbridge High School, attended welding fabrication classes for two years at the career center. He is currently the training coordinator and union president for the local 190 plumbers and pipe fitters union in Ann Arbor. He along with his wife Theresa, reside in the Chelsea area.

Stockbridge Native to Manage All Three Franchise Locations After Leading Local McDonald’s to Win Customer Satisfaction Award.



Alex Knipple and Kim Shevrovich-Duncan share a moment under McDonald’s etched glass depiction of the gazebo in the Stockbridge Township Square. Photo Credit Roberta Ludtke

by Roberta Ludtke

What you measure you manage; what you manage you measure, or so the saying goes. By any measurement, Kim Shevrovich-Duncan qualifies as a rising star. Last month, the SHS graduate and fourth-generation Stockbridge resident was promoted to oversee all three McDonald’s locations of franchise owners Darlene and Scott Karns. And for good reason: Under her management, the Stockbridge restaurant has won an impressive string of outstanding performance awards. The most recent of which ranked it fourth in customer satisfaction throughout the lower-Michigan/northern-Ohio region.

Darlene credits Shevrovich-Duncan in large part for the Stockbridge location’s continued success. “These achievements reflect on the whole team,” she said, “and significantly on Kim. She’s a nurturing and caring leader who has fun with her staff.”

“Kim is an outstanding employee,” Scott added. “She is loyal and dedicated. We think of her as family.”

In 2015, Shevrovich-Duncan and her team led the Stockbridge location to rank in the top ten percent of all McDonald’s-no small feat, considering that according to Statista.com, there’s more than 14,000 locations in the US alone.

Story continued on page 2.

Back Street Roars to Life



Jackie welcomes a table of six. Photo Credit Patrice Johnson

by Patrice Johnson

On April 8, Jackie Scheller exchanged her building-owner-and-remodeler jeans for a flowing restaurateur dress, and the Back Street Bar and Family Restaurant re-opened in style. Now the eatery, featuring home-cooked and reasonably priced meals, has re-emerged as a three-generation family endeavor with Jackie’s son DJ (Daniel), Amanda and their two-week-old baby, Bennett, on hand.

“It’s a family effort,” Jackie said as background music filtered through the room, “and I have a great manager.” Cristina Royal waved a greeting, and then the petite blonde shot off with graceful efficiency toward the kitchen.

Story continued on page 2.



The Schellers DJ (Daniel), baby Bennett, Amanda and Jackie greet guests. Photo Credit Patrice Johnson

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305 W Elizabeth Street
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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.

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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.

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www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com

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

May 2 - Bus Trip to Sauder Village Quilt Show, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., bus departs from the Leslie City Parking lot and cost is \$65.

May 2 - Google Drive Basics, 4 to 5 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library.

May 4, 18 - SRSly Stockbridge Coalition Meeting, 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Old Middle School room 108.

May 5 - Open Air Market of Stockbridge 4 to 7 p.m. on Township Square.

May 6 - Clothes Closet for Gregory Community Church, 10 a.m. to noon at the church.

May 12, 19, 26 - Open Air Market of Stockbridge, 4 to 7 p.m. on Township Square.

May 16 - Real or Fake? 4 to 5 p.m. at the

Stockbridge Library.

May 16 - Clothes Closet for Gregory Community Church, 6 to 8 p.m. at the church.

May 19, 20 - Community Garage Sale on the Square, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Stockbridge Town Hall.

May 20 - Car Wash, Can & Bottle Drive and Photo Opportunity to benefit the Unadilla Township Fire Department, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the UTFD.

May 29 - Memorial Day Service and Parade, 10 a.m. to noon at the Stockbridge American Legion Hall.

For more visit:

www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com

Back Street Roars to Life continued from page 1.

Arriving customers crossed the newly refinished floor to new tables and chairs. Sparkling new lights illuminated fully populated booths.

A table opened, and Amanda wiped it clean as her fast-asleep baby lay snuggled to her chest. A perky hostess approached to seat a hungry couple. In addition to Friday's popular fish fry, the temporary menu offered an appealing array of items from build-your-own burgers to prime rib to marinated grilled chicken breast. Appetizers and a kids' menu? You bet.

"We have a great team." Jackie nodded and brushed a strand of hair off her cheek. "I worked all morning and afternoon, then went home to change and come back for tonight." As the restaurant filled, Scheller's contented smile more than offset the telltale dark shadows under her eyes. By 6:30 p.m., customer seating was spilling over into the adjacent private banquet/meeting room.

Valerie Erskine, a member of the all-new wait staff, was quick to bring menus and drinks (non-alcohol until the alcohol license comes through). When asked how her new job was coming along, she grinned. "It's only my second day on the job, but I had two weeks training and I waitressed before. We're all flowing together. New people. New everything."

Dessert? How about a slice of Jackie's homemade pumpkin pie or a brownie topped with ice cream and hot fudge? Erskine produced a hand-held computer that resembled an order pad, complete with a credit-card reader. "Care to pay at the table?" she asked. "You might also like to join our rewards program."

Even Back Street's phone number has changed. It's now 517-851-YUMM (9866). But rest assured, the business is still located at 114 N. Center Street in Stockbridge. For more information contact <https://www.backstreetrestaurantbar.com>.

Stockbridge Native to Manage All Three Franchise Locations after Leading Local McDonald's to Win Customer Satisfaction Award continued from page 1.

Shevrovich-Duncan started at the Stockbridge McDonald's as a manager trainee in 2004. From there, she worked her way up the ranks to location manager.

When asked what she attributes to her success, Kim's cheeks flushed. "Well," she paused to consider. "I try to encourage employees and support other managers and crew members. We focus on teamwork and customer-obsessed practices." She brightened at a memory, "My grandpa, Bob Wilson, came to see me at my first job. It was with a different chain in Jackson, and I told him I was embarrassed to have to wear a little hat and striped uniform."

"Are you doing the best you can do?" he asked me."

"I said, 'yes.'"

"Are you giving your job a hundred percent?"

"I told him yes."

"As long as you do the best you can do," he said, "and give your work a hundred percent, you'll always be a success."

A family of three, seated at a nearby booth, flagged Shevrovich-Duncan over to say hello. As the parents engage her in a friendly conversation, she leaned over to comb a blonde lock of hair out of the toddler's eyes. The contented moment passed like thousands of its kind, yet it transcended any method of measurement.

Gregory Community Church To Open Its Clothes Closet

by Nancy Helmick

Clothes Closet for Gregory Community Church for Tuesday, April 18th, 6 – 8 p.m.
All Sizes – All Free.

April Was Talk to Your Kids about Money Month

by Laurie Goodlock, Farmers State Bank

How soon is too soon to talk to your kids or grandkids about money?

If they are old enough to ask for a toy or a bike, they are old enough to start learning financial lessons that will last a lifetime. The best financial lessons come as part of everyday experiences. Look for opportunities to talk about money, read books aloud and play games that center around spending money wisely. Be open and honest when discussing financial experiences—good or bad.

Here are some examples of teachable moments:

At the bank: When going to the bank, bring your children with you and show them how transactions work. Ask the manager to explain how the bank operates, how money generates interest and how an ATM works. Request a tour—be sure to ask to see the vault.

On payday: Discuss how you budget to pay for housing, food and clothing, and how to save a portion for future expenses such as college tuition and retirement.

At the market: It's easy to give clear examples of "needs" and "wants" using different kinds of foods at a grocery store. Milk (for strong bones) is a need; soft drinks are a want. Explain the benefits of comparison shopping, coupons and store brands.

Chores and allowances: Assign chores and assign them a monetary value. Discuss ways to budget and divide allowances. Encourage children to set a financial goal, such as saving for a bike, and to figure out how to achieve it.

Paying bills: Explain the many ways that bills can be paid: over the phone, paper or by check, electronic check or online. Discuss how each method of bill pay takes money out of your account. Be sure to cover late penalties, emphasizing the importance of paying bills on time.

Using credit cards: Explain that credit cards are a loan and need to be repaid. Share how each month a credit card statement comes in the mail with a bill. Go over the features of different types of cards, such as ATM, debit and credit cards. Explain interest charges and other fees that go along with using credit cards.

Browsing the Internet: While online, explain to your children how valuable their personal information and privacy is to you, to them and to online predators. Discuss the risks and benefits of sharing certain information. Then, as a family, make a list of rules for keeping personal information safe online.

Planning a vacation: Whether you are planning an outing to a local amusement park or a once-in-a-lifetime trip, emphasize the value of saving as a family. Set a family savings goal that involves your children. Figure out the cost and discuss ways everyone can help to reach the goal.

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Where: Downtown Stockbridge

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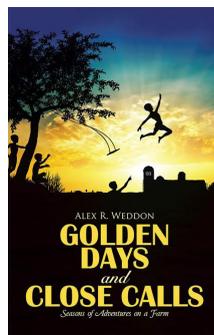
Unadilla Fire Dept. to Fundraise for 4th of July. Cruiser the Dalmation to Pose with Kids.

by Wendy Hause

On Saturday, May 20, 2017 from 9 a.m. through 1 p.m., the Gregory 4th of July Committee, and the Unadilla Firefighters' Association will hold a Can & Bottle Drive and car wash at the Unadilla Twp. Fire Dept. at 116 Main Street in Gregory. All proceeds will go toward funding the Annual Gregory 4th of July Celebration and the Unadilla Firefighters' Association.

Cans & bottles may be left at the station any time before (or after) this date. If no one is at the UFD station, please leave them at the side walk-through door. Anyone who would like cans or bottles picked up at home may call Assistant Fire Chief, Wendy Hause, at 313-617-4864 to arrange a pick up.

This same date and location, from 10 am through 1 pm, bring your kids to have their photo taken with Cruiser the dalmatian dog on the fire truck! A \$5.00 donation is suggested for the photo.



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, a division of Zondervan and Thomas Nelson publishing.

Open Air Market to Begin Its 7th Season

by Suzi Greenway

The Open Air Market of Stockbridge begins its 7th season Friday, May 5 from 4 to 7 p.m. on the Township Square. Regular vendors are returning with flowers, plants, vegetables and fruit, spring greens, honey, bread, baked goods, soap, candles, and artisan crafts. Plus, several new vendors will be joining this year, too.

Market Music line up for May, playing from 5:30 to 7 p.m., is as follows:

- 5/5: Greg Z
- 5/12: Josh Silas
- 5/19: Larry Guenther
- 5/26: Gary Allen

The Open Air Market's 3rd Annual Community Garage Sale will be held May 19 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join us as a vendor that day.

For more information or to become a vendor, call Suzi 517-851-7437. Meet us at the Market every Friday from May through October.

Ready? Be Fit 5K Fun Run to Be Held June 17

by Dr. Erin Clifton, Positively Chiropractic

Warmer weather is finally here! At Positively Chiropractic that means we have running on the brain. Well, maybe not so much running, but planning for our second annual Be Fit 5k Fun Run. A 5k translates into 3.1 miles. Last year, we had 124 participants walking, jogging, running and volunteering during our Be Fit 5k Fun Run, commencing on the Township Town Square. This year, June 17th at 8 a.m. we hope to have a minimum of 150 walkers and runners participating.

At Positively Wellness, we believe in encouraging health and wellness in our community. Exercise is a huge component of health. Just 20 minutes of exercise a day is all it takes to experience some amazing health benefits. Exercise has been shown to increase overall happiness levels, and memory retention. Exercise has been shown to decrease lifestyle diseases such as high cholesterol and heart disease.

Our Be Fit 5k Fun Run is an easy, flat course that winds through the streets of the village and along nature trails. If training for a 5k sounds daunting, I recommend a Couch to 5k program.

Laura Hejnal of Community Crossroads Church (851-7075) is hosting a Couch to 5k group. This free training group meets Tuesdays at 6:30 at Heritage Elementary. Don't worry if you miss the first couple of weeks, you'll be able to catch up in no time!

If you are looking for a healthy, fun event that is suitable for all ages, then hurry and reserve your spot! Right now you can save \$5 per entry. Early registration is \$15 through May 19th and can be found at www.positivelychiropractic.com.

STOCKBRIDGE ALUMNI 2017 BANQUET

All Alumni and their guests are invited



When: June 10, 2017, at 5:30 p.m.

Where: Heritage Elementary School

Cost: Tickets are \$16

The last day to purchase tickets is June 5.

Please mail reservations and make checks payable to Stockbridge Alumni Association, P.O. Box 503, Stockbridge, MI 49285.

Alumni Banquet Reservation Form

Name _____

SHS Year Graduated _____

Spouse _____

SHS Year Graduated _____

Address _____

For more information call Mary McArthur at 517-851-8563 or 517-851-8764 or Ruth Bessey at 517-851-8629.

Under the Sea



Photos and article by Roberta Ludtke

One would not expect to find a living coral reef tucked away in a biology classroom at Stockbridge High School, but find one you will. This reporter had the pleasure of interviewing high school biology teacher Jeff Trapp and student Crystal Gallup. Gallup takes turns with her student partner, Julia Olsen, caring for the coral reef.

When asked who came up with the idea of having living coral reef, Trapp shook his head and grinned. "Two years ago," he said, "I took my Advanced Placement Biology class on a trip to Key Largo, Florida, to spend time in a marine lab. There, among other things, my students learned about the plight of coral."

"Coral is dying in the ocean," Gallup chimed in. "It's due in part to the warming of the water."

The students also learned that coral is in danger because people harvest coral from the ocean to decorate their home aquariums. Four students, Amanda Page, Britt Hamilton, James White and Taylor Machete stepped into action, applying for and receiving a grant from the Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation. Their goal: to raise coral in the classroom to sell to individuals in the hope of protecting the already-fragile environment of coral in the ocean.

The four students did the research and purchased all the necessary items to establish a living coral reef. Then they were amazed when their corals arrived, each of five specimens barely the size of a fifty-cent piece. But with consistent care from Trapp and his students, the coral has thrived and grown exponentially. "One coral is so large that it's trying to get out of the tank," Gallup gestured toward a mounding reef.

So what have the students who are caring for the coral learned? Problem-solving skills comes as the answer. "The tank changes every day," Gallup explained. "Our current concern involves the levels of salinity." Gallup figured out the problem using a reverse osmosis machine, determined correct food amounts, and how to balance PH and protein levels for coral. The next and most pressing problem-solving will involve finding a way to move the fragile coral tanks, weighing 1,000 pounds each, to keep them safe this summer during school construction.

"Mr. Trapp is dedicated to this project as well," Gallup said. "He comes in at least three days a week during the summer and during breaks to maintain the coral."

Trapp and his students encourage members of the community to stop in and see the living coral reef in the classroom.

Village of Stockbridge Newsletter

The Village is hosting a Spring Cleaning weekend May 20-21st. Granger will be dropping off two 30-yard dumpsters at 305 W. Elizabeth St. (behind the old Middle School).

The dumpsters will be available for FREE from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

VILLAGE RESIDENTS ONLY

Household items may include couches, patio furniture, TVs, stoves, outdoor materials, etc.

We at the Village are excited to come together as a community to help keep our town beautiful!

Garden meters are available to purchase for \$95.00 at the Village Office.

For additional questions please contact the Village office at 517-851-7435.

We would like to thank Granger!

St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea Offers Free Yoga for Those Affected by Cancer

St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea, in partnership with the Cancer Support Community of Greater Ann Arbor, will host a professionally instructed weekly yoga class for individuals impacted by cancer. This class supports well-being and physical recovery through strength building yoga postures, gentle movement, breath awareness and relaxation. All patients, survivors, friends and family are welcome.

Date: Every Monday

Time: 6 – 7 p.m.

Location: Physical Therapy Gym inside St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea, 775 South Main Street in Chelsea.

Mats and other supplies will be provided and no previous yoga experience is required. Interested participants can request more information or ask questions by contacting Rosie Morrison at 734-975-2500.

Stockbridge Lions Club Held Its 20th Easter Egg Hunt



by Andrea Stickney

The Stockbridge Lions Club held its 20th annual Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 15th, with 112 children from the age of 2 months to 9 years eagerly participating.

At 80 degrees and sunny, it may turn out to be one of the most beautiful days of the entire year.

The Stockbridge Lions has been serving the community for over 65 years.

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Gee Farms: a Harvest of the Imagination

by Roberta Ludtke

In 1959, when teenager Gary Gee lugged a picnic table alongside Bunkerhill Road to sell melons, pumpkins, corn and other vegetables, he hardly imagined his entrepreneurial efforts would lead to a family enterprise with 23 greenhouses, 40 employees, and a thriving landscaping business. Today, the 525-acre Gee Farms sells exotic plants to collectors and tree brokers all across the country. Last year, the Best of Michigan website ranked Gee Farms #2 in the top 10 greenhouses and nurseries in Michigan.

"We have two different businesses operating at the farm," Gary explained, "the market and nursery, plus the irrigation and landscaping business." He, with wife Kaye hard at work at his side, self-describe Gee Farms as Michigan's largest retail nursery under one location.

"We specialize in rare and unusual conifers and deciduous trees and shrubs." Kaye smiles. "We cater to both the general public and the wholesale trade, and we believe our 17-acre garden makes us the largest walk-through retail nursery in the state."

Back in 1849, Alanzo Gee came to the Waterloo area. In four years, he managed to purchase the current farm. Originally Alanzo and son Moses raised Shropshire sheep and cattle. At the time of Gary's birth, the family had transitioned to dairy farming. Young Gary took an interest in growing vegetables, specifically melons, using black plastic mulch, and by the time he graduated Stockbridge High School in 1961, he was running the family farm. Concurrent to completing a two-year agriculture program at MSU in 1963, Gary built a permanent greenhouse and market stand, which was replaced in 2008.

In addition to selling vegetables in their market store, Gary entered a partnership with another local farmer, Jack O'Brien, to grow commercial vegetables. The partnership lasted for 50 years.

The Gees tackle annual projects to update the farm. Last year a new greenhouse was installed. Before that, Laura O'Brien's Sweets & Treats opened a world-class cake and pastry shop using the market kitchen. Most days, aromas of wedding cakes and cookies will set a visitor's mouth to watering.

Gary and Kaye's greatest accomplishment? "Easy answer." Gary was quick to reply. "It's having two of our daughters, Kary and Amanda, work daily at the farm, and our other two daughters, Lisa and Michelle, come back to help during May." Grandson Cody Gee will be the seventh generation to work the family farm business.

The Gees place great stock in community involvement. Not only is Kary a long-serving member of the Stockbridge School Board, but the family also donates to athletics and contributes untold hours of pro bono work for the school.

When asked to name his biggest challenge, Gary shakes his head. "It's difficult to find people who are willing to work," he said. "Labor on the farm is intensive, and hours may be erratic due to weather and when vegetables ripen."

Future plans? This year a new greenhouse is up and ready to go, and plans are in process to update the irrigation system to help conserve water.

Given Gee Farm's trajectory, one can only imagine what the future will bring.

Keepers of the Alumni Flame



(Left side of table) Doug Sommer, Terry Sommer, Judy Williams, Ruth Camp, Sid Smith, Ruth Bessey, Mary McArthur, (Rt side of table) Linda Stephens, Ellen Boring, Chita Kunzelman. Photo Credit Patrice Johnson



Pictured Left to Right: Sue Wagner, Ellen Boring, Linda Stephens. Photo Credit Patrice Johnson



Sid Smith, Ruth Bessey. Photo Credit Patrice Johnson

by Judy Williams

Believe it or not, the Stockbridge Alumni Association has been hosting alumni banquets for 121 years, and much of the credit for its continued success and traditions over the past three decades goes to two stalwart grads: Ruth McArthur Bessey, class of '54 and her sister Mary McArthur, class of '52.

Both Mary and Ruth have been involved with the alumni association, on and off, since they graduated, with more time on than off. Each year, Mary (ongoing treasurer of the Alumni Association) and sister Ruth help guide volunteers from the current 50-year class through the intricacies of hosting the annual class reunion and banquet. The Class of 1967 is responsible for hosting the 2017 event.

"Each year it's a new group of volunteers," Ruth explained with a shy smile. For the past three years, she and Mary have been training Chita Moeckel Kunzelman, class of '65, to help with planning.

At the most recent April 14th meeting in the fellowship hall of the Stockbridge Methodist Church, volunteers reiterated their astonishment at the enormous amount of planning involved.

"We are so thankful for the guidance of Ruth, Mary, and Chita," Sue Brown Wagner stated while examining the class list. "We should have started on this last year."

Terry Greenamyer Sommer, class of '68, chimed in saying, "My class already has a Facebook page."

Thanks to Facebook and other online programs, Linda Stephens and Sid Smith reported success in tracking down many classmates who had moved from the community.

Ruth Camp shook her head. "I can't believe it's been 50 years already." Doug Sommers, sitting off to the side, explained what family members still lived in the community and where they were located.

As the meeting drew to a close, Ellen O'Brien Boring rubbed her brow. "It's difficult to get anything accomplished," she chuckled, "when there are so many memories to discuss."

"Don't get me started," Sid threatened with a wry grin, "or I'll tell some of the stories I've been saving for the reunion."

This year's Stockbridge Alumni Banquet will be held at Heritage Elementary School on Saturday, June 10, 5:30. All Stockbridge High alums and their guests are welcome. With a cost of just \$16 per person, the event provides a wonderful way to enjoy a dinner out and to meet up with friends from the past.

St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea to Host Hungerwise to Improve Healthy Behaviors Involving Food and Exercise

St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea will host HungerWise, a nine-week group course intended to help people enter into a new relationship with food and their body, and with exercise and movement. Participants will learn all about what keeps them stuck in behaviors they don't like and develop the skills needed for lasting change.

Location: Manchester Wellness Center, 710 E. Main Street, Manchester, MI

Date: Wednesdays, May 3 – June 28

Time: 10:30 a.m. – Noon

The fee for the entire nine-week program is \$360. Pre-screening is required.

To register, please call 734-593-5280 or visit www.stjoeschelsea.org/BehavioralHealthServices



THANK YOU



Stockbridge Area Wellness coalition would like to thank the volunteers and supporters who made the trailside community park project possible

Village of Stockbridge – Council Members

Fred Cattell, Molly Howlett, Pat Harden, Tom Wallace

Lions Club Members

Bill Stickney, Bob Busby, Richard Mullins, Tom Clark

Community Members

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Supporters

5 Healthy Towns Foundation, Anonymous Donors, Department of Natural Resources, Stockbridge Township, Village of Stockbridge

Trailside Community Park is located at the Lakelands Trail Trailhead on South Center Street at Rice Street in Stockbridge

THREE SHS UNDERWATER ROBOTICS TEAMS TO COMPETE IN GREAT LAKES REGIONAL ROV COMPETITION

by **Bob Richards, SHS Business and Robotics Teacher**

On Saturday, April 22, 2017, Stockbridge High School will have three underwater robotics teams with a total of 21 students competing at the 2017 Great Lakes Regional ROV Competition in Alpena, Michigan.

The competition theme changes each year. This year's contest highlights the role of ROVs in securing the health and safety of today's seaports. It also encourages students to think about how this technology can help lay the groundwork for "port cities of the future." Like port managers, the students will operate their ROVs to tackle tasks that include finding cargo containers that fell over board, constructing an underwater tunnel, and cleaning up contaminated sediment. Instead of piloting their ROVs in sometimes confined and precarious actual port conditions, students will safely work in the Alpena County Plaza Pool. In addition to their ROV missions, students also must create and present a technical report as well as a poster or marketing display.

Through the MATE competition, students are tasked with creating mock companies, thinking like entrepreneurs, and working together to "manufacture, market, and sell" their products, i.e. their ROVs. This promotes entrepreneurship and leadership skills. The students also gain project management and communication skills, manage a project and budget, work as a team, brainstorm solutions, and deliver presentations, all necessary skills in their future careers.

Local marine technology professionals volunteer as judges for the competition, evaluating the students' ROVs, poster displays, and engineering presentations.

The Great Lakes Regional MATE ROV Competition is one of 30 regional contests held around the world and managed by the Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) Center. The winning teams will earn the opportunity to compete in MATE's 17th annual international ROV competition, which will be held June 23-25, 2017 at Long Beach City College in Long Beach, California, USA.

The public is invited to attend the competition and cheer for their local teams. There is no fee to attend. The Great Lakes Regional MATE ROV Competition will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on April 22 at the Alpena High School and Alpena County Plaza Pool at 3303 S. 3rd Ave, in Alpena, Michigan.

The 4,300 square-mile Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary works to protect the Great Lakes and their rich history. Lake Huron's cold, fresh water preserves nearly 200 historic shipwrecks in and around the sanctuary. Through research, education, and community involvement, the sanctuary and its partners ensure that future generations can enjoy Thunder Bay's irreplaceable underwater treasures.

The sanctuary's visitor center, the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, is free and open year round, and throughout the Great Lakes Regional MATE ROV Competition.

For more information, please contact Stephanie Gandulla at steph.gandulla@noaa.gov.

SCAM ALERT! BELOW IS INFORMATION ABOUT SCAMS TARGETING SENIOR CITIZENS FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON AGING:

by **Johnnie Torres, Jr., Chief of Police**

1. Medicare/health insurance scams
2. Counterfeit prescription drugs
3. Funeral & cemetery scams
4. Fraudulent anti-aging products
5. Telemarketing/phone scams
6. Internet fraud
7. Investment schemes
8. Homeowner/reverse mortgage scams
9. Sweepstakes & lottery scams
10. The grandparent scam

For more information on these scams visit the National Council on Aging at: www.ncoa.org.

Dandelion: Scourge or Blessing?

by Mike Sweet

It's springtime, and that means dandelions. But before we reload our arsenal of chemicals to wage battle against this prolific weed, perhaps we should stop to think, "Why are we at war?"

Dandelions, while not native to North America, accompanied the Pilgrims here on the Mayflower. They served as a food source and medicine for fighting infections, calming upset stomachs, and for curing a variety of ailments. Ancient Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, and Chinese have used the lions-tooth-shaped leaves medicinally for thousands of years.

As the dandelion migrated westward, Native Americans learned to use the herb in many of the same ways as the ancients did. The humble dandelion became so important to the Indians that they sung songs and told stories celebrating it.

So where did the worm turn against

the dandelion? During World War II, the government contracted companies and universities to produce chemical defoliants to better see the enemy and aid our troops in moving throughout Europe.

Afterward, companies had stocks of herbicides, and people wanted perfect lawns with as little work as possible. Add a dose of marketing, and the modern lawn was born.

But there are innocent casualties from this war with dandelions. In exterminating them, we have lost important biodiversity in our lawns. The chemicals impact human and animal health. Birds like goldfinches lose seed they need in their diet, and we deprive our pollinators of their first food after a hard winter.

A world without bees and other pollinators runs the risk of

sacrificing more than honey. Without them we can grow no fruits or flowers. The entire food chain would be disrupted.

Luckily, the world's universities and scientists are planting new safe zones, while not intended for the bees, all pollinators benefit. Fields of dandelions are showing promise as future cash crops for producing rubber, fuel, latex, and other items that modern society requires for survival. A cease-fire with dandelions will help in rural farm areas, but within individual support in cities and suburbs, the open warfare is likely to persist.

This season, as we prepare to wage battle against the dandelion, let us take a moment to think: Is this a weed, or is it a medicine and a food source, vital to pollinators and to ourselves?

A look back in time

by Diane Rockall

History is not just about what happened 1000 or 100 years ago. History is what has already occurred. Today, I would like to invite and encourage anyone who might be interested in sharing memories of community, village or area events from our past. The memory could be a happy, noteworthy, or sad event that affected you, your neighbors or your friends or all of these people. Please submit full articles, paragraphs or simply ideas to drockall@mac.com with Memories in the subject line. I will try to use them in future columns or as separate articles.

One hundred years ago this month in May 1917 an auto bus line was established between Stockbridge and Jackson with a stop in Munith. Three buses left Stockbridge daily. The round trip was a dollar, round trip to Munith was 25 cents and round trip from Munith to Jackson was 60 cents.

Also in May, 1917 W.G. Reeves opened a Service Station which included a showroom for Ford Automobiles and a "waiting room for lady patrons" in Stockbridge.

In the Stockbridge Brief Sun requirements for Select Service Draft were described. On the following week the paper indicated all male residents had to comply with the draft registration on June 5, 1917.

Continuing in May 1917 W. J. Dancer & Company ran a full page ad on page one for "new stock of fine muslin undergarments including corset covers, skirts, drawers, gowns, envelope chemises, and combinations."

Fifty years ago, 1967, the Fitchburg and Stockbridge Methodist Churches voted to merge. The Town Crier reported 12 new businesses constructed between 1960 and 1967. They were Bobs Ford, D & C Stores warehouse, Stockbridge State Bank, Stockbridge Manufacturing Co., Panther Queen Drive In, C. W. Glenn Co., Owens Apartments, D & D Lanes, Feldspausch Food, Stockbridge Car Wash, Rural Telephone, and Dr. Ernest Porzolt.

The Memorial Day ceremony honored 105 veterans buried in Stockbridge Oaklawn Cemetery from the Civil War, Spanish American War, World War I and World War II.

Twenty years ago plans were announced to build two new structures near the junction of M-106 and M-52, McDonald's and Chelsea Hospital Stockbridge Clinic. The Cash Crop farm owned by the Ackley family received Centennial farm designation. Rob Dancer, 101, received a 75-year pin recognition from the Masons. Worshipful Master Bill Reynolds and Masons Edward Weddon, Harvey Morrell, and Herb Simonds presented at his home. Fifty-year pins were presented to Wynn Boyce, Herb Simonds, Wayne Collier, Ted Fay, Clyde Robeson, Rial Francis Johnson, Harold Lantis, Larry Lindemer, Dave Collins and Thomas Taylor. David L. Cook got a 40-year pin. Twenty-five year awards were presented to Weddon, Floyd Ward, Gerald Munsell and Aaron Craft.

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