

Chief of Police Johnnie Torres, Jr. Signs Angel Program Memorandum of Understanding



Chief of Police Johnnie Torres, Jr. commits Stockbridge Village Police to following protocols of Michigan State Police Angel Program.

Photo and article by Patrice Johnson

Tuesday, August 8, Chief of Police Johnnie Torres, Jr. signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Michigan State Police (MSP), agreeing that the Stockbridge Village Police Department will follow Angel Program protocols. According to its brochure, the Angel Program “allows an individual struggling with drug addiction to walk into a Michigan State Police post during regular business hours and ask for assistance.” Now, the same opportunity applies to Stockbridge Village Police offices as well.

Through the Angel Program, drug addicts who seek help will be placed in a recovery program rather than face arrest and jail time. “Those afflicted with heroin and opioid addictions have to initiate,” Torres points out. “They have to come in or contact us.” The program’s protections do not extend to a person during a traffic stop or police search. Neither does the Angel Program wipe

away outstanding warrants. Wanted felons need not apply, but minor infractions may be set aside. Torres emphasized that laws are being created to protect those who call for help and reach out to the police.

Why the new approach? As the front line in the war against drugs, police forces around the nation are seeking to curb increasing demand, not just block supply. Statistics show the opioid crisis has resulted in more than 300,000 deadly opioid overdoses since 1999—roughly the population of Cincinnati. According to the National Institute of Drug Abuse, about half of those deaths stemmed from prescription opioids.

“A large percentage of folks who are addicted to opioids came by them legally,” Torres noted that a flood of legally prescribed opioids is emanating from southeast Michigan. “It’s become a public health crisis,” he said and added, “The opioid problem is here like in any community in the country.”

Statistics back him up. The CDC published data in 2012 that found there were more prescribed bottles of painkillers in some states than there were people. Unfortunately, Michigan is one of those states with 96 to 143 painkiller prescriptions for every 100 people, or about 1 : 1. Torres reported that, as of July 7, 2017, 100 confirmed overdoses occurred in the Tri-County area of Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton counties.

A CDC study found that the risk of addiction dramatically increases the longer one uses opioids. Also, the opioid’s painkilling effects lessen over time, prompting the user to take larger doses.

Story continued on page 3.

St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea Allocates \$42,500 in Donation Monies to Stockbridge Outreach and Schools



CHELSEA, Mich. – St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea has allocated nearly \$170,000 in donations for the 2017 fiscal year to support partner organizations in Chelsea, Dexter, Grass Lake, Manchester and Stockbridge. Hospital funds have been allocated to meet the basic needs of the community – including in areas such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, dental care, obesity-related illness, and access to mental health services.

“Our mission at the hospital is to be a compassionate and transforming healing presence within the community,” said Nancy Graebner, president and CEO of St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea. “The programs we have chosen to support this year will assist our partners as they continue their work to help improve the lives of individuals and families within our community.”

Programs supported by St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea donations include:

Stockbridge - Community Outreach, a local food pantry, clothing bank and crisis center, will receive \$35,000 to support and expand services.

story continued on page 10.

Digging into Stockbridge Township’s Medical Marijuana Survey Results and Other Questions

Presorted Standard U.S. Postage PAID Highland, MI Permit No. 26

by Patrice Johnson

Readers following Stockbridge township’s hotly discussed medical marijuana issue are no doubt aware of the often referenced survey in which 233, or 13 percent, of township parcel owners responded, 51% yes and 49% no (119 to 114) in favor of medical marijuana ordinances. However, what was not reported until now are the full survey results. When asked specifically which facility or facilities residents favored in their township. The answer appears to have been, “None.”

As the following results show, a minority of respondents favored locating any of the industry’s component parts within the township: Growers 45% favored, provisioning center 44%, transportation 43%, processing center 43%, and testing/safety compliance 42% (yes votes numbered 106, 102, 101, 100 and 99, respectively).

Parties on both sides of the issue rallied their supporters to attend the August 21 Stockbridge Township Board meeting as the board considered whether to conduct another medical marijuana survey. Why the interest, when on August 2 the Board had voted to table medical marijuana ordinances until the Michigan’s Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) adopted regulations? The answer was clear. Regulations could be handed down as early as November.

In a related matter, several residents have asked the Township Board to put medical marijuana questions up for public vote. However, legal guidance from the Michigan Township Association advises to the contrary. In MTA’s July 2017 edition of Michigan Township Focus magazine, Staff Attorney Catherine Mullhaupt posed questions and answers as follows:

“Q: Our board is facing a difficult and controversial decision. Can we put the question on a ballot for the voters to decide instead?”

No, a township board has no general authority to put questions on the ballot for the voters to decide unless a law specifically gives that authority. If a township board puts a question on
Story continued on page 3.



Sun Times News Passes Baton of Local Coverage to Stockbridge Community News

by Patrice Johnson

The year was 1883. A few months earlier, the Sioux Chief Sitting Bull had led the last of his fugitive people in surrender to United States troops at Fort Buford in Montana. In pursuit of his vision to commercialize electric lighting, Thomas Edison had founded a company that would someday give rise to an entire electrical power industry. And our community’s first newspaper, the Stockbridge Sentinel, rolled off the presses.



Fast forward through time and the paper transformed under new ownership and names that included the Stockbridge Sun, the Leader, Stockbridge Brief, Stockbridge Brief Sun, Town Crier, and more recently, the Sun Times News. Then last month, 134 years after its inception, the Sun Times News announced it will no longer cover Ingham County, or more specifically, the Stockbridge area.

“This is a bittersweet decision,” Owner Wendy Wood wrote in “A Letter from the Editor” in the August 2, Sun Times. “With our roots in Ingham County it was a difficult decision to let go.”

Story continued on page 5.

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Local Postal Customer

Stockbridge Community News
305 W Elizabeth Street
Stockbridge, MI 49285

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 nearly 8,000 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 12,000 viewers each month 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, Munith, Gregory and Fitchburg community through the collection and dissemination of local educational news and social-benefit information.

Our Board of Directors:

Name	Roles and Responsibilities
Patrice Johnson, President	Editor-in-Chief
Molly Howlett, Vice President	Local Government & Nonprofit Liaison. School News
Judy Williams, Treasurer	Chief Financial Officer
Bev Glynn, Secretary	Gregory & Unadilla News
Lorrie Brooks	Reporter
Roberta Ludtke	Sales and Public Relations
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CONTACT US:

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Website: www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com

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THANK YOU 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.

Platinum	\$5,000 to \$7,999
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DEATH NOTICES

Included below are the names of community residents who have recently died and of whom we have been notified. We plan to publish them in the printed monthly edition each month. The included names have all been listed on Stockbridge Community News website in the past month. If you wish to have a death notice included in a future edition please contact Stockbridge Community News. There is no charge for this public service. Full obituaries are also available for a fee.

- Charles R. Wilcox - Dansville - died July 21, 2017
- Therese A. Debottis, - Chelsea area - died July 21, 2017
- Robert C. Erhart - Stockbridge - died July 22, 2017
- Joshuaa Dragun - Gregory, died August 2, 2017
- David J. Dunlap - Stockbridge, died August 5, 2017
- Robert E. Lee - burial Stockbridge, died August 9, 2017
- Reta J. Teachout - Gregory, died August 12, 2017
- Hester Fillmore - Stockbridge, died August 14, 2017
- Frederick Hoppersberger - Gregory, died mid August, 2017.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sep. 1 - Open Air Market of Stockbridge 4 to 7 p.m. at the Stockbridge Town Hall

Sep. 5 - Stockbridge Village Council Meeting 7 to 9 p.m. 305 W. Elizabeth St, Room 112 of the Old Middle School Building.

Sep. 8 - Village of Stockbridge Harvest Festival at the Stockbridge Town Hall. See ad for more information

Sep. 8 - Open Air Market of Stockbridge 4 to 7 p.m. at the Stockbridge Town Hall

Sep. 9 - Village of Stockbridge Harvest Festival at the Stockbridge Town Hall. See ad for more information

Sep. 9 - Free Clothes Closet and Food Pantry 10 a.m. to noon at the Stockbridge Church of Christ

Sep. 15 - Open Air Market of Stockbridge 4 to 7 p.m. at the Stockbridge Town Hall

Sep. 17 - The Village of Stockbridge All Clubs Day 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Stockbridge Town Square

Sep. 18 - Stockbridge Township Board Meeting 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Stockbridge Town Hall

Sep. 22 - Open Air Market of Stockbridge 4 to 7 p.m. at the Stockbridge Town Hall

Sep. 29 - Legion Tractor Show 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. 830 S. Clinton St. Stockbridge, MI 49285

Sep. 29 - Open Air Market of Stockbridge 4 to 7 p.m. at the Stockbridge Town Hall

Sep. 30 - Legion Tractor Show 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. 830 S. Clinton St. Stockbridge, MI 49285

Community Calendar

www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com

Have an engagement, wedding or special anniversary to announce? Want to publish minutes to a meeting? A death in the family? Send us your announcement.

We'll post it at a reasonable rate on the website and publish it in our next print edition. Simply email stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com. Plus, public announcements and minutes will remain visible online for two full months, or until you replace them with new information.

Check out additional photos and up-to-the-minute news and information on our website

www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com

Stockbridge Wildlife Photos by Rose Collison



Yellow butterfly alights on a local echinacea blossom to savor a drink of nectar



Blue jay snags a peanut, and he is off



A bumblebee busy collecting his nectar

Correction

The photo to the right was captioned incorrectly in the August edition. The 4th of July picture of the 2 horses pulling the green Surrey in August's print edition is Doyle Valley Percherons, not Michael Fouts Gentle Reins Farm.



September
Turn the Towns **TEAL**

Ovarian Cancer Awareness

**LET'S GET READY TO
TEAL STOCKBRIDGE!**

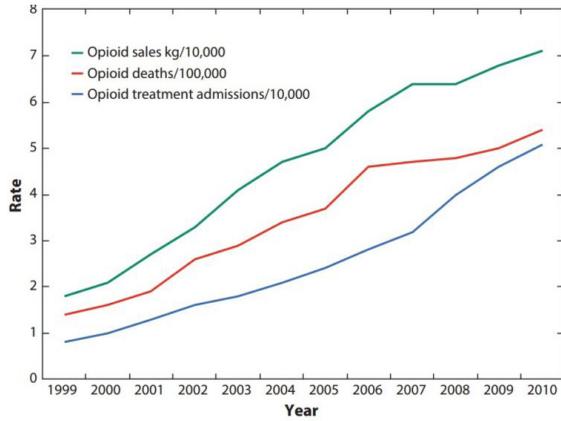
- Ribbons on display Sept. 1 to 30
- To participate contact Teresa Miller at tmiller@agiletmarketing.com or 734.845.2421
- Individuals may register at www.turnthetownsteal.org/get-involved

Share your photos at www.turnthetownsteal.org/photos

CRAVINGZ

Fresh Donuts Daily

Chief of Police Johnnie Torres, Jr. Signs Angel Program Memorandum of Understanding (continued from page 1)



As the front line in the war against drugs, police forces around the nation are seeking to curb an increasing demand, not just block supply. (Chart source vox.com, 8/10/2017)

human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis (especially Hepatitis C), sexually-transmitted infections, and other blood-borne diseases, mostly through the sharing of contaminated drug paraphernalia but also through the risky sexual behavior that drug abuse may engender.”

“If accepted into the MSP Angel Program,” the brochure reads, “the individual will be guided through a professional substance abuse assessment and intake process to ensure proper treatment placement. An Angel volunteer, who is a member of the local community, will be present to support the individual during the process, and to provide transportation to the identified treatment facility.”

Opiate overdose symptoms include altered consciousness, pinpoint pupils, and respiratory depression. This respiratory depression may lead to hypoxia and irreversible cell death. Without urgent treatment, patients may die.

Thankfully, each village patrol car is now equipped with two doses of Naloxone, an opiate antagonist that can reverse opiate overdose and improve respiratory function.

“I’ve watched one woman in this community waste away before my eyes because of her pain medication,” Torres said, frustration evident in his voice. “She’s a shell of what she used to be.”

Common opioids include Methadone, Oxycodone/OxyContin and hydrocodone. When doctors or pharmacies cut patients off, they sometimes turn to less expensive, loose quality heroin. For this reason, according to researchers at Columbia University, heroin use—once almost exclusive to urban areas—is spreading to small towns and suburbs. Its tentacles now reach “all measures for age, race, gender, education, income and marital status—especially among white, uneducated men.”

And the problem gets worse. The National Institute of Drug Abuse wrote, “In addition, the abuse of an opioid like heroin, which is typically injected intravenously, is also linked to the transmission of

Digging into Stockbridge Township’s Medical Marijuana Survey Results and Other Questions (continued from page 1)

a ballot, and no statute authorizes a township board to put such a question on the ballot, then it is an unlawful “advisory ballot.”

Later, Mullhaupt added, “It is a lawful expenditure of public money, however, for a township board to survey its residents, conduct public hearings or forums, or otherwise seek the input of residents, property owners, taxpayers and other stakeholders to assist the board in exercising its legislative authority and administering township programs and services.”

(For more of the MTA article, see “Legal Guidance to the Medical Marijuana Issue,” August 16, Stockbridgecommunitynews.com.)

“Q: May voters call for a referendum on local government actions?” Mullhaupt asked.

Her answer: “The public does have a right of referendum on a variety of questions regarding township government, but only where a statute expressly grants that right.... The applicable statute will specify the conditions that must be met for a particular type of referendum.”

A referendum, as defined on Google, is “a general vote by the electorate on a single political question that has been referred to them for a direct decision.” On page 11 under “Common actions subject to right of referendum in townships,” the MTA magazine itemized a litany of MCL codes that detail the public’s right to call for a referendum. Of the list of acceptable challenges, the excerpts below appear to indicate statutes that would support a public referendum, should citizens wish to oppose a board decision:

MCL	Action to:
25.139	Adopt a joint municipal planning ordinance. (Given that residents of the Village have expressed concerns that township medical marijuana ordinances could affect the Village.)
125.3402	Adopt a zoning ordinance
285.202	Promote the township’s agricultural interests through MSU Extension
436.2105	Permit sale of spirits and mixed drinks in unincorporated portions of township.

As one question is answered, others raise their heads, making one prospect a near certainty. Until this issue is resolved, the eyelid-drooping Township Board meetings of the past are likely to exist only as distant memories.

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Village of Stockbridge HARVEST MOON FESTIVAL

Sponsored by Stockbridge Downtown Development Authority

Pre-Glow Celebration

Friday ~ September 8 ~ 5pm to 11pm

Beer Tent at Veterans Memorial Park

Featured Band: *Shotguns & Violins* ~ 7 to 11



Main Festivities

Saturday ~ September 9 ~ 10am to 11pm

Kid's Area at Veterans Memorial Park ~ 10 to 5

Sponsored by Enbridge.....

Crafters on the Main ~ 10 to 7

Sponsored by Golling Chrysler Dodge Jeep

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Beer Tent at Veterans Memorial Park ~ 5 to 11

Featured Band: *Fools Fait* ~ 7 to 11



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For more information: visit www.vosmi.org

Sun Times News Passes Baton of Local Coverage to Stockbridge Community News (Continued from page 1.)

During an interview with Stockbridge Community News volunteers, petite and brunette Wood appeared to struggle with her emotions. "I was the holdout for the last six to eight months," she said. "Then when you guys [the non-profit, volunteer-run Stockbridge Community News] came along, I felt comfortable. I felt it's okay." She rubbed her arms. "See I get goose bumps because I know all of your names, because as I'm reading, I know all the directors and donors. These are all names who are familiar to me. They're people that I know love this community and care about it, and I feel the same way about Stockbridge."

Wood, who lived in Stockbridge for 21 years, raised two sons here. Her younger son, Eli, attended Stockbridge schools from pre-school through graduation. Wood recalled a popular lament with a grin. "They say at some point we all got big backyard decks and small front porches. Well, that's totally not true about Stockbridge. People know each other here. You know the parents and the kids."

Back in 1997, Wood began work with the Town Crier as a reporter. She performed in that capacity until 2008 when she and Bob Nester teamed together to take over the then insolvent paper. "I had never owned a business," Wood confessed. "I had always worked for other people."

About a year into their co-ownership, she and Nester hired three staff members, Melinda Baird, Lynne Beauchamp, and Dawn Miller who remain with the Sun Times News today. One staff member, sports writer Mike Williamson, is also a veteran of the Town Crier and has been there from the beginning and the one thing Wendy said she is most grateful for in this journey. "He is the best at what he does, he loves doing it and I love that we can share the history of this publication."

While trying to persuade Chelsea's Country Market to advertise with them, they were told the Stockbridge market was too small. In order for the Sun Times to survive, they decided, they had better expand the paper's range. "It was very intimidating to go into Chelsea," Wood admitted, "to not know anyone, to not be familiar with the schools. But we jumped in. It was Stockbridge native Clyde Whitaker, our first sales person on staff, who helped us move successfully into Chelsea."

The strategy proved so successful that Wood and Nester continued to enlarge the paper's coverage, soon serving Dexter, Saline and Manchester. Today, the Sun Times News is recognized as the largest weekly newspaper in Washtenaw County.

But in the highly competitive newsprint business, focus equates to survival, and expansion in one area required reduction in another. Plus, rising postage and print expenses kept pushing the Ingham County circulation into the red.

Wood reluctantly penned her final editorial to the area. "A young, up and coming publication," she wrote, "the 'Stockbridge Community News' is committed to providing news and information for that area. They are off to a great start and we support them in their journey. Print news is a tough business in the Internet age—but with good listening, strong decision making, and dedication it is a rewarding way to connect communities." Wood thanked "all who have continued to support us and the Sun Times News."

When asked what she most enjoyed about her years of living and working in Stockbridge, Wood was quick to reply. "I've always been struck by Stockbridge's sense of community. For Stockbridge being as small as it is, there are just so many groups that get together...the garden club, the Lions, and the Masons, the quilting clubs—I can't even think of all the groups that get together. But that, once again, highlights the tight-knit culture of Stockbridge." She went on to say that local residents tend to care a great deal about their community and may be counted on to express their minds, often airing unique perspectives. "There are a lot of interesting characters here." She smiled affectionately.

The board of directors of the Stockbridge Community News wishes to convey its appreciation to Wendy Wood and her staff for their numerous, long-standing contributions to the area.

With the Sun Times no longer covering Panther sports, the Stockbridge Community News would like to step into the breach. We are seeking to assemble a group of volunteers to sponsor a page of Panther sports. In addition to appearing in our monthly print edition, this information will be shared as it is gathered on our website and Facebook pages, which now provide news and information to more than 12,000 viewers per month. If interested, please email stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com.

Stockbridge Painted Rocks



Makenna, Kennedy, Brandy, & Antonio show off the painted rocks they found in the Cravingz's garden.

Photo and article by Lorrie Brooks

Stroll in downtown Stockbridge and you may notice some painted rocks hidden near windows and doors. This is all part of a new group that is making rock finding fun. The group, Stockbridge Rocks, started in July 2017 and was created by Kim Broesamle-Carpenter and her niece Ashley Colestock, both are SHS alumni, class of 2002. Colestock had been doing rock discovery and rock hiding in Jackson and wanted to bring the adventure to Stockbridge.

Colestock believes that everyone should have fun with their family and friends, and rock finding is a perfect activity for accomplishing that goal. "Rock finding has no certain age," she said. "We want everyone to get in on the fun. We even have

had elderly people participate in painting and finding them."

"My kids love it," Stephanie Hitchcock added. "They think it's like a little treasure hunt. They always get so excited when they find one. We get time to bond as a family."

Hitchcock's three children, Keaton 4, Zander 3, and Rayne one and half, have put out 30 rocks and kept six. Her husband is a paramedic in Detroit, and this allows the family to come together and explore beyond their own yard.

Cravingz, Adiska Dental, Positively Chiropractic, Gee Farms, Dollar General and Abbott & Fillmore have also joined in on the fun, offering prizes for special rocks found and treats to those who find the rocks. Some post pictures of the hiding spots, while others give clever clues, as in: "Find me at one of the 4 corners," or, "I'm at the best place to get fresh donuts, etc." The group's Facebook page, StockbridgeRocks, currently has 246 likes.



A rock hidden around town. Have you seen it?



Brooks added her own rock to the growing collection around town while writing this story. Be sure to tag @StockbridgeCommunityNews on Facebook when you find it! Photo credit Lorrie Brooks

Village of Stockbridge Meeting Minutes, July 21, 2017

Meeting called to order by President Hollenbeck at 3:49 pm.

Roll Call: PRESENT: President Robert Hollenbeck Trustee Patrick Harden Trustee Christina DuWig Trustee Carmelita Valdez-Weaks Trustee Richard Mullins Trustee Molly Howlett **ABSENT:** Trustee Frederick Cattell **Others Present:** Debbie Nogle, Village Clerk John Gormley, Village Attorney Police Chief Torres Citizens were also present

Pledge of Allegiance President Hollenbeck led the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Agenda MOTION by Howlett, SUPPORTED by Harden to approve the July 21, 2017 Special Agenda.

Motion carried unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comment.

Closed Session MOTION by Howlett, SUPPORTED by Harden, APPROVED to go into closed session to Rescind Purchase of Real Property at 3:50pm. Ayes:, Valdez-Weaks, DuWig, Mullins, Howlett, Harden, Hollenbeck

Nays: None Absent: F. Cattell MOTION PASSED MOTION by Mullins, SUPPORTED by, Duwig, APPROVED to close the closed session and open into regular meeting at 4:04pm. Motion carried with unanimous ayes.

MOTION by Duwig, SUPPORTED by, Mullins, APPROVED to rescind the Real Property Purchase as discussed in closed session.

Motion carried with unanimous ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT MOTION by Harden, SUPPORTED by Hollenbeck, APPROVED to adjourn the Council Meeting at 4:05pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Debbie Nogle,
Village Clerk

We are...

Raising community awareness!

Educating kids about making healthier choices!

Focused on the community, with youth-led prevention efforts aimed at 10-15 year olds.

Setting the stage for long-lasting positive change!

Always accepting new members and volunteers!

Creating opportunities for safe substance-free fun!

Open to anyone ages 10 and up!

Easy to join and hold monthly meetings.

Looking to grow the coalition!

Identifying and responding to emerging community needs.

Hoping to catch kids before they start using alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

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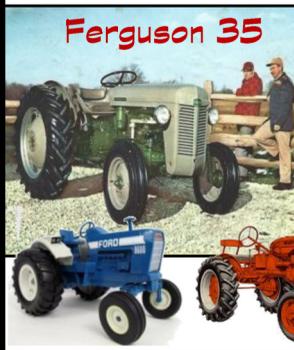
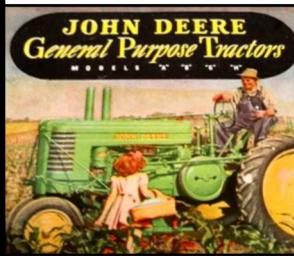
Sponsored by Sons of the American Legion Mackinder Glenn Post 510

September 29 & 30 ~ 8 am to Dusk ~ 830 S. Clinton, Stockbridge

Activities ~ Games ~ Daily Raffles

Fri. 6:30 pm: Mid-Michigan Pedal Pullers (registration 5:45 pm)

Sat. 12 noon: PARADE
1:00 pm: Webberville Garden Tractor Pullers (weigh in 10 am)



- ~ Free primitive camping on grounds. 
- ~ Flea market & craft vendors welcome.
- ~ On site food hosted by the auxiliary.
- ~ Local pickers & singers welcome.

For more information:

Tractors ~ Kim Smith (517) 851-7069
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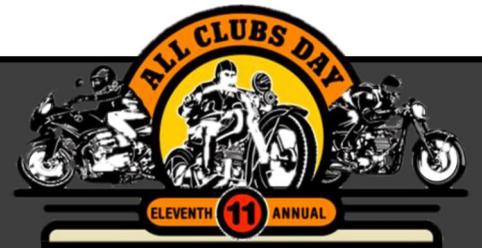


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It's been a pleasure working in the community & with the school this summer!

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All You Can Eat Country Breakfast



First Presbyterian Church downtown Stockbridge
Sunday ~ September 17, 2017 ~ 8 am to 12 noon

*homemade biscuits & gravy • eggs • French toast sticks
pancakes • hashbrowns • bacon • sausage patties*

\$8 Adults ~ \$5 Children 5-10 ~ Free Under 5

All proceeds support local missions & outreach programs.

The Village of Stockbridge ALL CLUBS DAY

"A Great Place To Ride To!"

Sunday, September 17th
12 Noon to 4 pm

Vintage, Classic
& Remarkable
Motorcycles!



SPECTATORS
WELCOME!

Breakfast 8 to 12
First Presbyterian Church
downtown Stockbridge

Pull Pork Lunch
Stockbridge Lions Club
behind Town Hall

Participation in the show by invitation only.

For more info contact Suzi: 517-851-7437.

Sponsored by Stockbridge Downtown Development Authority

Obituary

Hester C. Fillmore



Hester C. Fillmore, of Stockbridge, Michigan, age 85, passed away peacefully at home on Monday, August 14, 2017. She was born on February 29, 1932, in Stockbridge, MI, the daughter of Norman and Margaret (Lamb) Topping. Hester received her teaching certificate and then her Bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan University. She taught at the Bullis one-room schoolhouse and then in Stockbridge schools and was a former partner of the Abbott and Fillmore Agency in Stockbridge. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Stockbridge where she served as Deacon, Elder, Treasurer and taught Sunday school. She was also a member of the Stockbridge Area Garden Club, the Jackson Women's Association, and the Stockbridge Area Arts Council, where she also served as treasurer. Hester was a 4-H leader, teaching cooking and sewing. She enjoyed playing cards with her friends. Most of all, she loved her family including spending time with them, hearing about her children and grandchildren's activities wherever they were, playing with the grandkids and attending their sporting events.

On June 13, 1954, she married Ronald J. Fillmore, and he preceded her in death on October 13, 1998. Surviving are six children: Anne Fillmore of Montana, Jane Fillmore (Timothy Winger) of Wyoming, Sara (Stephen) Walding of Australia, Jonathon (Elizabeth) Fillmore of Stockbridge, David Fillmore (Shannon Russell) of California, and Joel (Kim) Fillmore of Stockbridge, 12 grandchildren, one great-grandson, and one brother-in-law, Elwin Breniser of Gregory. She was also preceded in death by her siblings J. Gordon Topping, Eleanor Breniser, and Douglas McKim and her sisters-in-law Arlene McKim and Joanne Topping.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, August 19, 2017, at the First Presbyterian Church of Stockbridge with Rev. Dr.

Deborah J. Smith officiating. Burial followed at Oaklawn Cemetery, Stockbridge. The family received friends at the Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home, Stockbridge, on Friday afternoon and evening, and at the church on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the First Presbyterian Church of Stockbridge or the Stockbridge Area Garden Club.

Richard and Sally Long Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary

On June 10, in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary, Richard and Sally Long renewed their vows of marriage at Stockbridge United Methodist Church. They were married June 10, 1967 in Columbus, Ohio, at St. John's Episcopal Church.

Officiating at the renewal were Hillary Moscato and Robert Henning. A reception was held where a large number of participants of the original ceremony were among the eighty guests attending the renewal ceremony.



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ENBRIDGE is proud to be the main sponsor of the Children's Activities at the Village of Stockbridge Harvest Festival, September 8 - 9.



Antique Tractors at the Farm



Hit and miss engines, Antique John Deere Tractor, and 1926 Graham Brothers milk truck owned by Kegan Ousley.

and tractor clubs, such as the Jackson Area Tractor Club, and the All Color Club from Williamston and Lansing brought their treasures.

Part of the festivities included “tractor games.” These included Ball Drop, Giant Hoop, and Golfball in a Spoon. Board member Bob Richmond provided wagon rides to visitors who were also able to tour the farm grounds, Realy Home, log cabin and other out buildings. They also viewed the many tractors, numerous hit and miss engines, and old trucks.

The Waterloo Farm Museum is open on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Many school groups visit during the spring and fall, and Christmas on the Farm is always held during the first weekend in December. September 16 is Jackson County Museum Day. All county museums, including the farm, will be open at no charge from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Tractor Event is just one of the many events hosted by the Waterloo Farm Museum. Please visit www.waterloofarmmuseum.com to view all events.



1928 Rumley Oil Pull. Owned by Heather and Mike Douglass.



1940 Farmall owned by Ruhl Bunker.

Photos and article by Dennis Petsch

The Waterloo Farm Museum hosted its 11th annual Antique Tractor Festival on August 12 and 13. Since its inception, there has been a large growth in participants.

According to Ron Kaiser, member of the Farm Museum Board since 2002, due to growth and popular interest, the event was created in order to separate the tractors from the museum’s annual Pioneer Day held on the second Sunday in October. Pioneer Day will be October 8 from 12 until 5.

Over 41 tractors came to the farm. Many local farmers, collectors

Turn the Towns Teal to Raise Awareness for Ovarian Cancer

by Lorrie Brooks

This September, downtown Stockbridge will turn teal with ribbons as part of a nationwide Turn the Towns Teal event to raise awareness of ovarian cancer. Teresa Miller, owner of Agile T Marketing, is serving as the local organizer.

Miller, who lost a friend to ovarian cancer, said, “If even one woman identifies the symptoms and seeks treatment that prolongs her life, then we will have made an impact.”

Miller’s college friend, a nurse, suspected she might have the disease after reading information during Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. She sought treatment that prolonged her life and enabled her to spend more time with her family, though she eventually lost her battle.

“This is a double win,” Jon Fillmore of Abbott & Fillmore Insurance Agency said. “Not only will Turn the Towns Teal help bring awareness to ovarian cancer, it also shows a positive thing in our community to enhance Stockbridge’s image.”

The deadline to obtain ribbons for the downtown area is August

20, and the ribbons will be up throughout September, which is also Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. Those downtown may pick up ribbons at Agile T Marketing, 134 E Main St. Others may secure ribbons and other awareness products such as hats, signs, informational cards etc. at the official website <http://www.turnthetownteal.org>.

A ribbon will be sent to your home to be put out to share in raising awareness, once you register your home address on the site. This is the 11th year for this event, and there are participating towns in all 50 states as well as Canada and Bermuda. The organization is also hosting a photo contest in a show of support of this cause. Deadline for photo submissions is Sept 15.

“I’ve had a business in Stockbridge for the last two years,” Miller who now lives in the Stockbridge area said. “Even though I grew up and went to school in Chelsea, my family lived out this way and we would often shop in Stockbridge.”

Anyone with questions, or willing to become involved with this event is invited to call Miller at 734-845-2421.

Jenny’s First Ride: A Match Made in Hell

by Tina Cole-Mullins

Approximately 36 Harley-Davidson motorcycles roared to life Sunday, July 23 at the Back Street Bar & Family Restaurant when local riders and riders from as far as Grand Rapids, Flint and Monroe gathered to celebrate “Jenny’s 1st Ride.” All told, more than 50 supporters convened to make an amazing day and build memories for Jenny Akers and her family.

Jenny’s excitement and her fondness for organizers Mike and Cheryl Norton were evident, and this reporter was fortunate to witness the events that first sparked the friendship and set the wheels in motion that led to this event. About a year ago, Jenny was celebrating her 35th birthday at the annual Hearsefest in Hell. Mike noticed Jenny having her face painted and, unaware that the day was her birthday, offered to pick up the tab. A couple days later, Mike connected with Jenny through her mother, Michelle Price, on social media.

Around the same time, Cheryl joined a Facebook group in which Christmas cards were being requested in a “Wishes For David” campaign. Cheryl shared the link with her “We Ride Michigan” page and generated over 500 get-well cards for the ill foster child. Cheryl learned that the page was Jenny’s mother’s and that David was fostered at Jenny’s home just down the road. The couple began to visit, most often on their bikes.

At Christmas the Norton’s played Santa and delivered gifts for both David and Jenny on their bikes. The two received vests donated by Shardan’s



Jenny Akers pictured with friend Mike Norton.

Leather with additional patches sewn by Livingston Leather Shop in Fowlerville. When Mike let Jenny sit on the bike, she asked if she could go for a ride some time. He promised to make it happen, and on July 23, 2017, Mike made good on that promise with the Jenny’s 1st Ride event.

As luck would have it, DJ and Amanda Scheller of the Back Street Bar & Family Restaurant also belong to We Ride Michigan. They told owner Jackie Scheller, and she offered the facility as the meeting point. Jackie and her staff went the extra mile to bake a cake for Jenny to share upon her return from Hell. After all where else would the ride go but to where the friendship began?

“It’s a match made in hell.” Cheryl grinned.

Jenny hopes to attend future bike nights because “I’m an official biker now.”

In addition to pointing out the serendipity of events, Michelle and Brian Price along with their family cite Jenny’s 1st Ride as yet another example of the generous souls who populate the Stockbridge Community.

Village of Stockbridge Meeting Minutes, July 10

Meeting called to order by President Hollenbeck at 7:00 pm.

Roll Call: PRESENT: President Robert Hollenbeck Trustee Frederick Cattell Trustee Patrick Harden Trustee Christina DuWig Trustee Carmelita Valdez-Weaks Trustee Richard Mullins Trustee Molly Howlett **ABSENT:** None

Others Present: Debbie Nogle, Village Clerk John Gormley, Village Attorney Police Chief John Torres Citizens were also present

Pledge of Allegiance President Hollenbeck led the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Agenda MOTION by Howlett, SUPPORTED by F. Cattell to approve the July 10, 2017 agenda as amended; Add: 4.b Personnel Report, 4.c Minutes 4.d Review of Purchasing Policy 4.e Mowing Contract, Closed Session to Discuss Real Property

Approval of Minutes MOTION by Mullins, SUPPORTED by Harden to approve the minutes of June 5, 2017 as presented. Motion carried with unanimous ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comment.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Accounts Payable MOTION by Howlett SUPPORTED by F. Cattell to approve the accounts payable as presented by Clerk Nogle in the amount of \$48,190.58. AYES: F. Cattell, Mullins, Harden, DuWig, Valdez-Weaks, Howlett, Hollenbeck NAYS: None ABSENT: None MOTION PASSED

OLD BUSINESS

Treasurer Position F. Cattell recommended the hiring of Scott Lucas for the treasurer position. Hollenbeck would like to see the position more administrative. Gormley advised the council that only the President of the Council can appoint a treasurer. Hollenbeck will meet with the Personnel Committee to discuss changing the position of the treasurer duties.

Minutes Posting Cattell discussed the posting of minutes and wanted clarity. The minutes are posted in the Stockbridge Community News. If the village has a website then they must be posted on the website.

Mowing Contract Howlett discussed that all contracts must be brought before council before being accepted and approved by the President. Howlett wanted the council to be aware of the situation. MOTION by Mullins, SUPPORTED by Harden, APPROVED; to pay the mowing from Checkered Lawn Care through August of 2017, so that the Village President can collect data. Ayes: Howlett, Cattell, Mullins, Harden, Valdez-Weaks, DuWig, Hollenbeck Nays: None Absent: None MOTION PASSED

Purchasing Policy Howlett requested that the council read the Purchasing Policy.

Public Comment Dan Cabage updated the council on the SAW Grant progress.

Council Member Comments Howlett thanked Granger for the dumpsters because it cleaned up some of the blight in Stockbridge and was well worth it. Mullins reported that the DNR installed a bench at park.

Attorney Comments None

Closed Session MOTION by Howlett, SUPPORTED by Harden, APPROVED to go into closed session to discuss Purchase of Real Property at 8:04pm. Ayes: Harden, Cattell, Mullins, Howlett, DuWig, Valdez-Weaks, Hollenbeck Nays: None Absent: None MOTION PASSED MOTION by Howlett, SUPPORTED by, F. Cattell, APPROVED to close the closed session and open into regular meeting at 9:52pm. Motion carried with unanimous ayes.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION by Harden, SUPPORTED by F. Cattell, APPROVED to adjourn the Council Meeting at 9:52pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Debbie Nogle,
Village Clerk

Hickory Ridge Farm: Generations of Reinvention and Adaptability

by Judy Williams



Ben, Gary and Sam Topping

Farmer Gary Topping stood surrounded by wife Linda, two of their sons Ben and Sam, daughter-in-law Jordyn, and a host of clean-faced grandchildren. "Farming is a family affair," he chuckled. Then Ben and Sam piped in to explain that—even though their mother, Linda, and their wives, Jordyn and Mary, have jobs outside of the farm—they pitch in to help with numerous chores.

Gary's grandfather, Norm, had owned and operated the Plainfield, Michigan general store and post office, currently the Humrich family-owned tractor implement store for four generations.

But Norm's dream was to become a farmer. In 1928 when the opportunity arose to purchase Frank and Luke Ives' 310-acre farm for \$28,000, he borrowed the money and established the Topping Farm. Norm named his endeavor "Hickory Ridge" for the abundant shagbark hickory trees towering on the crest of its hills. This single transaction launched what is now the ninth generation of farm operations.

In order to make the renovations necessary to build his dream farm, Norm took out a second mortgage. Then the Great Depression hit, and his dream almost came crashing down. In 1938, nearing the end of the depression, he began to sell milk in gallon bottles with cardboard tops, and the business thrived. Son Gordon became a partner in the late 1940s, and until September 1979 their milk truck deliveries were much-anticipated occasions in homes and businesses throughout the Gregory, Pinckney, Stockbridge, Munith, and Chelsea areas.

During 1979, Gary purchased his grandfather's personal farm property and partnered with his father. Four years later, Purina invited the farm to become a dealer for their products. Gary and Gordon declined at first. Then, taking into account that their farm was one of Purina's biggest customers in the area, the two men reconsidered, and their farm operations evolved again.

The farm continued its crop and dairy operations until 2009 when the business sold all of its dairy cattle. After Gordon's death in August 2002, Gary, Ben, and Sam became equal partners. Gary and Linda's eldest son, Brian, chose a career in teaching. The Hickory Ridge Farm currently owns 370 acres and farms over 1,550 acres. They are raising 60 steers for freezer beef, 750 acres of corn, 500 acres of soybeans, 150 of hay, and 150 acres of wheat and sweet corn.

The success of the current model speaks for itself. On March 7, 2017, the Stockbridge Community News reported that the philanthropic Monsanto Fund had recognized Hickory Ridge Farms with an America's Farmers Grow Communities award. 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. The Topping partners donated the \$2,500 in awarded monies to the Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation. (See <http://stockbridgecommunitynews.com/garry-toppings-receives-an-americas-farmers-grow-communities-donation/>.)

Girls Varsity Golf Delivers Solid Performance in Tournament

by Hope Salyer



Victoria Rattai, Stockbridge High School Senior. Photo credit Bonnie Rattai.

The Stockbridge High School Girl's Varsity Golf team played in a tournament on August 16 at Hankerd Hills. The team competed against 12 teams: Lumen Christi, East Lansing, Napoleon, Northwest, Charlotte, Concord, Western, Columbia, Lansing Catholic, Lakewood, Hanover Horton and Jackson.

Stockbridge, who has four returning seniors: Alexis Hansen, Victoria Rattai, Shannon Smith and Mackenzie Williams, placed 9th in the tournament.

The girls' scores were as follows, Williams, 96; Rattai, 120; Smith, 131; and Hansen 126.

The team also played in a tournament on August 18 at Arbor Hills. Scores for the tournament were as follows: Hansen, 107; Rattai, 115; and Smith, 116. Stockbridge was among three teams who didn't place due to only having three players.

The team played against 13 teams: Lumen Christi, East Jackson, Charlotte, Columbia, Northwest, Western, Okemos, Adrian, Concord, Coldwater, Tecumseh, Three Rives and Hanover Horten.

The team is coached by Bruce Hansen and Lyn St. Dennis.

Letter to the Editor: Ingham County Fair

Dear Editor:

I've looked forward, all year long, to the opening of Ingham County Fair in Mason. I have most of my life. I went to the fair last night. I felt overwhelmed with sadness. The fair was a skeleton of what it once was. Very few animals. (Swine won't be there until Tuesday and just for a couple of days.) Very few exhibits. Anyone who participates in 4-H that bothers to display and their crafts simply receives a ribbon as an incentive, no monetary incentive as in the past. Why waste their time and fuel to even enter?

No grandstand, no dormitory, no atmosphere of excitement. No laughter or mischief. Zero fun. Festivities—all gone.

Some of my best memories were formed at that fairground.

Sarah Salow, Rachele, Nancy & John Allen, Mark Winnie, Jason Allen, Pollocks, Marshs, Taylors, Fletchers, Jasons, Beals, McGees, Zeitzs, us Heeneys: the list is endless.

Happy Hustlers 4-H group still exists. I wish these kids could feel and see the way it used to be, and still should be. So disheartening. 4-H booth GONE. That was most of us first job. We worked there fixing and serving food and drinks for customers. Our pay was experience and half-priced food.

Many "first loves" were discovered at that fair. Theresa and Russ married and have been together thirty-seven years.

So much good happened at that fair. Responsibility, core moral and value systems formulated, integrity, servitude, honesty, sportsmanship, self-efficacy, self-confidence. All such admirable traits that came about so naturally and with such ease.

I'm fifty-three, and I've gone to that fair my entire life. Nancy Allen, Sarah Salow and I even were kicked out of that fair, sale night, thirty some years ago. (Okay, so maybe not all the memories were the best....)

Ingham County fair has been in existence over one hundred and sixty years. The way I see it, if things at our fair don't change soon, future fairs look sadly, incredibly bleak...

With Sincerity,
Barbara (Heeney) Webb
Stockbridge, MI 49285

Plainfield United Methodist Welcomes New Pastor, Mark Huff



The Livingston Circuit Plainfield and Trinity United Methodist Churches on July 2 welcomed new Pastor Mark Huff, who follows retiring Pastor Dave Freeland.

Photo and article by Susan Parcheta
The Livingston Circuit Plainfield and Trinity United Methodist Churches on July 2 welcomed new Pastor Mark Huff, who follows retiring Pastor Dave Freeland. Pastor Huff, wife Aurora, and sons, Lukas (6) and Johnathan (3), come from the Thomas UMC. Pastor Huff served the Thomas church – his first church – for the past year. Pastor Freeland now resides in Millington, MI.

Huff says that most of his life, everyone predicted he'd become a pastor, but he didn't think so. Four colleges, three majors and ten years later, he came around to the idea of serving in ministry. He is a graduate of Pontiac Northern High School, where he also taught history and political science, and coached football and baseball. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Social

Science from Eastern Michigan University and for several years worked in management for Walgreens.

Pastor Huff enjoys relaying the story of his life's twists and turns to the ministry. He is excited about serving the two churches of the Livingston Circuit—focusing on embracing the opportunities and possibilities this ministry will bring.

Plainfield UMC, with Sunday service 11:15 a.m., is located at 17845 M-36, north of Gregory. Trinity UMC is at the corner of Bull Run and Iosco Roads in Iosco Township: Sunday service 9:30 a.m. Circuit office phone: 517-223-9601.

St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea Allocates \$42,500 in Donation Monies to Stockbridge Outreach and Schools (Continued from page 1.)

Manchester - Manchester Community Schools will receive \$7,500 to increase access to physical and mental health programs for students and staff.

Grass Lake - Copper Nail, a community non-profit resale shop, will receive \$8,100 to support programs for the poor and underserved, which will include increased support for the food bank and non-food items for families in need. The Grass Lake Senior Center will receive \$5,000 to expand services for seniors.

Chelsea - Faith in Action will receive \$17,000 to help with affordable housing. The St. Louis Center will receive \$15,000 to support wellness programs, transportation services and additional staffing needs. The Washtenaw Area Value Express (WAVE) bus has expanded the free community ride shuttle to include an additional stop at the Washington St. Education Center, where the Chelsea Senior Center, Intergenerational Garden and preschools are located. The Chelsea Senior Center will receive \$15,000 to support wellness programs and activities.

Dexter - The Dexter Senior Center will receive \$4,500 to support transportation services for seniors.

In addition to Manchester Community Schools, \$7,500 will be donated to each of the following school districts: Chelsea, Dexter, Grass Lake and Stockbridge. Funds will be used to purchase bikes and playground equipment and will help support mentoring initiatives, mental and physical health programs, food assistance programs and additional staff training.

St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea's Community Health Improvement Council, made up of hospital board members, physicians, leaders and colleagues, distributed funds across partner organizations based on each community's poverty level and each organization's priorities for services. All donated funds will help address an issue related to a priority need identified in the hospital's most recent Community



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Progress Continues at New Stockbridge Junior/Senior High School



Aladdin Electric electricians John Salyer II, right, and Josh Tennant, left, work pull wire at the new Junior/Senior High School. Photo credit Hope Salyer.



New secretary Courtney Fletcher and guidance counselor Leslie Cummings work together to settle into the new Junior/Senior High School office. Photo credit Hope Salyer.

Governor Rick Snyder Signs Legislation Allowing Charitable Contributions to be Collected on Public Streets and Roadways

by Patrice Johnson

If you've noticed a dearth of firefighters, American Legion veterans, Lions Club members and other volunteers collecting for charitable organizations on the main intersections of town, it's because they were prohibited by law. No more. Thursday, July 27, Governor Rick Snyder signed legislation allowing for charitable contributions to once again collect donations on public streets and roadways.

"Our state's non-profit and charitable organizations do important work on behalf of Michiganders, and this law authorizes them to continue collecting the contributions that allow them to operate," Snyder said.

House Bill 4160, sponsored by state Rep. Shane Hernandez, allows an individual to solicit contributions on behalf of a charitable or civic organization during daylight hours on a public street or roadway, under certain conditions. The individual collecting donations must be at least 18 years old and wear highly-visible safety apparel. It is now Public Act 112 of 2017.

For more information on this and other legislation, visit www.legislature.mi.gov.

Twenty-Third Annual Stockbridge Athletic Golf Scramble

Article by Jessica Martell

On Friday, July 28th the 23rd Annual Stockbridge Athletic Golf Scramble was held at Hankerd Hills Golf Course in Pleasant Lake.

This year's event, organized by Stockbridge coaches Jeremy Killinger, Darren Hejnal, Steve Allison and Jeff Trapp hosted 33 teams made up of 132 golfers. Teams competed in 5 divisions with three places per division. The event also offered participants the opportunity to win prizes in several other games and drawings. Because there were so many opportunities to walk away with a prize, the day was a fun and exciting one for the participating golfers.

On several holes, golfers were greeted by enthusiastic Stockbridge athletes who worked this event that raised between \$5,000 and \$6,000 for the benefit of Stockbridge athletics.

This year, the founding fathers of the Stockbridge Athletic Golf Scramble, Jim Brown and Jim Lister, were in attendance. Jim and Anita Lister, former Stockbridge coaches and teachers, traveled all the way from Tennessee to participate in the event. They joined locals Jim and Carol Brown on a winning team.

The Stockbridge Athletic Golf Scramble is held annually at Hankerd Hills Golf Course the last Friday in July. Next year, the scramble will be held on Friday, July 27, 2018—the coaches and athletes hope to see you there!

Results of the competition provided by Darren Hejnal and photos by Jeremy Killinger. (Names are not in order.)

Full list of results and photos available on the Stockbridge Community News website: www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com



Men's First Division
Winners, L to R: Jeff Daily, Mike Daily, Jeff Brown, Rudy Wengorvius.



Women's Division
SSRJ, L to R: Sara Dancer, Sarah McAllister, Rachel Jones, Jamie Knoll.

North Star Reach Camp Touches Lives and Hearts



Campers and counselors happily impersonate North Star Reach's mascot, the moose.

Photos and article by Nancy Wisman and Patrice Johnson

Follow Gregory's Doyle Road and turn south onto University Camp Drive and you will come to a lake-cradled peninsula. Here, children's laughter resonates up a grassy slope from Patterson Lake. Evenings, youthful voices may be heard singing songs around flickering campfires, and in the dark of night, whispers and giggles emanate from cabin bunk beds. A children's summer camp? Yes, but North Star Reach Camp is a horse of a different color.

Ordinarily, chronic or life-threatening diseases preclude children from the camp experience. Now, thanks to the vision and elbow grease of a male nurse in the University of Michigan Health System (UMHS) and an army of supporters, the camp is completing its second season of hosting more than a hundred health-challenged youngsters each week. At North Star Reach Camp, children cast off the weight of their illnesses as they paddle canoes along solitary lakeshores and sit cross-legged on rough-cut floorboards of a lofty treehouse.

"Usually, special-needs children feel isolated," founding nurse and now CEO Doug Armstrong explained. "Every other day of their lives these kids are the odd man out. Here they're not alone. They have the freedom to just be kids." While giving a tour of the high-ceilinged dining hall with its massive stone fireplace, he pointed to rows of tables and chairs. "The pills are administered at dinner," he said. "We try to normalize the process and remove the stigma these kids often experience."

During 2007, Armstrong was devoting his summer, as usual, to setting up and tearing down one-week camps, so children with organ transplants could enjoy an outdoor experience. Meanwhile, the University of Michigan's 105-acre Camp Fresh Air had fallen into disrepair since its inception in the 1920s. Armstrong collaborated with supporters and convinced the U-M to lease the land for \$1 a year to his newly founded North Star Reach.

After nine years of fund-raising, renovations, and construction, the camp was reborn in 2016 as a member of Paul Newman's SeriousFun Children's Network. The first of its kind in the Great Lakes Region, North Star Reach Camp can accommodate up to 144 kids per week. None are charged to attend, and whole families may participate. According to its materials, the 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization operates on a \$3.1 million budget "underwritten by gifts from individual, corporate partners and foundations."

Facilities include a program office, dining hall, 24/7 state-of-the-art health center, nature center, sports and activities center, amphitheater, boathouse, swimming pool, and even a wilderness outpost. A counselor and a nurse man each cabin, which holds up to 12 campers. This year, an 1800-square-foot treehouse with a deck and handicap access ramp was built mostly with funds from U-M's annual Dance Marathon.

"We create a safe place for the campers to express themselves," Ami Walsh, camp counselor turned Communications Director said. She described a ladder climbing activity in which campers cheer each rung that a fellow camper ascends. "The kids celebrate each other's accomplishments," she said.

When asked if this camp is the highlight of some of the children's lives, Armstrong was quick to reply. "Yes, but it's also a highlight for the volunteers." And non-paid counselors, doctors and nurses are plentiful, outnumbering the camp's 15-member staff nearly two to one. Walsh glowed with affection for the students and staff. "We help," she said, "but so much they learn from each other. They're not alone here."

"All these kids know what it's like to have limitations. They jump at the chance to support others," Armstrong added.

Along a handicap access trail, an Olympic-sized pool splashed with enthusiastic swimmers. "It's heated to 90 degrees today," Ami explained, "because this week we have sickle cell campers, and they can suffer negative effects from cold." A rainy-day-activity building, sponsored by Delta Airlines, featured a gymnasium, craft tables and an oversized tent. "The kids appreciate that Jimmy Fallon raises money for them." Walsh gestured toward an area resembling a television production set. "They honor him by writing and performing their own Tonight Show episodes."

Two smiling adults in a golf cart waved these reporters over for a golf cart ride up a hill to the cabins. After a series of neck-wrenching accelerations and jaw-gritting stops, the apologetic driver shared that he was a University of Chicago doctor who specialized in sickle cell anemia. "I've never driven a golf cart before I was trained here at camp," he confessed, "but I guess that's obvious."

While the physician's driving served as a reminder of lead-footed reality, everything else about North Star Reach Camp exuded with the childlike innocence of Oz.

North Star Reach camp is located at 1200 University Camp Drive, Pinckney, MI 48169. For more information contact ami@northstarreach.org or doug@northstarreach.org.

Ted Watters & Sons: A Heritage of Hard Work, Family and Achievement



Ted Watters, founder of Watters & Sons

Photos and Article by Roberta Ludtke

In 1962, Ted Watters bought the 80 acre Eder Dairy Farm on M-36. For most people, dairy farming would be a full time job, but this was not the case for Ted. He worked long hours delivering cement for Redi-Mix out of Ann Arbor, and then came home to work the farm. As a testament to his work ethic, this double-duty went on for 12 years before he took up farming as a full time profession.

Ted was not alone in his efforts on the farm. He had help from his two sons, Mick and Jimmy. After graduating high school in the 1970s, both young men joined their father in raising pigs and steers. In time, they narrowed their focus to growing corn, beans, and wheat.

To help keep the farm going through lean times and bad weather during the 1970s, Ted launched an excavating company. What started with one dump truck now has five, plus multiple semi trucks. Ted found a niche in preparing oil fields for drilling. Today, the excavating is primarily commercial and residential.

In 2012 Mick and Jimmy took over ownership of the farm and the excavating business. With the help of office manager Julie Watters, Mick's wife, this once small farm has expanded from 80 acres to 2000 acres. They lease and farm another 2000 acres.

When asked what made them most proud about the business, Julie and Mick replied in unison, "Our employees!" They said they felt fortunate to have such loyal, hard working employees, most of whom have been with them for more than 20 years.

Looking to the future, the brothers anticipate that Mick's son-in-law, Ryan Quinn, and Jimmy's son, A.J., will keep Ted's legacy of hard work alive.

New Salon to Open in Stockbridge

Article by Lorrie Brooks

There's a new salon in town to add to the charm of Stockbridge. Jax Salon and Spa, owned by Jackie Bruce is set to open soon, with a grand opening in October.

Bruce has 40 years of experience in the salon business, and she previously owned Lakeside Looks Salon in Pinckney and worked for Premiere Salons managing 16 salons.

She was with her husband admiring the architecture of Stockbridge when she found the salon's location next to Country Petals. Upon going in the space she realized it used to be a salon. Kim and Company was previously there.

"The town has been very welcoming. I hope I can bring happiness to my clients. Visitors are welcome, even if you don't have an appointment, just come in and visit," stated Bruce.

Currently residing in Unadilla near Bruin Lake, Bruce grew up in Fowlerville, where her family raised horses. As a girl she would style the manes and tails of the horses and her mother thought she was good enough to go to beauty school. The salon's name came from her mother's nickname.

Jax Salon and Spa offers cuts, colors, massages, facial and all her products are vegan or 100 % organic. Her cuts factor in a person's length, texture and thickness. She also empowers other new business owners by allowing them to have a booth in her salon.

"I want to help them build their business and give them wings by helping to teach them." Bruce said.

Bruce also plans on getting involved with the upcoming community events such as the poll decorating, Halloween night event partnering with Country Petals and later on hosting a charity event that will give all the hair cut to Children With Hair Loss, who makes wigs for those with cancer or other illnesses that cause hair loss.

Her husband, who owns construction and masonry companies, remodeled the salon. It will be closed Sunday and Monday, open other days 10 am to 5 pm and late by appointment. Information on the salon and upcoming specials is available by calling the salon 517-851-7784 or at the salon's Facebook page, which is updated regularly.

A Look Back in Time

by Diane Rockall

September's arrival and the celebration of Labor Day bring to an end long, leisurely summer nights and herald the approach of fall. Of course, in a farming community that means harvest time.

The earliest settlers came to grow wheat, but probably began with corn and potatoes, which could be grown in one season according to page 15 of A Corner of Ingham. They cut down trees, plowed and tilled the soil before wheat could be planted. Most of the heavy work relied on oxen to help remove trunks of downed trees. Those early years were hard, yielding barely enough food to feed a family and making the feeding of livestock a major concern. See more in Chapter 11 of the book noted above.

One hundred and twenty-five years ago the village of Stockbridge had already been established and begun to holding its annual fall fair. The 1892 Stockbridge Sun reported no rain as September began. School began that year in early September. The 16th annual Stockbridge Fair was also scheduled to run October 4, 5 and 6.

September 1997, in the tradition of earlier years, Waterloo Farm Museum announced its Harvest Festival to take place in October. Farmers State Bank co-sponsored the 11th annual Farm Fest on September 20, featuring llamas from Hanna Hill Ranch, Sharon Mills winery, angora goats at Hay Meadows, Demyers Dairy Farm, Fusilliers hog farm and Napoleon Livestock Commission's sales auction.

In 1892 the paper carried news bits on the surrounding village and farms. For example, the Stockbridge Band was having a dance at Galleys in Stockbridge. Munith Sunshine, a segment of the paper, reported news of visitors and travel, such as Mr. Harris and his daughter visiting Leslie on Sunday. Andrew Ryan started for Dakota last week. Unadilla reported James Gibney was building an addition to his home and also that Ella and Lettie Montague returned home on a visit. Dansville reported that a picnic in Osmond's Grove was a big success and that nearly all farmers had finished their harvest. Thrushing had begun.

The older newspapers are frequently difficult to read on microfilm as the type is small due to the condensed nature of the news. Ads interestingly are larger. Gregory ads included Clinton and Moore blacksmithing as well as H. Gregory Produce and Grain Dealer. The Stockbridge Sun was printed by W.B. Gildart, owner. In Stockbridge J. Wilmore sold shoes and boots for men, women and children. The paper also included updates for Ingham, Livingston, Washtenaw, and Jackson.

Jump ahead now to 1997 and news of Farmer's State Bank's 75th anniversary, making the bank 95 this year. At that time, the bank had had only three presidents and CEOs Fred Ford, Wilbur Beeman and Craig Goodlock. Also in late September, McDonald's broke ground for their restaurant planned to open in 60 days or less. Gregory was continuing to discuss sewage concerns with three alternatives under consideration. Stockbridge Area Ambulance Inc. celebrated 30 years having been formed September 27, 1967. They also planned to celebrate in October.

Also on a September day in the first week of the month and on her birthday, Willah Weddon, wife of Dr. Edward Weddon, gave birth to fraternal twins, Amy and Alex.

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