



# STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY NEWS

a nonprofit newsletter January 2018 for the common good and welfare of residents in the Stockbridge area

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## Michigan Department of Education visits Stockbridge schools



Madison Gee-Montgomery, senior yearbook editor-in-chief, left, explains the National Scholastic Press Association critique system to Michigan Department of Education chief of staff Wendy Larvick that The Panther yearbook team received on the prior evening. In earning five of five marks of distinction in essentials, coverage, writing and editing, design, and photography, the team ranked the coveted All American score. Photo by Elizabeth Cyr

“We are very proud of our programs districtwide,” director of instruction Michelle Hilla said, “including our long-standing work with the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support in our elementary buildings.”

by Patrice Johnson, Elizabeth Cyr and Bob Richards

If the Michigan Department of Education executive expected a ho-hum walk-through when she visited Stockbridge Community Schools on Thursday morning, Nov. 30, she was in for a surprise.

“We are pleased to have MDE chief of staff Wendy Larvick visit our innovative and successful K through 12 programs,” Superintendent Karl Heidrich said as he introduced the dark-haired executive to school administrators, teachers and students in Smith and Heritage elementaries.

## Fourth-Grade Students tour the Capitol in Lansing



The students are shown with state Rep. Tom Cochran

Cochran (D-Mason), who took them into the House of Representatives chamber. There the students became involved in an interesting and informative question-and-answer session.

“Representative Cochran took our class onto the floor of the House of Representatives, where citizens are not allowed unless accompanied by a representative or senator, if in the Senate room,” fourth-grade teacher Katherine Andersen said. “It was great!”

The classes also visited the Michigan Historical Center, which consists of the Library of Michigan, the Michigan History Museum, and the Archives of Michigan.

“This was a great field trip for our fourth-graders,” Andersen said, “as it was both fun and educational.”

Article by Bev Glynn, photos by parents

Friday, Dec. 8, fourth-grade students from Heritage Elementary School toured the Capitol in Lansing. The group viewed the building, and the students were awed by the magnificent structure. The original building was completed and opened in in 1879. Then it was restored and rededicated in 1989.

The students met Rep. Tom



The students stand on the steps of the Michigan Capitol, Dec. 8 in Lansing.

## Christmas comes early to Unadilla Township as grant funding approved for Lakelands Trail



Since the initial concept drawings, the project has evolved through many stages including part one, which improved the Unadilla Park and part two, which created this park at the trailhead in Gregory.

Article and photo by Judy Williams

ANN ARBOR— Christmas came early to the Unadilla Township Board in the form of a \$1.25 million grant to improve Unadilla’s portion of the Lakelands Trail, a state park. The grant culminates the final phase of a three-part parks project in the township that began seven years ago. Since the initial concept drawings, the project has evolved through many stages including part one, which improved the Unadilla Park and part two, which created a park at the trailhead in Gregory. This third and final portion will improve 6 miles of the trail through Unadilla Township.

“I’m thrilled to see this project finally coming to fruition,” Unadilla Supervisor Linda Walker said. “Unadilla Township sincerely appreciates all who’ve contributed through the funding and planning process. This project will benefit our community and all trail users.”

The Livingston County Road Commission (LCRC) in coordination with Unadilla Township will construct the non-motorized, shared-use pathway along the abandoned Michigan Airline Railway.

Story continued on page 4.

## Announcing: ‘Where’s Waldo’ contest



Think you know the area? Here’s your chance to prove it. As we launch the new 2018 year, SCN photographer Rose Collison will provide a monthly photo of a mystery location within the Stockbridge School District. Names of readers who correctly identify the subject of the photo will be entered in a drawing. January’s winner will receive a \$20 gift certificate, compliments of this month’s sponsor, Rob’s Pizza.

**Who we are**

The Stockbridge Community News is a Michigan nonprofit organization, (IRS #C4-4001565), operated by an unpaid, volunteer board of directors. Our print newsletter serves nearly 8,000 households in the 125-square-mile area of the Stockbridge school district, reaching approximately 24,000 residents. Our website and Facebook pages are pleased to serve more than 20,000 viewers each month with a growing list of more than 600 daily 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.

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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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**DEATH NOTICES**

**No Stockbridge area death notices were brought to SCN's attention for publication at no charge during the month of December. Please note that standard obituaries with photos are available for publication in print and online for \$125.**

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**Jan. 3** - Coffee Chat, 11 a.m. to noon at the Stockbridge Library. 7-7:45 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library

**Jan. 4** - Fiber Fun Drop, 5 to 7 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library

**Jan. 6** - Gregory Community Church Clothes Closet, 10 a.m. to noon at the Gregory Community Church

**Jan. 8** - Kids Read to Oliver (Age 6 & Up), 6 to 6:30 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library

**Jan. 11** - American Red Cross Blood Drive, Thurs., January 11, at Stockbridge Presbyterian Church. 1 p.m. until 6:45 p.m. Call 1-800 448-3543 for rapid pass.

**Jan. 17** - Three Cheers for Snow! (Ages 3-6), 12:15 to 1 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library

**Jan. 16** - Gregory Community Church Clothes Closet, 6 to 8 p.m. at the Gregory Community Church

**Jan. 17** - Kitchen Magic with Ming. Chef Ming Louie, 4 to 5 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library

**Jan. 18** - Third Thursday LEGO Junior Makers (Ages 4 to 7), 4 to 5 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library

**Jan 18.** - Stockbridge High School Jazz and Concert,

**Jan. 20** - Stockbridge Church of Christ Clothes Closet and Food Pantry, 10 a.m. to noon in the church basement

**Jan. 21** - Cub Scouts Pack 768 Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Heritage Elementary School Cafeteria

**Jan. 23** - Stockbridge Area Arts Council meeting, 7 p.m. in the Art room at Heritage Elementary

**Jan. 24** - Kitchen Magic with Ming. Chef Ming Louie, 4 to 5 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library

**Jan. 26** - Book Discussion, 12 to 1 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library

**Jan. 30** - Mindfulness Matters, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library

**Community Calendar**

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

## Gov. Snyder signs Grant Whitaker Memorial Highway into law



Gov. Snyder honored the memory of Ingham County Deputy Sheriff Grant William Whitaker in signing into law a bill that will rename a portion of State Highway M-52 the "Deputy Grant Whitaker Memorial Highway." Pictured L to R: Front row: four-year-old Henry Whitaker with Governor Rick Snyder. Back rows: Jim McGinn, Laura Whitaker, Angela Adiska, Joshua Whitaker, Clyde Whitaker (Grant's father), Mary Whitaker (Grant's Mother), Aaron Whitaker, Emily Whitaker, Senator Hertel Jr., and Morgan Gyhra.

**Corrections**

The December edition published an incorrect image of Ron Tolson. The correct image is as follows.



1st team All-Conference:  
Ron Tolson

The December edition published the following image as the Munith Lions Planes. The planes pictured are from the Stockbridge Lions Planes. The updated caption and photo are as follows.



The Stockbridge Lions' Planes entered into the light parade.

**By Patrice Johnson**

Gov. Rick Snyder made it official Dec. 5 when he signed Senate Bill 509 into law at the Romney Building in Lansing: A portion of Michigan 52 in Stockbridge will be renamed as the "Deputy Grant Whitaker Memorial Highway" in the fallen deputy's honor.

Grant Whitaker's parents, Clyde and Mary Whitaker, were among family and friends who gathered for the signing event, hosted by Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr. (D-East Lansing). "It has been a long, sad journey for our family," Clyde Whitaker said, "the law enforcement community, our hometown of Stockbridge and all the wonderful people in it, wishing us the best always."

*Story continued on page 3.*

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## MDE visits Stockbridge schools from page 1



Hailey Howard explains to MDE chief of staff Wendy Larvick that the myo-electric sensor is a myo-armband from Thalmic labs. <https://www.myo.com/>

the team ranked the coveted All American score.

"We hold people accountable," student Kali Roskowski said while scrolling through a PowerPoint presentation in the robotics lab. "Governor Snyder came here last year, and a question one of our Uncaged reporters asked was selected to air on TV."

Zabrina Yannella, in describing how students learn through teaching, said veteran students mentor younger and less experienced students. "Bigs helping Littles," she said, adding, "Fifth-graders loved our program, so they created Paw Times."

"So what are your goals long term?" Larvick asked.

Without hesitation, Roskowski replied, "Journalism and photo journalism."

Next up, Madison Howard and Faith Whitt partnered to summarize the robotics teams' myriad achievements from sea lamprey research, to winning an esteemed \$10,000 MIT InvenTeams award, and to selection "as one of the top 14 teams in the nation."

"We filed yesterday for a patent," Whitt said in an apparent afterthought.

Howard added, almost in passing, "our teams competed against teams from MIT, U-M, China, Egypt, and other nations and universities. Last year we finished eighth in the world."

"How do you fund all this travel?" Larvick asked while eyeing the robotics lab's state-of-the-art technology. "You have a lot of equipment. How do you pay for this?"

Howard described a systematic and professional approach that involved marketing teams, grant applications, and recruitment of family, friends and corporate sponsors. "We raised more than \$50,000 last year," she said.

Whitt passed a robotic, prosthetic, hand to Larvick. "Next week we're meeting with a child with



From left, MDE chief of staff Wendy Larvick, SHS director of instruction Michelle Hilla, high school Principal Jeff Trapp, Superintendent Karl Heidrich and student Kali Roskowski meet during Larvick's visit.

explained, "is not to enter competitions but to apply real-world solutions."

Larvick's pleasant expression, which had long ago deepened to awe, flushed to what read of amazement. No doubt she returned to Lansing with a great deal to report.

*Story continued on page 3.*

On arrival at the high school and Elizabeth Cyr's class, Larvick, Hilla and Heidrich were greeted by well-prepared journalism/yearbook teams. Senior yearbook editor-in-chief Madison Gee-Montgomery ran through the state and national competition system. She demonstrated Cyr's student-led experience through a team meeting using digital work-flow tools and computer technology made available through recent bond purchases. Gee-Montgomery went on to explain the National Scholastic Press Association critique system that the Panther yearbook team had received on the prior evening. In earning five of five marks of distinction in essentials, coverage, writing and editing, design, and photography,

## 'Christmas on the Farm' at Waterloo Historical Society opens to sunshine and family fun



In the kitchen, after hoisting water from a cistern accessible through a hidden trap door, Bob Mottice showed Libby Wacker the intricacies of the home's new cream separator.

**Photos and article by Patrice Johnson**

Banjo music and the aroma of "stollen," German for coffeecake, filled the mid-19th-century Realy Farmhouse on Dec. 2 and 3. The Waterloo Historical Society's "Christmas on the Farm," always a hit during the first weekend

in December, was underway to sunshine and blue skies.

*Story continued on page 4.*

## Gov. Snyder signs Grant Whitaker Memorial Highway into law from page 2

Clyde Whitaker said the idea of naming a road in honor of his son started with Sen. Hertel's asking if he and wife Mary Whitaker would be receptive to the idea. "We thought it would be an excellent way to honor Grant," Clyde Whitaker said. "We are grateful beyond words for all that Senator Hertel and Kathleen Farhat have done to honor our son and our family. It will never be forgotten."

Clyde and Mary Whitaker's oldest grandson, Henry James Whitaker, 4, stood at the right elbow of the governor as he signed the bill. "Governor Snyder then gave the pen he used to sign the bill to Henry as a memento," Clyde Whitaker said. "He's left-handed like the governor."

"It was such a special, meaningful day," Sen. Hertel commented afterward. "It was a privilege to have Deputy Whitaker's family here to watch the bill be signed, and it's particularly fitting not just as a remembrance of the ultimate sacrifice he paid, but also because this Thursday will mark the third anniversary of his passing."

The portion of Michigan 52, from the intersection of Michigan 106 to the intersection of Michigan 36, will be renamed after Deputy Whitaker, who died in the line of duty on Dec. 7, 2014, during pursuit of a fleeing driver who had attempted to elude a traffic stop. His patrol car left the roadway and struck a tree during the chase, causing him to suffer fatal injuries. The driver of the fleeing vehicle was arrested several days later, convicted of eluding police and driving on a suspended license, and sentenced to prison.

"This memorial highway will always honor our son, Grant," Clyde Whitaker said, "and we will always be grateful for that."

no function in her arm. We'll try to equip her with a hand." When asked about her future plans, Whitt brightened and said, "I hope to pursue a degree in medical biology." As for Howard, she indicated she was focused on "biomedical engineering."

The group migrated to an adjacent robotics lab room. There, Hailey Howard, Madison's younger sister, demonstrated the use of a myo-electric sensor to control a laptop computer.

"Our ultimate goal," robotics and business teacher Bob Richards

# Teamwork and good works 'Christmas on the Farm' at Waterloo Farm Museum

from page 3



Banjo Mike (Evans) shared a musical discussion with David Kluesner.

Smiling families, garbed in light jackets, strolled through the 10-room house and log cabin outbuildings, each manned with friendly, pre-Civil War re-enactors. Gauging from the curious expressions on youngsters' faces, daily existence before indoor plumbing, universal education for boys and girls, electricity and the internet struck them as strange as life on Mars.

In an upstairs bedroom of the house, Arlene Kaiser explained how the phrase "sleep tight" originated from the need to snug rope webbing on beds cushioned and warmed with feather- or corn-cob-filled ticks. "How would you like to sleep on these wool sheets?" she asked and encouraged a preteen boy to touch an itchy

woolen sampler.

Downstairs, Banjo Mike (Evans) shared a musical discussion with David Kluesner, who strummed a few chords. In the kitchen after hoisting water from a cistern accessible through a hidden trap door, Bob Mottice showed Libby Wacker the intricacies of the home's new cream separator.

## Christmas comes early to Unadilla Township as grant funding approved for Lakelands Trail

from page 1

Design work is set to begin in early 2018 with project completion expected in 2019.

The current trail is one of the few remaining unimproved gaps in the state of Michigan's Great Lake-To-Lake Trails, connecting Port Huron to South Haven along a 240-mile route. Engineering firm Stantec assisted LCRC and Unadilla Township in securing 96 percent of the nearly \$1.25 million needed for the trail. The project will be funded through a combination of \$700,000 from the Michigan Department of Transportation/TAP, \$300,000 from Michigan Department of Natural Resources/TF, \$200,000 in private donor funds from the Friends of Lakelands Trail, and \$50,000 from Unadilla Township.

"We support the communities that we live in and work in," Mark Pascoe, principal in Stantec's Ann Arbor office said. "Securing this funding was the last step in moving this project forward in Unadilla Township. We couldn't be happier for this community."

The Gregory/Unadilla section of the Lakelands Trail is also part of the Iron Belle Trail, the longest state-designated trail in the nation, measuring more than 2,000 miles. The Iron Belle Trail connects Belle Isle State Park in Detroit and Ironwood in the Upper Peninsula.



Unadilla Township Board Members L-R: Linda Topping, Julie Weiland, Linda Walker, Susan Cox, and Lori Cowan.



Outreach Volunteer Nancy Ocwieja, Mason Treasurer Richard Graff, Mason John Beck, Outreach Director Karen Smith

by Patrice Johnson

Dec. 7: When the brothers at Stockbridge Free and Accepted Masons Lodge 130 were able to purchase all but one of the wish-list items for their Christmas Outreach program, the Sons of the American Legion post 150 joined forces with them.

"I was talking with some of my [S.A.L.] friends here in town," Mason senior warden C.G. Lantis said, "and they generously gave an additional \$300 to purchase the final outstanding gift to fulfill the family's needs here in the Stockbridge area."

Lantis lauded the cooperation between the two organizations, saying the combined efforts showed how "we do come together to make a difference and to make our community a great place to live."

On Dec. 1, the Free Masons Lodge donated checks for \$750 and \$1200 to Stockbridge Outreach in support of families in need for the holidays. On that date they also installed the following officers: Worshipful Master, Jon Beck; Senior Warden, C.G. Lantis; Junior Warden, Brandy Schneider; Senior Deacon, Dan Wilson; Junior Deacon, Dutch Ramsdell; Treasurer, Richard Graff; Secretary, Richard Gibson; Chaplin, Rick Reynolds; Senior Stewart, Randy Griffith; Stewart, Ian Crumb; Stewart, John "Scotch" Lennon; Stewart, Bill Porter; Conductor, Brian Holloway; and Education, Greg Uihlein.

The Stockbridge Free Masons are part of an international fraternal organization that traces its origins to the local fraternities of stonemasons, which from the end of the 14th century regulated the qualifications of stonemasons and their interaction with authorities and clients. Masonry teaches that each man has a duty to make life better, not just for himself but for everyone.

Sons of the American Legion is a program of the American Legion whose members include males of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the U.S. military and were eligible for American Legion membership. Members of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion comprise the Legion Family, which has a combined membership of nearly 4.2 million. S.A.L.'s mission is to strengthen the four pillars of the American Legion: to preserve American traditions and values, improve the quality of life for our nation's children, care for veterans and their families, and teach the fundamentals of good citizenship.

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Stockbridge, MI 49285  
Phone: 517-851-7517



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Please visit [takebackmeds.org](http://takebackmeds.org) for more information.

## Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation's 15th Annual Festival of Tables



March 24, 2018 ~ 6:00 pm ~ Heritage School  
Reservation and Guest List

Contact Person
INCLUDE: NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER ( EMAIL optional )

NAME OF TABLE <i>[A nameplate will be printed for the event.]</i>
GUESTS / EMAIL optional

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:  
Lyn St. Dennis at 734-498-2662 or  
Chuck Wisman at 517-851-8087 or  
Bruce Brown at 517-480-4187 or  
dn1610b@gmail.com

To make a reservation, enter the following information and return to Chuck Wisman by **March 15**. Alternatively, you may contact Chuck by phone.

Tables are designed to seat 8 guests comfortably, but groups may register a table with fewer than 8 guests or up to 10 guests per table.

Check below to indicate how you plan to attend the festival:

- Reserve a table for eight (you decorate) **\$280/\$35 each.**
- Reserve a table for eight (centerpiece provided by festival committee) **\$320/\$40 each.**
- Individual tickets are **\$40 each.**

Send this form and payment to:  
**Chuck Wisman - Festival of Tables**  
16310 East M-106  
Stockbridge, MI 49285  
517-851-8087

\*\*\*\*\*  
Please make checks payable to **SAEF**



# Meeting Minutes

## A Look Back in Time

by Diane Rockall



January 1918, 100 years ago, World War I was showing no sign of letup, and on Jan. 3 in the local paper, the American Red Cross asked all Americans to help feed starving women and children in France and Belgium. The article maintained that American and Canadian agriculture had great responsibility.

As is still true today, many stores were offering January sales. In Stockbridge, stores included Dancer's and Schmid's. Glasgow Brothers of Jackson and many others also advertised. The U.S. Army was seeking a carload of horses, 5 to 9 years old, 61 to 66 inches tall and weighing 1,050 to 1,400 pounds. The Army requested "No light greys." Pickup was scheduled for Jan. 11 at J.A. Smith Livery in Stockbridge.

Jan. 17's edition reported the worst storm in years had hit the area the previous Friday and Saturday. Thermometers registered 22 below zero. Snow piled up making traffic impossible. The train east from Jackson rolled in two hours late.

Hiram Barton died at his Lyndon home Friday night. L.M. Milne was called but unable to arrive before Sunday afternoon after a gang of men assisted him in shoveling his way in. Churches canceled their Sunday services, and on Monday crews of workmen began shoveling the roads.

In 1941, America entered WWII joining with Allies already fighting, (1939 to 1945), and 50 years after WWI was embroiled in the Vietnam War. Donald Runciman returned home near the end of January 1968 after one year of service in Vietnam. Also in January of 1968, Stockbridge Basketball won the Chelsea Holiday Tournament and the team's acceptance of the award made the front page of the Town Crier.

Police Chief Charles Sharpe announced plans to tighten traffic control. Township Supervisor Ted Fay announced plans to open a new library in February with formal dedication planned for spring. John Henry Hoffman, born Oct. 6, 1876, in Waterloo, died at age 91.

Unadilla's 80 residents rallied to save their landmark Unadilla Community Hall owned by the Unadilla Presbyterian Church. The hall was built in 1873 by a Methodist Episcopal Congregation. Four students, Mark Hartsuff, Debbie Glenn, Yvonne Hardt and Linda Dusyinski were selected to All-State Band. Sixteen-year-old Boos Products of Unadilla was highlighted as a family business that made tools and fixtures as well as production work, including the manufacture of filtering instruments, hydraulic valves and cylinders. The Stockbridge Jaycees branch announced its dissolution.

Twenty five years later in January 1993, the Town Crier reported the village of Stockbridge was interviewing and conducting contract talks for a prospective town manager. John Dancer and Lois McGauley were presented with clocks for their 40 years of service to Stockbridge State Bank. Dancer resigned Jan. 1 but remained board president. McGauley planned to continue as assistant vice president.

Ron Fillmore announced 80 artworks would be shown at the Township Hall Winter Art Show with proceeds to benefit the new library. The show was Monday, Jan. 11 to Saturday the 16th. Exhibitors paid a 25 percent commission on any works sold to the library. The Panthers basketball team won the Citizen Patriot Holiday Classic in Jackson.

Property tax assessments skyrocketed an average 11 percent, puzzling area residents. The village board and Stockbridge Development Authority planned an industrial park development. Four accidents in Unadilla were blamed on a bad storm. The Jan. 19 paper reported that Rudolph and Wilma Kaczmarek bought the restaurant and sausage house from Hans and Helen Klockes. The Klockes purchased the former Prescott Locker Plant in 1972 and converted it with the help of their two children, Christel and Hans H., into a German Sausage House. In 1976, they added a new

building, which became the restaurant. Renovated several times since, it is the current Back Street restaurant.

Rockall is a member of the Stockbridge Community News board of directors. She and her husband moved to



Stockbridge early in 1997 after almost 14 years in Northville. She is originally from Detroit where she lived until 1980.

### VILLAGE OF STOCKBRIDGE Council Meeting December 4, 2017 at 7:00pm

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance: President Hollenbeck led the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Agenda MOTION by Howlett, SUPPORTED by Cattell to approve the December 4, 2017 agenda as amended to add Blight to unfinished business. Motion carried with unanimous ayes.

Approval of Minutes MOTION by Howlett, SUPPORTED by Harden to approve the minutes of November 6, 2017 as presented by Clerk Nogle. Motion carried with unanimous ayes.

Public Comment Tom Wallace discussed his disappointment of blight and unlicensed vehicles in the village. Wallace requested the village start enforcing the blight ordinance.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Accounts Payable MOTION by Howlett SUPPORTED by Mullins, to approve the accounts payable as presented by Clerk Nogle in the amount of \$41,059.32. AYES: Mullins, Howlett, Harden, Weeks, Cattall, Hollenbeck NAYS: None ABSENT: DuWig MOTION PASSED

#### NEW BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS Water and Sewer Ordinance The Council tabled the Water and Sewer Ordinance. Gormley and Clerk Nogle will have a phone conference to make sure everything is covered in the ordinance. Owens Property President Hollenbeck requested feedback on whether or not the council wants an environmental study completed for the Owens Property. Cattell thinks that it is a good idea to have a study completed by to purchase of the property. Blight Instructed Gormley to change everything to a civil infraction in the ordinance except for disorderly because it is more criminal by nature. Howlett would like to have a committee formed to help the village with blight issues.

Public Comment Nicole Crouch – Thanked the village for their support of the Festival of Lights. Tom Wallace – Wallace discussed the inconsistencies of village policies and lack of following the ordinances.

Council Member Comments Howlett – Requested the budget numbers for the Park and Recreation Grant. Mullins – Parade was terrific, was very impressed. Harden – Making good progress with the new basketball court. Attorney Comments None

ADJOURNMENT MOTION by Hollenbeck, SUPPORTED by Harden, APPROVED to adjourn the Council Meeting at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Debbie Nogle,  
Village Clerk

### STOCKBRIDGE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 18, 2017

Stockbridge Township Supervisor CG Lantis called the Regular Stockbridge Township Board Meeting to order on December 18, 2017 at 7:28pm at the Stockbridge Township Hall. Members present at the meeting Supervisor CG Lantis, Clerk Becky Muraf, Treasurer Kris Lauckner, Trustee Terry Sommers, Trustee Ed Wetherell. Member absent from meeting: None

Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Smith Elementary school student Jonathon Hayes

Moment of Silence: 7:29pm

Sommer motion to accept the agenda with the amendment of Supervisor CG Lantis meeting with Outreach added to it and the purchase of Urea or Calcium Chloride Wetherell second All in favor Motion Carried

Citizen's Comments: Discussion

Sommer motion to accept the Stockbridge Township Board meeting minutes from November 20, 2017 as printed Wetherell second All in favor Motion Carried

Sommer motion to accept the Stockbridge Township Financial Report as printed Lauckner second. Sommer wanted to discuss the bill from Biomedical Solution from servicing the defibrillators Sommer questioned the fact that we were charged the sales tax on the parts that needed to be replaced Muraf will call and follow up on if the Township should have been charged the sales tax or not. All in Favor Motion Carried

Old Business: Wetherell is working on the Weather Siren Muraf and Wetherell are going to sit down this week and try to get ahold of the Ingham County Road Commission and see the status of the permits that were faxed to them.

Lantis has talked with Titan trash and we are just waiting for them to drop the recycling bins off at L & B Outlets for the residents to use.

New Business: Dustin Moore from Burnham & Flower went over Stockbridge Township insurance renewal for 2018 It is going to cost \$15,291 Stockbridge Township Board will add on Casualty Limited Terrorism Coverage for \$67.00 additional and add on Property Limited Terrorism Coverage for an additional \$65.00 Insurance coverage total will cost \$15,423.00 for 2018 Roll call vote Sommer Yes, Lauckner Yes, Wetherell Yes, Muraf Yes, And Lantis Yes. All in favor Motion carried

Lauckner motion to pay the Stockbridge Township Board bills in the amount of \$ 14,268.88 Sommer second All in favor Motion Carried

Lantis meet with some of the Outreach board members last week and went on a tour of the current Fire Station with them. SAESA is in the process of purchasing the old Ford Dealership and will move the Ambulance and the Fire Station into it. No decisions have been made on what will happen with the Old Fire Station as of yet. Lantis Sommer and Wetherell will start a committee to work on this project.

Urea has gone up in price over the last year Stockbridge Township will be purchasing Calcium Chloride saving around \$400.00 from the prior winter for this year.

Citizen Comments: Discussion

Supervisor Lantis had adjourned the Stockbridge Township Board at 8:36pm Sommer second All in favor motion Carried

# Stockbridge Library's Holiday Open House bigger and better than ever



Generations Quintet plays at the Stockbridge Library.

by Paul Crandall

The Stockbridge Library of Capital Area District Libraries (CADL) was hopping with holiday cheer on Sunday, Dec. 10 with about 100 guests visiting the library's annual holiday open house. Top-flight jazz presented by the Generations Quintet and delicious refreshments catered by Suzi Greenway propelled the festivities, as the weather followed suit with a light dusting of snow for the occasion.



## From the superintendent's desk

by Karl Heidrich

During the 2014-2015 school year our district developed board goals and a strategic plan which guided the positive direction of our school district. We have had tremendous focus with our goals over the past three years and have had forward momentum in many areas.

Our current vision and goals are as follows:

**Vision** Stockbridge Community Schools will create a culture of high expectations for all students through rigor, relevance, and relationships.

**Goals** Stockbridge Community Schools will convey a positive image within the school district and in the community.

Stockbridge Community Schools will integrate relevant curriculum and technology to develop 21st century skills for all students.

Stockbridge Community Schools will develop a needs assessment and implement a plan of improvement.

At the conclusion of this school year our strategic plan and board goals will expire. This spring our administrative team and board of education will be developing new goals for our school district. The new goals and strategic plan will serve the district through the 2020-2021 school year. We certainly want to have input from all of our educational stakeholders in its development. Therefore, we will be establishing a committee to begin work on this process during the month of February. The planning and development of attainable goals is a very important step which sets the stage for district-wide school improvement for the next three years.

We are looking forward to this new direction and focus for Stockbridge Community Schools to ensure that we continue to offer rigorous and relevant education for all of our students.

## Mackenzie Williams signs to play basketball at Madonna



Mackenzie Williams signs a letter of intent to play basketball for Madonna University as coaches and athletic director watch. Left to Right: SHS girls varsity coach Caz Rogozinski, SHS athletic director Meghan Kunzelman, student athlete Mackenzie Williams, and Madonna University's head women's basketball coach Rachel Steinbarger

by Patrice Johnson. Photo by Judy Williams

Dec. 11 marked a watershed day for SHS senior Mackenzie Williams. Surrounded by family and coaches past and future, she signed a letter of intent to play basketball for Madonna University next fall. The athlete, talented in multiple sports, was offered a full basketball scholarship with the Livonia, Mich. university.

"I plan to major in pre-med with a minor in sign language. I hope to work with children with disabilities," Williams said, all smiles.

Story continued on page 14.



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## Rural Perspectives

by Rose Collison

Brrrr. Old Man Winter has found us. We had a good stretch of weather for a while, but now Old Man Winter is here. The first snow is always exciting and puts everyone in the Christmas spirit. The trees now hold snow and resemble a painted picture, which

brings back memories of snowy days from years gone by.



Trees start to catch snow.

Snow begins to cover the fields.



Kathy Collison captured in background with the perfect snowflake in the foreground.

Prankster Jack Frost etches crystalline shapes on a window.



## Jennifer Grumelot: Lifetime volunteer to retire

by Diane Rockall

Anyone who meets Jennifer Grumelot is bound to see that her life centers on three things— her religious faith, her family and her community. Now, after 55 years of service to the Stockbridge Community, Grumelot is determined to retire. When asked about her volunteer efforts, she recalled her first volunteer project in her childhood church, Lincoln Park Presbyterian. There, she assisted the kindergarten Sunday school teacher—a natural fit, since Grumelot had decided as a second grader that she wanted to become a kindergarten teacher.

During high school the young woman became involved in the Future Teachers organization, and she went on to study early education at Eastern Michigan University. While working on the “party crew,” a group of students who served at university functions and banquets, she met Ed Grumelot. The two married while in college and have been lifetime companions ever since.

Because of Ed’s preparation for military service at the completion of his education, they purchased a trailer. They could travel to posts, they thought, and their growing family could live more economically. “Unfortunately, our first assignment



was Hawaii.” Grumelot grinned. “We stored the trailer in Unadilla.”

From Hawaii, Ed was sent to Vietnam, so Jennifer returned to the trailer with their oldest children, Scott and Suzy. On Ed’s return, the family settled in Unadilla. Jennifer worked as a substitute teacher while Ed sometimes traveled for work. The Unadilla Presbyterian Church helped the couple locate a site for their trailer. The adjacent land was for sale, so the Grumelots bought it. There, they ultimately built the house they live in today. In it they raised eight children, six natural born and two adopted. “We think of them as our own,” Grumelot said. In addition, the couple hosted three foreign exchange students.

In 1966 Ed was serving overseas again. Then, Jennifer began a Santa at School program, and her other early school projects included a Halloween parade with costume judging. Finally, Ed was sent home. He served as Cub Scout leader; Jen as Brownie leader. The two migrated to older packs and troops as their children grew.

After 13 years with Unadilla Presbyterian Church, the family joined the Stockbridge Presbyterian Church where they are active today. Jen has taught Sunday school, was Sunday school superintendent, and taught Bible Study. In the ‘80s she and Ed started the student-named “Cool Christian Kids,” which they continued to run until 1995. Jen has served as treasurer for the Presbyterian Women’s Group since the ‘80s as well.

Ed joined the Lions in 1985, and Jen became a Lioness in 1986. Almost at once, she became the groups’ treasurer, a position she has held continuously except during her years as president. Meanwhile, Ed served as Lions president as well as district governor, in addition to various state and international posts.

Jennifer Grumelot became the first female Stockbridge Lions member in 1996. After that, other couples joined. Easter egg hunts, Christmas parties and tree sales, scholarships, school honors nights, Valentines dinner dances, band performances, and picnics—whatever the Lions activity, the Grumelots were working behind the scenes.

December 2005, Darwin Snider, Jennifer and Ed Grumelot initiated the Stockbridge Lions’ purchase of planes that became the Lions Air Force. In addition to parades throughout Michigan, the planes have been used in Lions International parades in Montreal, Philadelphia, Denver, Indianapolis, Minneapolis. Most recently the planes whirled and twirled down Main Street during Stockbridge’s Festival of Lights.

*Story continued on page 9.*



## BRIDGE TO WELLNESS CHALLENGE

—15 Week Weight Loss & Wellness Challenge—

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Nutritional & Wellness Seminars • Community Exercise Events  
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REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 2, 2018

CHALLENGE STARTS MARCH 3, 2018

Register at [Stockbridge Wellness Center](http://StockbridgeWellnessCenter.com) or request a registration form at [bridgetowellnesschallenge@gmail.com](mailto:bridgetowellnesschallenge@gmail.com).

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**Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition**

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Find out more information at [www.5healthytowns.org](http://www.5healthytowns.org) or join our open format meeting and discussion at 305 W. Elizabeth St., Room 108 at 5:30 pm in the Stockbridge School Administration Building.



Sample blight as published in Clay Township, Pennsylvania.

## Did You Know? Let's talk blight.

by Molly Howlett

Are you one of the many people upset at the increasing amount of junk accumulating in the village of Stockbridge? Perhaps you have even called or stopped into the village office to complain about how our charming village has become less appealing over the past few years because

of the junk, trash and vehicles piling up in your neighbors' yards. As many organizations work to beautify the village, the increasing amount of junk that people are collecting offsets the positive work underway. Our lovely town is losing its appeal.

Over the next few months, I plan to address these issues in my column, starting with a summary of village ordinances. Perhaps people aren't aware that they are in violation. Perhaps they don't care. After publicly posting the ordinances related to these problems, no one has an excuse to not comply.

The Village Council is preparing to do its part in cleaning up the violations by following the necessary legal processes. Photos have been taken, and files have been prepared. Everyone not in compliance with the ordinances will be notified by letter by the village clerk. In case you weren't aware, the ordinance regarding junk reads as follows and can be found online:

### Sec. 18-51. Junk.

*Junk*--Includes, without limitation, parts of machinery or motor vehicles, including tires, unused furniture, stoves, refrigerators, or other appliances, remnants of wood, metal, or any other cast-off material of any kind, whether or not the same could be put to any reasonable use.

*Junk automobiles*--Include, without limitation, any motor vehicle which is not licensed for use upon the highways of the state for a period in excess of 30 days, and shall also include, whether licensed or not, any motor vehicle which is inoperative for any reason for a period in excess of ten days; provided that unlicensed, but operative, vehicles which are kept as the stock-in-trade of a regularly licensed and established new or used automobile dealer are excepted from this definition.

The following conduct is prohibited:

(1) Storing or permitting the storage or accumulation of junk, junk automobiles, or abandoned vehicles on any property in the village except within a completely enclosed building.

So there it is. Everyone is now informed, and everyone hopes that violators do their part by getting rid of their junk. If not, letters will be sent to all violators.

*Molly Howlett, a founding director of Stockbridge Community News, serves on the Village Council, Township Planning Commission, 5 Healthy Towns, and Parks & Recreation boards. An active Lioness, she taught English and Spanish at Stockbridge High School for many years before retiring in 2004.*

## Jennifer Grumelot: Lifetime volunteer to retire

from page 8

The Lions have recognized both Grumelots with numerous awards, including the Presidents' Appreciation Award, plus the Lion's top honor, the Melvin Jones Award. At their December meeting, the Stockbridge Branch presented the couple with a Special Appreciation Award.

Both retired from Stockbridge Community Schools in 1995. Jennifer, who had spent nearly her entire career as Kindergarten teacher at Gregory's Howlett School, recalls helping entire classes put on their boots, rambunctious children, parental concerns, and a schedule that required mad dashes from AM kindergarten in Stockbridge to PM kindergarten in Gregory.

Grumelot began running the Stockbridge Blood Drive for the American Red Cross during the 1980s where she found volunteers to make and serve refreshments, assist during the drive, and schedule appointments for donations.

When asked for words of advice for others, Grumelot suggested two sayings. Always leave things cleaner than you found them, and If you have something nice to say, say it. Otherwise, don't say anything at all.

How does Grumelot do it all? "God is with me in all I do," she said. "I have a daily walk with him." Now, as Grumelot begins to scale back, she clearly will not walk alone.

## Annual Friends of the Stockbridge Library silent auction closes with flurry of bidding

by Paul Crandall

The Friends of the Stockbridge Library's annual silent auction closed this year on



The Friends of the Stockbridge Library's annual silent auction closed this year on Nov. 30 with a flurry of bidding.

Nov. 30 with a flurry of bidding on a bumper crop of donations. Some 224 items were donated to the auction, more than any year in recent memory, and pledges reached \$2,020 – the highest amount pledged at auction since 2011.

Auction proceeds will benefit the Stockbridge Library in materials and programming. The Friends wish to thank all who contributed, either with donations or bids or both.

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# Community Resources

## A look at the groups and resources that enrich our community

The Stockbridge area is home to a wide array of nonprofit and charitable organizations, all for the benefit of local residents. The information below represents a compilation of information, cropped here due to space limitations. To access expanded descriptions, check out [Stockbridgecommunitynews.com](http://Stockbridgecommunitynews.com).

Not listed or notice an error? Please accept SCN's apologies and email corrected information to [Stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com](mailto:Stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com) or snail mail SCN at, P.O. Box 83, Gregory, MI 48137. Also, if your organization has an event to advertise or announce free of charge in our "Community Calendar," please contact the email above.

**4-H Happy Hustlers.** Interested in 4-H? Happy Hustlers meet generally once a month. Any youth five years or older may join. The goal of 4-H is to develop citizenship, leadership responsibility and life skills of youth through positive learning programs. Whether you are interested in crafts, photography, or animals, you can discover these programs through Happy Hustlers 4-H Club. If interested, please ask to join our Happy Hustlers 4-H page or call Carrie Zeitz at 517-204-1336 or Holly Whitaker, 517-937-9547. Meetings are held at Heritage School on the second Sunday of the month at 6 p.m.

**American Legion Mackinder-Glenn Post 510.** Many of the events conducted by Post 510 raise funds for charitable causes or community members in need. The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Riders make up what is known as the Legion Family. All four organizations place[s] high importance on preserving our American traditions and values, improving the quality of life for our nation's children, caring for veterans and their families, and perhaps most importantly, teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship. Phone 517-851-8445.

**Angels For Animals:** A small group of community members connecting in an online forum and working together to offer short-term assistance to families in crisis and struggling to feed or care for their pets and/or livestock. Angels For Animals will also try to assist with placement, adoption, general medical care, and the occasional emergency medical care when funds are available. Our coverage area is Ingham and Jackson counties along with immediate surrounding counties. We are not a wealthy community, resources are limited, and the list is long, but we do our best to meet immediate needs. Our end goal is to make sure any animal doesn't go hungry or suffer. If someone is not comfortable asking publicly for assistance, they can contact one of the administrators privately and confidentially. For more information, contact Heather Wheaton at [Angelsforanimals@hotmail.com](mailto:Angelsforanimals@hotmail.com) or connect with us on Facebook. Ongoing donations may be made at <https://www.gofundme.com/angels-for-animals>.

**Boy and Cub Scouts.** Camping, archery, BB gun shooting, bottle/can drives, car washes, Pinewood Derby races—these are a few of the activities that Cub Scouts has to offer. Come join the adventure. Interested? Want info? Contact Mike Stoffer at 517-355-3070 or email [mikestoffer8@gmail.com](mailto:mikestoffer8@gmail.com).

**Churches.** The Stockbridge area is home to a wide assortment of churches and religious organizations. The Stockbridge Community News is pleased to allocate special sections of its December and April print editions to numerous holiday activities underway in these organizations. Please see our online and print "Community Calendar" for specific church activities and events each month.

**EchoCenter.** EchoCenter is a faith-based Christian nonprofit organization located in Stockbridge. Its 170 acres provide a high-adventure event center that also spotlights charities that guests are encouraged to donate to as part of their minimal fee to use the facility. It offers outdoor amenities like biking on wooded trails, a low ropes course with 11 elements and five zip lines. Its large meeting space and commercial kitchen can accommodate up to 125 guests for events like corporate meetings, strategic planning sessions, high school or college team-building, Scouts or youth events. For more information, or to book your event, please contact [Info@echo.love](mailto:Info@echo.love) or 517-565-3330. Find us at [www.echocenter.org](http://www.echocenter.org) or @SelflessEcho on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

**Friends of the Stockbridge Library.** FSL organizes the annual Silent Auction and helps with book sales. The Friends help with programming and purchasing needed items for the Stockbridge Library. For info, contact P.O. Box 802 or email [eileenconti50@gmail.com](mailto:eileenconti50@gmail.com).

**Girl Scouts.** Enjoy field trips, camping, cultural studies and more. For info, contact Michelle Marshall at 517-937-7694, [marselle7726@yahoo.com](mailto:marselle7726@yahoo.com) or contact

Membership Specialist Callie Frey with the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan at 517-742-4741.

**Gregory Senior Center.** All who are interested please join this fun, independent group. We are located at 126 Webb St. Open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Dues are \$10 per year and membership is open to all persons over the age of 55 years, regardless of residency. Trips and special events are planned in addition to weekly penny bingo and euchre games. Lunch is \$3. Please call at least a day in advance. For more info or to schedule a lunch delivery, please call Dick Ellsworth, 517-851-8881 or Ken Allen, 517-281-3683. If the school is closed due to weather, the senior center will be closed.

**Munith Lions Club.** Provides ongoing financial support to a wide range of organizations, events and foundations. The group supports Leader Dog for the Blind, Paws for a Cause, Lions of Michigan Foundation, Eversight, Organ Donations, Lions All State Band, Bear Lake Camp, Diabetes Awareness, Braille Transcribing, Radio Reading Services, Penrickton Center for Blind Children, Michigan Youth Academy, Project Kidsight, Winter Camp for the Blind and Youth Exchange. We have a Lion Ev Huttenlocher Scholarship for SHS. We adopt families for Christmas, and also own and maintain the Munith Lions Park. We have a Halloween Parade and Party the Saturday before Halloween for 30—some years. We put up American flags in the summer and Christmas decorations at Christmas. We supply eye exams and glasses for anyone in need. We work for the Stockbridge Lions Bingo on Monday nights. We are a small club but very active. Over several years and many Munith Celebrates Michigan Festivals we bought three used Severe Weather Alert Systems and turned them over to the township. Every cent we take in from the public goes back out to the public.

We are getting older and need some new younger members to keep these things going. Please think about joining us. "WE SERVE." Munith Lions meet the second and fourth Tuesdays at 5 p.m. at Hankerd Inn, 10350 Hankerd Road, Pleasant Lake. Contact 517-596-2215, email [chrism39@frontier.com](mailto:chrism39@frontier.com).

**Munith Rod & Gun Club.** Spring through fall, daytime and under the lights, the nonprofit MR&GC sports club sponsors American Trapshooting Association (ATA) events and fun shoots. The trapshooter club welcomes all adults and accompanied minors on Friday nights at 5 p.m. for trapshooting practice April through October. Location: 11455 Fitchburg Road, Munith. Contact: 517-745-3783.

**Munith/Stockbridge Community Pay It Forward Group.** A local online outreach project solely aimed at helping our community and neighbors at the micro level. Though the local economy has improved since PIF's founding in 2012, the mission to bring aid to those in need remains. With neighbors helping neighbors throughout the surrounding communities, the group's format and guidelines are simple: If you are in need of help, it doesn't matter what it is, post it. Not comfortable asking publicly? Contact one of the administrators privately and confidentially. Know someone in need? Post for them. Someone will see it and help. Your kid needs winter coat? Good chance someone on this page will have one. Need a ride to work because your car broke down? Post it. Maybe

SEWING AND ALTERATIONS

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# Community Resources

someone on here is going that way. Public announcements, lost and found pets, and employment opportunities. Have an item you no longer want or need? Post it. Chances are a neighbor will want or need it.

If you see someone post something and you can help them, times are hard and we have all been there. Some are blessed with more than what they need, and others don't have enough. This is not a "For Sale" page, and all items must be donated freely. Connect with us on Facebook or email us via our sister group at [wakeupstockbridge@gmail.com](mailto:wakeupstockbridge@gmail.com).

**Open Air Market of Stockbridge.** A 501(c) (3) Farmers Market held every Friday from 4 to 7 p.m. on the Stockbridge Township Square from first Friday in May through October as weather permits. Off-season, the event continues indoors on select dates. Local and regional musicians perform in the gazebo between 5:30 and 7 p.m. May through August. Our products include local honey, eggs, produce including fresh corn and tomatoes, herbs, salad greens, baked goods, handmade soap, fruit, crafts, flowers, sometimes frozen poultry, and mustards and sauces from Son-in-Law Products. We welcome other nonprofit organizations to set up booths for free. The Market participates in Small Business Saturday, and has four winter markets in the Presbyterian Church Hall (dates can change). Contact information: OAM, P.O. Box 382, Stockbridge, MI 49285, 517-851-7437, [suznort@juno.com](mailto:suznort@juno.com), and we're on Facebook.

**Shop Rat Foundation.** Founded in 2004 by manufacturing entrepreneur, Chris Salow, the Shop Rat Foundation promotes and provides learning opportunities for youth enrolled in grades six-12 to gain a better understanding of the manufacturing industry through participation in Shop Rat Education Program offerings. The Foundation's mission is "to ignite interest in manufacturing careers among youth through innovation and outreach." Its educational program incorporates hands-on, project-based curriculum modules focused on machining, welding, engineering, construction and modern manufacturing (including mechatronics and additive manufacturing). The program is currently facilitating after-school classes, in-school partnership activities and summer camps in Jackson, Ingham and Lenawee counties. Facilities are located at 11855 Bunkerhill Road., Pleasant Lake, MI. Contact, [shopratfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:shopratfoundation@gmail.com) or call 517-769-2100.

**SRSLY** (text language for "seriously") is a team of youth and adults working together to promote positive choices and prevent youth substance use in Stockbridge. SRSLY promotes positive family and community involvement and school bonding, works to limit youth access to alcohol and other drugs, and aims to reduce parental approval of youth drug use. The SRSLY coalition consists of representatives from across Stockbridge, Chelsea, Dexter, and Manchester, including the schools, hospital, library, law enforcement, churches, businesses, parents, and youth. SRSLY focuses on primary prevention among youth aged 10 to 15, but is open to anyone interested in preventing youth substance use by promoting a more positive and healthy community. SRSLY receives support from the Drug-Free Communities Support Program, the 5 Health Towns Foundation, St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea, and the Coghlan Family Foundation. For more information or to volunteer, call or text 734-223-9091, visit [srslystockbridge.org](http://srslystockbridge.org) or contact [info@srslystockbridge.org](mailto:info@srslystockbridge.org).

**Stockbridge Area Arts Council.** (SAAC) is a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization dedicated to providing opportunities for all ages to participate in, and enjoy the performing arts and cultural events in our community. Since its inception in 1990, the Arts Council has contributed to the aesthetics of the Township Hall by contributing funds for the new stage curtain, purchasing a new sound system, providing ongoing maintenance for the grand piano, and improving the lighting system. The Council also offers annual scholarships to support graduating seniors planning to major in the arts or to other students pursuing artistic experiences. New members are welcome. SAAC meets on the fourth Monday, September – November and January – May 7 at p.m. at Heritage School starting in January 2018. For more info: [taylor\\_nancy@yahoo.com](mailto:taylor_nancy@yahoo.com).

**Stockbridge Area Chamber of Commerce.** Focuses on helping businesses and residents succeed by making our community a better place to work, live, dine, and play. Website [www.stockbridge.net](http://www.stockbridge.net) or visit our Facebook page.

**Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation.** Founded in 2000 as a 501(c)

(3) tax-exempt organization affiliated with the Jackson County Community Foundation. SAEF offers many benefits to the Gregory, Munith and Stockbridge areas through the generous donations of community members and participation in its primary annual fundraiser, the Festival of Tables. SAEF enhances the educational opportunities available to all of its citizens through quarterly grants and scholarships. Donations offer educational support to community members and organizations, contributing to a more positive and enriched future. Phone 517-851-7188 or visit <http://panthernet.net/district/saef>.

**Stockbridge Area Garden Club.** SAGC, first established in 1984, serves the greater Stockbridge area. Its 20-plus members seek to beautify public areas, educate people on the how-tos of flower gardening, and support civic projects. Among other undertakings, the garden club decorates the Township Hall and Square, weeds and waters the cemetery flag garden, and helps families in need through Stockbridge Community Outreach. Meetings are generally held the first Monday of the month at 1 p.m. All interested in are invited to contact [risnerco@gmail.com](mailto:risnerco@gmail.com) or mail the Stockbridge Garden Club, P.O. Box 612, Stockbridge.

**Stockbridge Area Genealogical/Historical Society.** SAGHS is dedicated to preserving and promoting genealogical and historical information throughout the greater Stockbridge area. P.O. Box 966, Stockbridge. For info about general public meetings, please check our website: [www.stockbridgeareaghs.org](http://www.stockbridgeareaghs.org). Contact [stockbridgeareaghs@hotmail.com](mailto:stockbridgeareaghs@hotmail.com).

**Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition.** (SAWC) was created by the 5 Healthy Towns Foundation (5HF) to help improve the overall wellness of the area served by the former Chelsea Hospital. 5HF is a tax-exempt, private charitable foundation governed by a volunteer board of directors. The mission of the 5HF is to cultivate improvements in personal and community wellness. SAWC aims to serve all those within the Stockbridge school district, focusing on four pillars of health identified by 5HF: making healthy connections, eating better, moving more, and avoiding unhealthy substances. One of the first projects undertaken was to establish the



Happy Holidays

from all of us.

May the blessings of the newborn Christ child  
extend to you and yours in 2018.

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LENDER**

# Community Resources

Stockbridge Wellness Center, but other interventions include improving the trail systems, building and improving playgrounds and parks, helping to build the Heritage pavilion and community greenhouse, supporting the Open Air Market and Outreach's Tide Me Over, establishing SRSly Stockbridge and planning for wellness improvements for the future. All are invited, encouraged, and welcome to join SAWC. Monthly meetings are held on the third Thursday each month at 5:30 p.m. in the old middle school building, Room 108. Other communities involved with 5HF are Chelsea, Dexter, Grass Lake, and Manchester. To learn more about the Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition and 5HF visit [www.5healthytowns.org](http://www.5healthytowns.org) or [www.facebook.com/stockbridgewellnesscoalition](http://www.facebook.com/stockbridgewellnesscoalition) or email [jormayer76@gmail.com](mailto:jormayer76@gmail.com).

**Stockbridge Community Education.** This department of the Stockbridge Community Schools oversees community use of the school buildings and property and also organizes enrichment and recreation programs for the district for all ages. Offices are located in Smith Elementary School, 100 Price Ave., Stockbridge. Phone 517-851-7735, ext. 3207; website <http://panthernet.net/departments/community-education/> and Stockbridge Community-Education on Facebook. Volunteers are always needed to teach a class, coach a team, or help at events.

**Stockbridge Community Greenhouse.** Up and running. A few community members have shared their gardening tips with our students, and we encourage others to reach out to Josh Nichols at 517-917-3223 or at [nicholsj@panthernet.net](mailto:nicholsj@panthernet.net) if they would like to share information or use some of the space in the greenhouse for their gardening needs.

**Stockbridge Community News.** A volunteer-run, nonprofit, public information service operated by volunteers. Our mission is to serve as a hub of quality, consistent local information to build a stronger community. As a IRS 501(C)(4) organization, we depend on the support of donors and sponsors. Over the course of our first 12 months of existence, the News has grown from a wing and a prayer to a full-fledged public information organization. Our website ([stockbridgecommunitynews.com](http://stockbridgecommunitynews.com)) and Facebook page regularly serve more than 20,000 viewers each month. Our print edition, mailed monthly to more than 8,200 households in the Stockbridge School District, reaches an estimated 24,000 residents in the Stockbridge, Munith, Gregory and Fitchburg area and portions of White Oak, Grass Lake, Leslie, Pleasant Lake, Jackson and Chelsea. As you plan your gift giving for the end of the year, we hope you will keep us in mind, and we always need and welcome volunteers. The News may be reached at P.O. Box 83, Gregory, MI 48137 or through email at [stockbridgecommunitynews.com](mailto:stockbridgecommunitynews.com).

**Stockbridge Community Outreach.** Organized during the fall of 1981 because local churches had become unable to handle the volume of requests for help. The first food pantry was in a room in the basement of a church. We are now located in a portable building behind the old Middle School and are open three days a week. We currently offer assistance with food (once monthly), utilities, housing, transportation, and prescriptions. We have clothing and small household goods—all free to the public. We coordinate the Tide Me Over weekend and summer food programs for kids and families who are on the free or reduced lunch program. We participate with the Fresh Food Initiative of Jackson, offering weekly food distributions to anyone who shows up at the site. Our facilities are used for government food distribution, and at Thanksgiving and Christmas we offer special food and gift programs. We make referrals to other agencies for specific needs. Hours: Monday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday, 1 to 6 p.m. We also provide emergency assistance to those living in the Stockbridge School District. For info, call 517-851-7285 or find us on Facebook.

**Stockbridge Golden Years Senior Citizens' Nutrition Site** meets Fridays in Stockbridge Township Hall. Lunch is served at noon, followed by bingo. Sometimes people play cards prior to lunch. Ages 60 plus, \$3 donation requested. RSVP required. Call Betti by noon Wednesday, 517-206-9035. [info@tcoa.org](mailto:info@tcoa.org).

**Stockbridge Lions and Lioness Clubs** in Stockbridge and Munith. The Stockbridge Lions Club provides ongoing financial support to a wide range of organizations, events and foundations, including Stockbridge Community Outreach, Waterloo Farm Museum, Stockbridge Area Arts Council, American Diabetes Association, Bear Lake Camp, Stockbridge Day in the Village, Gregory Fourth of July Celebration and Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation. The Stockbridge Lions Club has awarded over \$250,000 over the past years to

graduating seniors of Stockbridge High School to help further their educations. The group conducts bingo every Monday night at the American Legion Hall in Stockbridge, and meets the first Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Stockbridge Township Hall. Anyone interested in joining or contacting the Lions Club may contact Gordie Kunzelman, Lion president, at 734-498-2200.

The Lioness Club is a service organization that focuses on, but is not limited to sight. The club earns money by working Lions Club bingo every Monday. Earnings are given to local charities and state charities. The Lionesses meet the fourth Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Presbyterian Church basement.

**Stockbridge Masonic Lodge** supports many causes in the Stockbridge area, including the hat and mitten drive held by Positively Chiropractic, sponsoring teams through Community Education and raising funds for Outreach. A Mason is a member of the oldest and largest goodwill fraternity in the world, known as Masonry or Freemasonry. Masonry teaches that each man has a duty to make life better, not just for himself, but for everyone. Contact Richard Gibson, 517-596-2588 or [gibsonr@med.umich.edu](mailto:gibsonr@med.umich.edu).

**Tide Me Over**, a backpack program that is part of Outreach, works to stave off hunger among the elementary school's most vulnerable students by sending food home with children to tide them over the weekend. Currently, the program provides weekend meals to more than 100 Stockbridge elementary students, pre-kindergarten through sixth grade. Donations may be made c/o the TMO program to Stockbridge Outreach, located behind the Old Middle School, 370 Cherry St. on Mondays and Fridays (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) and Wednesdays 1 to 6 p.m. Mail to Stockbridge Community Outreach, P.O. Box 682, Stockbridge, MI 49285. Questions or comments? Email [56Hollowayc@gmail.com](mailto:56Hollowayc@gmail.com).

**Town Hall Players.** Our hometown community theater group is always looking for new members: actors, musicians, technical directors, designers, backstage and front-of-house crew, and other volunteers. THP relies on the generous support of local businesses, groups, and individuals to continue to produce good local theater. If you would like more info or to sponsor a show or the complete season, please contact Barbara Krusinski at 517-851-1300 or email [walarabw17@yahoo.com](mailto:walarabw17@yahoo.com).

**Wake Up Stockbridge** is a growing online forum and movement of like-minded individuals with the mindset of community unity and pride. Its goals include making our community inviting for all near and far, coming together as a community united rather than divided, and addressing the harder issues and concerns surrounding us. Wake Up Stockbridge, which started as a Facebook group to discuss community goals, is a positive entity that welcomes different points of view and opinions. The group has grown into local gatherings that host community projects. It conducts fundraising activities and initiatives for young and old, residents or not. Although Wake Up highlights Stockbridge as our central point, we are an inclusive group helping overlapping communities and neighbors. After all, it does not take a village, township or district to make a community—it takes like-minded people who simply care. For more information, contact Tina at [wakeupstockbridge@gmail.com](mailto:wakeupstockbridge@gmail.com) or via Facebook.

**Waterloo Farm and Dewey School Museums**, located at 9998 Waterloo-Munith Road (GPS location: 13493 Waterloo-Munith Road, Grass Lake, MI 49240), is maintained and staffed by volunteer workers and members of the Waterloo Area Historical Society (WAHS). We have operated as a community service since 1962, giving tours, living history interpretations, demonstrations, educational meetings, and craft classes. Contact WAHS at P.O. Box 37, Stockbridge, MI 49285, email: [info@waterloofarmmuseum.org](mailto:info@waterloofarmmuseum.org), or call the Farm Museum at 517-596-2254 to leave a message.

**Waterloo Needlework Club.** This group has continued making needlework quilts, knitting and crocheting for people in need for 105 years. The club has supported a number of different charities through the years, including making bandages for injured soldiers during World Wars I and II. WNC supports a number of current charities with quilts or money and will be demonstrating our crafts at Pioneer Day in October at the Waterloo Farm Museum. We appreciate donations of good cotton fabric, batting, or money to buy these items. We meet at the Munith United Methodist Church. For info, call Jan at 517-769-2171 or email [powelljanice02@gmail.com](mailto:powelljanice02@gmail.com).



## Restorative Justice: What it is and can it work in Stockbridge?

by Chief Johnnie Torres Jr.

In criminal justice, there are several approaches to achieve justice. For many, justice may mean that when a person commits a crime against another person, he or she should receive a punishment like going to jail. Fines and probation are also meted out by judges as a way to achieve justice for the harm done by an offender. One such approach is restorative justice, an unfamiliar phrase to many.

Simply put, restorative justice is a means in which the victim, offender, and other community members can meet and discuss the harm caused by the offender and come to an agreement as to how the offender is going to repair that harm and reintegrate into the community. According to prominent criminologist, John Braithwaite, restorative justice is about the idea that because crime hurts, justice should heal. Therefore, both the person who has been hurt and the person who inflicted that hurt must be part of the process.

Can this form of justice work in all circumstances? Well, probably not. But for some crimes it can work quite well. For instance, over a few nights this past summer here in Stockbridge, five kids, ages 10 to 12, decided it would be a good idea to go out after curfew and maliciously destroy some residents' property like solar lamps and potted flowers.

It was not long before they were identified and confessed to their wrongdoings. Now, I must admit that other than reading a chapter or two in college about the subject of restorative justice, I didn't know much about it. But after working in law enforcement for almost 25 years, I knew that the juvenile justice system might not be the best place to take these crimes and these kids in order to have justice served. So I decided to give it a whirl.

I called the victims who had been harmed and asked if they would be willing to meet with the young lads who perpetrated the crimes. The victims were all agreeable, so I called the kids' parents and asked them if they would be willing to participate, which meant they had to bring their kids in and sit behind them as they faced the harmed parties. They were likewise agreeable.

The kids sat shoulder-to-shoulder at one table with parents behind them. The victims were seated to face them. Each victim had an opportunity to address the kids, and each kid had a chance to address the victims. The parents were also allowed to speak. During the meeting, we all came to a consensus as to how the kids were going to repair the damage caused by their actions and regain good standing in the community.

Mostly, the victims just wanted the kids to say they were sorry and to do some community service. By all accounts, this was a very positive experience for both sides.

I like to think of the proverb: It takes a village to raise a child. This was a perfect example of how a community may come together and forgive those who have harmed them, yet hold persons accountable and bring them back into the fold. I hope our youth will act accordingly when they are out unsupervised, and we don't have to seek out justice after a crime is committed. But it is reassuring to know there are options and citizens willing to venture outside the traditional means of achieving justice.

*Chief Torres, a native of Flint, began his career as a reserve police officer before joining the City of Lansing Police where he served for more than 14 years. He joined the Stockbridge Police Department in 2009 and became its chief in 2011. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan-Flint and is married with two adult children.*

## The new year: Time to put our lives in order



The coming of a new year is an ideal time to organize ones life.

by Roberta Ludtke

The coming of a new year is a perfect time to organize one's life. After I retired, I realized if anything unfortunate should befall my husband and me, our children would have a difficult time trying to settle our affairs. I set out to organize a family notebook containing all of our information. Here is a list of some of the items we included in our family book:

1. Driver's license numbers, Social Security numbers, and passports.
2. Numbers for all bank accounts and credit cards, including loans.
3. List of annuities, and other investments such as stocks and bonds.
4. Titles for all vehicles, cars, trailers, boats, ATVs
5. Marriage license and birth certificates.
6. Warranty deeds for owned properties.
7. Previous tax bills for owned properties.
8. Insurance policies for life insurance, car insurance, and homeowners insurance. (Include the policy in the book.)
9. Retirement contact information, along with life insurance in benefit package information.
10. Disbursement of valued items. Taking pictures of items that were either family heirlooms or jewelry and writing a brief history of the items can be meaningful to inheritors. As important, indicate whom you would like to inherit the item.
11. Health insurance information and policy numbers.
12. Once all the information is consolidated into one book, it becomes essential to keep the book current and in a secured area, like a bank or a safe, making sure the area is fireproof.

## Stockbridge Community Greenhouse up and running



The Stockbridge Community Greenhouse is up and running. Photo by Josh Nichols

The Stockbridge Community Greenhouse is up and running. A few community members have shared their gardening tips with student gardeners, and Josh Nichols encouraged others to reach out to him at 517-917-3223 or at nicholsj@panthernet.net if they would like to share information or use some of the space in the greenhouse for their gardening needs.

### Restorative Justice

Though contemporary restorative justice began only about 30 years ago, the effectiveness of these practices in reducing violence, incarceration, recidivism, and suspensions and expulsions in schools is increasingly well documented.

- More than 70 percent of youth participants have no further contacts with the justice system.
- In general, participants express increased satisfaction with the justice process and reduced post-traumatic stress.



Fresh Donuts Daily

# STOCKBRIDGE SPORTS

## SHS varsity basketball tips off season with loss to Bath

by Steve Doran. Photos by Steve

The varsity boys basketball team tipped off the Panther basketball season with a home game on Dec. 5. The Panthers lost 54-31.

The Panthers opened up the new gym at the Stockbridge Jr./Sr. High School versus the Bath Bees.



Left: Kyle Lilley fights for the first tip off of the season. Photo by Photos by Steve

## SHS boys varsity basketball falls to Eaton Rapids

The Panthers lost another close game on Tuesday night at home against Eaton Rapids. Battling injuries, Stockbridge had a short bench, but fought hard and came up just a little short. Chris Hall led the game in scoring 14 points and added four assists and three rebounds. Senior Chris Jenkins led the team with seven rebounds and senior Hunter Winnie added eight points and three rebounds. The Panthers fell to 0-3 on the season.

## Boys seventh-grade basketball team beats Maple Valley



The team huddles between quarters with coach Michael Gurecki.

Photo and story by  
Connie Risner

The seventh-grade boys basketball team beat Maple Valley 41-9 at Maple Valley.



Below: Devin Snider completes the perfect fade away jumper. Photo by Photos by Steve

## Mackenzie Williams signs to play basketball at Madonna University

from page 7

"I am so blessed to have Mackenzie be a part of the women's basketball program at Madonna University next year," stated Rachel Steinbarger, the women's head coach for Madonna University. "She is not only someone who fits where we are looking to take the program, but her spirit, selflessness and ability to always light up a room is something that is a rare gift. I couldn't be any more blessed to have her family be so invested in the journey with her as well. The sky is the limit, and I am so thankful we were able to make her dream come true, the opportunity to play college basketball."

Williams and her family moved to the Stockbridge/Gregory area in 2010. She thrived in the new school setting, becoming involved in many student activities, all while keeping her grades up and playing in sometimes two sports per season. In fact, Williams was recently named the top golfer in the Greater Lansing Activities Conference (GLAC). Williams will also have an opportunity to golf with the Madonna University's golf team.

"I really enjoy volleyball and golf," Williams said, "but I love basketball, and Madonna University has so much to offer."

"We couldn't be prouder of Kenzie," her father Shon Williams declared. Grandparents Judy and Bob Williams nodded in hearty agreement.



# STOCKBRIDGE SPORTS

## Varsity boys basketball



Varsity boys basketball Team: Front row L-R: Hunter Winnie (30), Miguel Medina (23), Kyle Lilley (15), and Chris Jenkins (2). Back row L-R: Dan Demitroff, assistant coach, Daniel Ballagh (25), Brody Canfield (35), Adam Twining (12), Austin Perkins (20), Chris Hall (5), Devin Snider (10), and Rick Weaver, coach.

## Junior varsity boys basketball



JV boys basketball team: Front row L-R: Zack Wilson (15), Gage Loso (11), and Spencer McLennan (32). Middle row L-R: John Morris (21), Lucas Gauss (3), Tylin Ayers (24), Micah Beauregard (10), and Joshua Lewis (20). Back row L-R: Andy Schlaff, manager, Peyton Buurma (12), Zach Hann (2), Zach Runciman, assistant coach, Brian Johnson, coach, Brock Jones (13), Josh Casey (40), and Cameron Brewer, manager

## Varsity girls basketball



Varsity girls basketball team: Front row L-R: Emily Breslin (50), Madi Howard (14), Faith Whitt (12), Mackenzie Williams (4), and Grace Hall (10). Back row: Michelle Zemke (42), Chelsey Asquith (23), Caz Rogozinski, coach; Rob Dancer, assistant coach, Kaylie Shepard (32), and Taylor Carey (24)

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## Save the date- 15th annual Festival of Tables



Article and photo by Judy Williams

The Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation (SAEF) is busy planning its 15th annual fundraiser, the Festival of Tables. Co-chair persons, Chuck Wisman and Carrie Graham are actively organizing and delegating responsibilities. Graham shook her head and stated, "There is so much that needs to be done, I'm just overwhelmed." Wisman grinned and calmly told her, "Everyone always pulls together and the jobs get done." The event will be held at Heritage Elementary School on Saturday, March 24, 2018. All proceeds will be invested back into our community via scholarships and grants during the coming year.

Foundation President Jennifer Hammerberg excitedly explained raffle changes for this year's event with a first place prize of \$500 cash, second place \$200, and third place

SAEF President Jennifer Hammerberg leads a discussion on raffle prize options. Seated in the back row: Bruce Brown, Lance Chapman, and School Superintendent Karl Heidrich Front: Caitlyn Salow, Lyn St.Dennis, and Hammerberg.

\$100. Hammerberg said, "The SAEF board believes the all-cash prizes will make tickets easier to sell to non-local people. This change should increase our raffle revenues." Tickets are available from any SAEF Board member, all Stockbridge school offices, and Jaimie Bennett at SSB Bank.

The evening will include a strolling buffet catered by Chelsea Hospital, decadent desserts by Laura O'Brien Sweets & Treats, and a table decorating competition. Highlights of the evening are auctions, both live and silent, a 50/50 raffle, and a heads-or-tails game.

Help the community and enjoy a fun evening by purchasing a ticket (\$35 if decorating the table or \$40 and the SAEF will place you at a decorated table) for the event. Lyn St. Dennis clarified, "The tables are designed to seat eight adults, but some groups are larger and some smaller. If the group is smaller, we often will add individuals that are not part of a group to make a table of eight. Larger groups may be assigned to more than one table."

"This will be our second year of offering an early checkout procedure, thanks to technologies we've incorporated for the auction," SAEF board member Caitlyn Salow said. "Plus, checkout should be fast due to an extra credit card reader and more checkout lanes at the close of the event."

Another way to help your community and support the SAEF would be to donate a tax-deductible item or service for the auction. To donate, contact Lyn St.Dennis at 734-498-2662 or Bruce Brown at 517-480-4187, email dn1610b@gmail.com.

For further information about the SAEF or the Festival of Tables, please visit our website at [www.panthernet.net](http://www.panthernet.net) and follow the SAEF link. Also, you may visit our Facebook page.

## We get letters

Nov. 7, 2017

Dear Stockbridge Community News,

Well, for starters I just would like to say thank you for the newspapers! For most people that receive this newsletter, it's not a big deal, but for me it's the exact opposite. Your paper is one of the few things that I get to look forward to, other than my visits once a month. Doing prison time is very difficult, mostly because of being away from family, but your paper only helps me do my prison term smoother. Stockbridge has changed a lot since I've been away, and it's only going to get better with time. I've lived in a lot of different towns and cities, and only Stockbridge I can call home. The way I see it, Stockbridge is where I would raise my family.

I was born in Lansing in September 1997, so that makes me 20. For 20 years, I have called Stockbridge home, and for the twenty plus I will call "Stocktucky" home. Many of you may have heard of me or actually know me and may dislike me because of what I have done, but I love everyone in Stockbridge. They're like family to me and will be always. As of right now, my earliest possible out-date is Feb. 7, 2020, which means I have to see the parole board and prove to them that I'm a perfect candidate to be released for 6-24 months of being supervised by the state (parolee).

Living in prison is stressful: waking up every day wondering if you're going to fight someone or get stabbed.

*Letter continued on page 17.*

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## We get letters from page 16

It's like what Bob Richards said in the November issue, "Young soldiers barely out of high school are thrust into positions of great responsibility every day." But most of us young adults didn't make it through high school.

My message from experience would be so stay in school and please stay away from drugs.

Your education is more important than getting high, and that's coming from a recovering addict. I have lost so much due to my addiction, but most of all I lost my best friend, Breanna Wenk.

I am enclosing a picture of me, and if anyone would like to correspond, please give my address. You have my permission, and they need to include their address in the letter because we don't get the original envelope. Once again, thank you for bringing me joy with every newsletter.

Respectfully yours,

Donovan Buckner #981139

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## Sixth annual Beverly Penix toy drive a success



Jodie Hamon and Allison Powaga stand before a table loaded with donated toys.

by Bob Castle

The spirit of Christmas and that of Beverly Penix were well served Saturday night, Dec. 2 at the sixth annual Beverly Penix Toy Drive, held at the American Legion Post 510 in Stockbridge. The event, planned by her two daughters, Jodie Hamon and Allison Powaga, was designed

to collect toys for deserving children in the area, and to remember their mother who passed away in April of 2011. Beverly was an active volunteer for numerous community causes.

"We wanted to do this because it is something that Mom would have done," Hamon said. Joyful Christmas music filled the air as dozens of participants filed into the hall with arms full of toys to be given to children through Stockbridge Outreach. In addition to the donated toys, the event held a 50/50 raffle, and a gift card and Christmas basket raffle. The money raised from these items will also go to Stockbridge Outreach to be used to purchase Christmas supplies for Outreach clients.

This annual event started in Hamon's garage and quickly grew out of that space. From there it grew to the Back Street Steak House and eventually to the Legion Hall, whose members gave the event free use of the facilities.

Beverly's family expressed appreciation to everyone who donated to make this annual event another great success.



**The great indoors.** We didn't check the forecast for cold weather. Or bring out the coloring books and crayons. But we did provide the heat so this family could enjoy the day together. When the energy you invest in life meets the energy we fuel it with, indoor fun happens.

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# What you need to know before Tax Day Stockbridge Schools Surplus Sale

by Amanda Partin, H&R Block, Stockbridge Manager

Now that the holidays are over, let the real fun begin. As tax season settles upon us, the first rule of business is to stay calm. Start with gathering any information you may need to use or bring to your tax appointment. Yes, the government has passed a tax reform, but we most likely will not see changes until the 2018 tax year. What materials does a person need to assemble? Keep it simple. Having last year's taxes will serve as a handy reference, and you'll need a photo ID.

Gather all W-2's and **income sources** from self-employment, interest, jury duty, gambling/lottery winnings, alimony, unemployment compensation, Social Security. You'll need personal information for dependents, including their SSNs, birthdates, school records, and daycare records.

Think you may wish to itemize? You'll need paperwork showing **all deductible expenses**, including medical expenses for prescriptions, supplies, eye exams, lab X-rays, dentist and doctor visits. Find proof of payment for all taxes, including federal and state estimates, local, and real estate. You will be able to deduct contributions to charitable organizations, including churches, United Way, veterans, hospitals, schools, and the Red Cross. And don't forget employee expenses including professional dues, union dues, tools/equipment.

If planning for direct deposit, have bank information handy. Keep in mind your tax situation may vary from your neighbors', so what you use and bring with you may also vary. If you have questions on what else you may need, call your favorite tax professional. He or she will be happy to assist.

## Winter Carnival comes to Stockbridge Schools

Photo by Julie Shotwell

Smith Elementary was a happening place on Thursday, Dec. 7th. Great family fun for everyone.



Henry, Katelynn and Kennedy eagerly await to choose from the lollipop tree.



Stacks of computer desks attract interested shoppers to take their pick.

filtered through the doors of the Old Middle School over the weekend of Dec. 16-17. The Stockbridge Community Education was holding its final School Surplus/Salvage sale.

Jo Mayer, on hand to greet visitors and answer questions, said, "Sometimes we have one item like a table on display with dozens like it available in the back," she said. "If prices aren't marked, we have a price list, or feel free to make an offer." Tables on wheels, tall ones, short ones, wide and slim ones—all ranged in price from \$2 to \$10. Chairs? \$5. Preschool toys? Take your pick.

"Everything must go and buyers should be prepared to take their purchases with them," the flier read.

Changes are afoot and rumors rampant. Stay tuned to [stockbridgecommunitynews.com](http://stockbridgecommunitynews.com) for up-to-the-minute announcements.

by Patrice Johnson

A light but steady stream of inquisitive shoppers

## Christmas program brings Elvis to Christmas story

by Lorrie Brooks

The Stockbridge United Methodist Church was packed with more than 100 people to see its Christmas program, "I Saw Elvis at Stockbridge United Methodist Church," starring Tristan Decroix as Elvis, Roger Trowbridge and Larry Guenther as the Blues Brothers, Elwood and Jake Blues, Harleigh Hart as Baby Jesus, Sally Long as Mrs. Claus, Tyler Gipson and Carl Erikson as King Herod. They were joined by a large cast, including many of the church's children.



Baby Jesus played by Harleigh Hart with her parents, Brooke and Jacob Hart, as Mary and Joseph.

"I saw an ad for an auto parts store that said Elvis was there," Pastor Sue Trowbridge explained, "and I decided to write the play as if Elvis were at our church." Trowbridge hoped that the audience would know that God doesn't ask them to be successful, but to be faithful and to do their best.

The play took attendees on the adventure of Elvis, who once in heaven was greeted by the Blues Brothers. In order to gain his blue suede shoes, Elvis was told he must do a good deed, which consisted of stopping Herod from harming the baby boys in Jerusalem. They then went to the North Pole, where Santa gave them the good deed, and Elvis was able to sing for Baby Jesus. He then confronted King Herod, and in the end was granted his shoes.

"My favorite part was Elvis getting his blue suede shoes for doing a good deed." Eva Lou Mills smiled.

The children's hand chime choir led by Liz Noble performed a few numbers, including an Elvis song. The stars of the show were King Herod, Elvis and the adorable Baby Jesus.

Out of consideration for the traditional story of Christ, Trowbridge said, "We did a Nativity Scene and put traditional Christmas hymns throughout the play. Elvis knelt and sang to Baby Jesus to honor him, and the last act consisted of a traditional Christmas play." She indicated that the play was intended to entertain as well as convey a biblical message of hope in this Christmas season.



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# Stockbridge Lions Air Force

by Diane Rockall

In December 2005, Darwin Snider, Jennifer and Ed Grumelot initiated the Stockbridge Lions' purchase of planes from the Dewitt Lions to create the Stockbridge Lions Air Force. In addition to parades throughout Michigan, the planes have been used in Lions International parades in Montreal, Philadelphia, Denver, Indianapolis, Minneapolis and Detroit. As recently as Nov. 25, the planes whirled and twirled down Main Street during Stockbridge's Festival of Lights.



Recently two of the Stockbridge Lions Air Force planes whirled and twirled down Main Street during the Nov. 25th Festival of Lights in Stockbridge.

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## Where's Waldo contest

Think you know the area? Here's your chance to prove it. As we launch the new 2018 year, SCN photographer Rose Collison will provide a monthly photo of a mystery location within the Stockbridge School District. Names of readers who correctly identify the subject of the photo will be entered in a drawing. January's winner will receive a \$20 gift certificate, compliments of this month's sponsor, Rob's Pizza.

To participate, enter your best guess as to the item and location featured in the 'Where's Waldo' photograph along with your name, address and phone number. Email Rose at stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com or snail mail Stockbridge Community News (c/o Rose), P.O. Box 83, Gregory, MI 48137. Entries must be dated or postmarked no later than Jan. 7.

Rose will conduct the drawing for the first winner at noon, Friday, January 13, at Rob's Pizza, 102 N. Clinton St., Stockbridge.

**Thank you to Rob's Pizza for sponsoring this month's contest, and good luck, participants.**



Where's Waldo? Can you identify this location?



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