



STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY NEWS

a nonprofit newsletter

December 2018

for the common good and welfare of residents in the Stockbridge area

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Seventh annual Festival of Lights kicks off holiday season with bangs and sparkles



Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived in a horse-drawn white carriage—a spectacular sight. Photo credit Jenny Smith

frosting sugar cookies, making stockings, and decorating ornaments with the help of volunteers at participating businesses that also handed out much-appreciated hot chocolate and candy canes.

Awesome Dogs sold concessions on the square, and Crossroads Community Church passed out pizza. All while the Opps' Doyle Valley Percherons provided relaxing jaunts through the village in a stately horse-drawn carriage, compliments of Enbridge.

Inside the Township Hall, skillfully built and wonderfully imaginative gingerbread houses lined up for a competition, with the contest win going to the Stockbridge First Robotics Team. Outside, the Tree Gala brimmed, sponsored by Eaton Federal Credit Union.

Then darkness set in, and Emcee Gordie Kunzleman introduced Jean Bliss to ceremoniously light the township tree and kick off the procession.

See Lights on page 20.

S.H.S. Jazz Band and Crandall & Kroes captivate audience at Stockbridge Township Hall



The first half of the evening began with a Patty Pniewski directing a Stockbridge High School Jazz Band concert with more than two dozen young people performing. Photo credit Patrice Johnson

a variety of entertaining pieces and featured several student solos, interrupted on occasion for applause.

Throughout the evening mothers of band members provided refreshments. Doughnuts and cider, donated by Gee Farms, comprised the menu of the day. Donations were accepted to defray costs of the Jazz Band's planned spring trip to Florida's Disney World.

See Jazz on page 10.

by Joan Tucker and Jenny Smith

The seventh annual Festival of Lights, organized by the Downtown Development Authority and the Chamber of Commerce, kicked off the holiday season with bangs and sparkles as area families ignored a chill drizzle to attend this colorful, joyous event in Stockbridge, Saturday, Nov. 24.

Twinkling lights and festive holiday music combined with the scent of popcorn from Kate's Kettle Corn to dazzle a downtown crowd of 600 to 800 attendees. More than 200 children came away from their visits with Santa in high spirits, as his "nice" list was long this year. They scampered from one Elf Stop to another,

Small Business Saturday ushers in the holiday season at Stockbridge



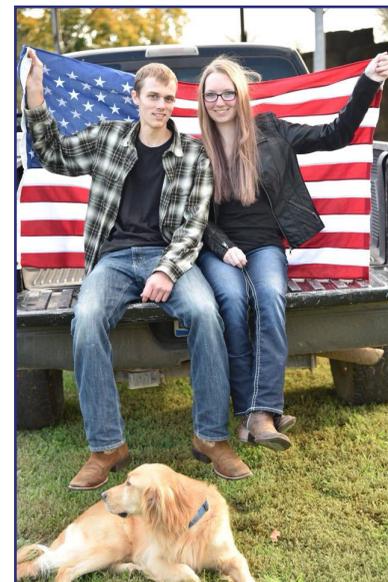
Local Girl Scout Troop 30731 sells cookies, candy and mixed snacks. Photo credit Suzi Greenway

parishoners providing lunch, Larry Guenther filling the scene with music, and vendors offering their wares.

Suzi Greenway's and Joey Lentine's fresh-baked goods were available, as were honey, eggs and jam from Beemers Farm. Cheese lovers enjoyed products from Steffey Farm's ParaPara Creamery. Mouthwatering pesto and chips came from Jackie Cosner, fresh produce from Titus Farms, and maple syrup from Genie Farms.

See Small on page 13.

Winter roads claim life of local teen



Luke Riker and Hannah Glair pictured above. Glair captioned the photo, "One day you'll leave this world behind, so live a life you will remember." 1 Peter 2:16 Philippians 1:3 Photo credit Megan Bodell via Glair's Facebook page.

by Diane Rockall

Hannah Glair, 17, of Munith, lost her life Thursday, Nov. 15, in Henrietta Township. Rescue crews were called at 10:45 p.m., according to the Jackson Citizen Patriot.

She was driving east on Territorial Road when she lost control of her vehicle and hit a large tree on the south side of the road. She was pronounced dead at the scene. Both Henrietta Township Fire Department and Jackson Community Ambulance assisted at the scene.

Heavy snowfall during the day created hazardous road conditions, leading to multiple area crashes. Road conditions are believed to be the cause of the crash.

Family and friends gathered Wednesday, Nov. 20, at Crossroads Community Church, and then on Nov. 21, for funeral services at the Stockbridge Junior-Senior High School gymnasium.

Sons of American Legion host Veterans Day dinner



Patrick Taylor, A. C. Allen, and Gene Williams enjoy a prime rib dinner. Photo credit Patrice Johnson

by Diane Rockall

Sunday, Nov. 11, the Sons of the American Legion Mackinder Glenn Post 510 hosted its second annual Veterans appreciation dinner from 3 to 7 p.m. Veterans and spouses ate for free. Meals were available for purchase to those wishing to celebrate with the veterans.

Guests and friends began arriving punctually and were greeted by Sons Commander Marty Bliss and next in line Al De Croix III. Everyone had a choice between prime rib and grilled chicken. Meals began with a generous salad and then included vegetables, potatoes and bread in addition to the main course, prime

rib or chicken. A variety of pies was available for dessert. Beverages included water, coffee and beer with others available in the bar.

Portions were generous and many individuals took leftovers home. All seemed to leave happy and satisfied. Members of the Women's Auxiliary worked throughout the day serving the meals with joy and enthusiasm.

Bliss credited Bill Cool with activating the Sons of the American Legion of the post and for recruiting him. He said he joined and became active after his own son, also Marty, a 24-year veteran was killed while on a helicopter mission for the CIA. "I didn't serve," he said, "but I am serving now."

De Croix is a third-generation vet, as both his father and grandfather, Al Jr. and Al Sr. served.

The Sons group, the Legion Riders, the Women's Auxiliary and post members host a number of events during the year. Members participate regularly in both the Memorial Day and Fourth of July parades. Events are posted about one week in advance on the sign in front of Post 510 at 830 S. Clinton.

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Munith Lions Club marks 65 years of serving the community



by Tina Cole-Mullins

After 65 years of service, the Munith Lions Club remains a small but mighty group. Chartered on Dec. 12, 1953, the Lions Club is keeping its roar and sponsors community activities including the recent Halloween Party and vision testing. It also supplies free eyeglasses, smoke alarms, and adopts a family at Christmas.

According to Marlene Huttenlocher, member since 2007, the Lions Clubs have changed with the times.

"Years ago, the Lions was a club for men by institution only," she said. "The president of the club used to host cocktail parties in his home, with everyone dressing up." The women wore long dresses back then, she said, as was the style.

Since then, the Lions have transformed from a "formal men's group only, to a less formal, casual dress, allowing us ladies to join," Huttenlocher said.

Though the Lions opened their doors to women in 1987, another two decades passed before the local Munith Lions Club had its first women members.

"Over the years, club membership began to dwindle. Three of us wives joined to boost the men in 2007," Huttenlocher said.

Her late husband Everell (Ev), a longtime member, held club offices of post district governor and post council chairman. He was honored with the Melvin Jones award, named for the founder of the Lions. In honor of Everell's passing five years ago, the Ev Huttenlocher High School Scholarship was created.

"Being a Lion has brought world travels to (Lions) International conventions," Marlene Huttenlocher recalled, "taking me to Montreal, Canada, and the faraway land of Tokyo, Japan."

Christmas of the past, an event in need of revitalizing.

Photo credit Munith Lions

She also has received accolades, receiving the Melvin Jones award, named for Chicago businessman Melvin Jones who founded Lions Club International in 1917 with a belief that local business clubs should broaden their horizons for the betterment of their communities.

Munith was a vibrant town with general businesses in the '70s and '80s, Huttenlocher remembers. "Businessmen joined the Lions Club. Club members helped each other with building projects, including building the Munith Park with the help of Jim Worden," she said, adding that the Lions continue to maintain the park.

In 1925, Helen Keller challenged the Lions Club to become "Knights of the Blind" and join her in the Crusade Against Darkness. From this grew the iconic white cane sales, still in place among charters across the country.

Currently, the Lions Club is the largest international club in the world.

Although the Munith Lions have no formal plans to celebrate their 65 years of service, President Glenn Buckmaster, who joined the Lions three years ago and represents the youngest of the current 13 members, hopes to breathe new life into the club.

Celebrating Christmas through the ages



by Ron and Arlene Kaiser

Today, Christmas brings families together for traditions of gift-giving, food, church services, carols and more. The film "It's a Wonderful Life" with Jimmy Stewart and Bing Crosby singing "White Christmas" join the list of popular songs for the season.

But these modern-day traditions date back to 1223, when St. Francis of Assisi enlisted the townsfolk to create a live Nativity, or crèche. Songs were sung and the Christmas story was told about animals, shepherds, the three Wise Men and the Holy Family, so those who were unable to read could hear the blessed story.

Martin Luther is credited with making the pagan evergreen tree the symbol of Christmas when he decorated it with candles to symbolize Christ's love as ever alive and "the light of the world."

In America, the Christmas tree appeared in Bethlehem, Pa., as early as 1747. The Pennsylvania Germans also had Kriss Kringle, the Christ Child, as the giver of gifts.

The German Christmas tree and gift-giving customs spread across America, in part because of Charles Follen, a 19th-century German immigrant and Harvard professor. In 1835, he surprised his son and guests with a German Christmas, including a tree with lighted candles and goodies for the children.

In the 1840s, German families began to invite their neighbors to see their tree. Publicity of the Follen family celebration helped counteract drunken revelries, increasingly popular in many northern cities.

In England, people warmed up to German Christmas customs after Prince Albert of Germany wed Queen Victoria in 1840. Some wealthy Americans with an English heritage emulated those aristocratic practices, particularly after magazines pictured Queen Victoria's Christmas tree.

But as late as mid-19th century, any celebration of Christmas was frowned upon by some Baptists, Presbyterians, Congregationalists and Quakers. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day were normal workdays, and celebrations in homes were uncommon. Christmas trees adorned with gifts only appeared in communal settings, such as churches, schools, Grange halls and courthouses.

Gradually, objections to the celebration of Christmas dissipated. In 1870, Dec. 25 was declared a federal holiday. A German-American cartoonist, Thomas Nast, created an image of Santa Claus, embraced by most Americans. Louis Prang, a German-American lithographer, initiated the idea of sending Christmas cards.

See *German on page 10.*

Martin Luther is credited with making the pagan evergreen tree the symbol of Christmas when he decorated it with candles. Photo credit Arlene Kaiser

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Community Calendar



Dec. 1 - Gregory Community Church Clothes Closet, 10 a.m. to noon at the Gregory Community Church
Dec. 1 - Santa and the Elves, 5 to 7 p.m. at the Stockbridge United Methodist Church
Dec. 1 - Capitol City Ringers, 7 to 8 p.m. at St. James Catholic Church
Dec. 5, 12, 19 - Coffee Chat, 11 a.m. to noon at the Stockbridge Library
Dec. 5 - Grow with Google - Search for Jobs, 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library
Dec. 11 - Meeting for the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail Heritage Project, 7 to 9 p.m. at the Hamburg Township Hall
Dec. 13 - Smith Elementary Annual Winter Carnival, 5 to 7 p.m. at Emma Smith Elementary School
Dec. 13 - Stockbridge Church of Christ Free Clothing and Food Items, 10 a.m. to noon at the Stockbridge Church of Christ
Dec. 15 - Advent Day of Reflection with Lay Dominicans, 10 a.m. to noon at Sts. Cornelius & Cyprian Catholic Church
Dec. 18 - Gregory Community Church

Clothes Closet, 6 to 8 p.m. at the Gregory Community Church
Dec. 20 - Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition (SWAC) Meeting, 5:30 to 7 p.m. in Room 103 of the Old Middle School
Dec. 20 - Penance Service, 7 to 8 p.m. at St. James Catholic Church
Dec. 24 - Christmas Vigil Mass, 4 to 5 p.m. at St. James Catholic Church
Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Service, 5 to 6 p.m. at Stockbridge United Methodist Church
Dec. 24 - Christmas Cantata, 7 to 9 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church
Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Service, 7 p.m. at Stockbridge United Methodist Church
Dec. 24 - Traditional Christmas Eve Service, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at St. Paul United Church of Christ
Dec. 24 - Christmas Vigil Mass, 10 to 11 p.m. at St. James Catholic Church
Dec. 25 - Christmas Day Mass, 10 to 11 a.m. at St. James Catholic Church

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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 more than 8,000 households in the 125-square-mile area of the Stockbridge school district, reaching approximately 19,000 residents. Our website and Facebook pages are pleased to serve more than 20,000 viewers each month with a growing list of more than 1,000 regular followers.

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

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Pastor Josh Swieringa answers the call from L.A. to Munith



by Cindy Lance

Drive east or west along Michigan 106 through Munith, and you cannot miss the large cross and stately brick church on the hill. A daily inspirational message, prominently displayed on the board at Jeruel Baptist Church, will undoubtedly touch your heart and trigger spiritual thoughts. Pastor Bob Castle was only the second pastor to serve in that idyllic church's history, so accepting that he would retire after 41 years was difficult for many community members.

But the church began praying for guidance and launched a cautious search. The story of how Pastor Bob's replacement came to be stands as a reminder to believers of God's presence, and of His plan for a community in search of a new leader, and a young family in search of their forever home. January 2019 officially rings in the two-year anniversary of Pastor Josh Swieringa's service at Jeruel Baptist Church. He and wife Karen welcomed this reporter into their home to talk about how God led them to Jeruel and the local community.

Pastor Josh spent his early life in rural Iowa, he said, where he felt he was going to be a farmer, pastor, or missionary. His father, a pastor, was offered an assistant pastor position in a Muskegon church. That ultimately moved the family to Michigan, and while in the youth program at that church, Josh met his future wife, Karen.

Years later, a grown Josh started as part-time pastor serving at the side of his father at that church. There, he focused on youth and music ministry, and later moved into a full-time position as assistant pastor.

Nine years passed, and Josh and Karen were called in a new direction. They spent 17 months traveling and preaching in different churches as they tried to raise financial support to move to Los Angeles and start a church. God closed that door, and they moved back into their home, which hadn't sold, and returned to active membership in the Muskegon church.

Through prayer, the couple's steadfast companion, they asked God to reveal His plan. The ultimate networker was at work, Josh said. The Muskegon and Jeruel churches shared a common connection: They both supported a missionary in Spain. Through this common connection the need for Pastor Bob's replacement was revealed.

Pastor Josh and Karen Swieringa with their six children: Hannah 13, Sarah 11, Keturah turns 10 in January, Josiah 7, Leah turns 5 in December, and Moriah 2. User provided photo

The wheels were set in motion.

In August of 2016, Pastor Josh, Karen and their family came to visit. By January they relocated here to stay.

When asked about his goals for the near future, Pastor Josh indicated he and his family are focused on meeting the spiritual needs of the community. In the new year, he plans to deliver a series of messages on the roles of the church, community, and family, and how these critical components meet the spiritual needs of individuals.

"We love the people of this community for their warmth and generosity," Josh said on behalf of himself and his family, and he cited the benefit of the area's small-town feel.

Pastor Josh and Karen have six children: Hannah 13, Sarah 11, Keturah turns 10 in January, Josiah 7, Leah turns 5 in December, and Moriah 2.

Clearly, faith and love run as strong currents through this refreshing and uplifting family, and each member possesses a unique ability to share his or her joy for life with others.

This reporter left the Swieringa home with a warm heart and gratitude for the blessings this family is bringing to the community. She also brought with her a very nicely colored picture of a hippopotamus and the feeling that she had made great new friends.



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Garden Club decorates Township Square for the holidays



Front row: Molly Howlett, Karen Lunsford, Beverly Glynn, Judy Williams, Audrey Price; Second row: Connie, Joan Tucker, Jeannine Wayman, Jean Bliss; Back rows: Julia Neuhaus, Laura Morehouse, Terry Sommer, Connie Risner, Mary Wilson, Nancy Wisman, Debbie Shellenbarger and Sue Lindemer. Not shown: Dorothy Craft. Photo credit Patrice Johnson

Williams called the meeting to order to plan the club's next philanthropic effort.

"Ladies," Williams announced before adjourning the meeting. "Next month is the gift exchange, and don't forget to bring money for Outreach. Do we have volunteers to shop for our families?"

Art with Jazz debuts to enthusiastic crowd



Light refreshments were provided as local residents enjoyed music and art and mingled in neighborly conversations in the holiday-decorated setting. Photo by Paul Crandall.

and my artwork," she said, "and Deb Fogell's band, Generations, was a good addition." Redfield thanked "all the people who came out to support us" and expressed appreciation to Jo Mayer, Paul Crandall, Suzi Greenway, Chris Jones, Diane Wilson, and Lynn Balkus for "helping pull the event together."

Jones, in addition to exhibiting five times in Grand Rapids' famous ArtPrize, has had his sculptures displayed at the Dexter District Library, in Royal Oak, and the 2009 Sculpture Walk in Chelsea. See <http://mjonessculpt.com>.

Robert Johnson and Debbie Fogell, of Generations, have been creating and sharing their themed shows with communities throughout Michigan and surrounding states since 2003. Keyboardist Pat Cronley, from the Flint area, has earned numerous awards for his work with public television and radio, winning an Emmy in 2011 for a musical score. Check out <https://www.generationsperforms.com/> and <http://www.ruschentertainment.com/pat-cronley/>.

Photo and article by
Patrice Johnson

The Christmas holiday arrived Monday, Nov. 5 at the Stockbridge Township Square when members of the Stockbridge Area Garden Club gathered to decorate the gazebo and Township Hall.

In keeping with their traditional generosity, Rick and Molly Howlett of the Howlett Tree Farm donated a stately Norway spruce and swags for the Township Square's gazebo. Outside, hardworking garden club members teamed up to decorate the tree and hang the swags. Inside the hall, they strung garland across the balcony and stage, hung wreaths, and brightened the hall's Victorian windows with glowing snowflakes.

Afterward, the group convened in the basement for a potluck and President Judy

Crossroads Church holds annual opening day Buck Bash



A few of the bucks hanging at the buck pole contest. Photo credit Rose Collison

by Rose Collison

The 2018 Buck Bash was again a success, with at least 20 bucks and a hoard of attendees gathering Thursday, Nov. 15 outside Crossroads Church. A tent with food and hot chocolate kept hunters and friends warm.

First and second prizes went to John Pidd and Nate Dawson. The winning shoulder mounts were sponsored by Larry's taxidermy and Chelsea Taxidermy.

Third prize went to Charles Underwood. He received a muzzle loader, compliments of Ralph's Gun Shop.

Fourth-prize winner, Waylon Whitaker, took home a Yeti cooler, compliments of Mitchell Funeral Home.

Youth 16 and under prize went to Jacob Dalton, who received a gift card to Rush Archery.

Additional photos from the Buck Bash can be found at www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com.

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Trick or Treat on the Square draws hundreds of princesses, skeletons and incredibles

by Rose Collison and Patrice Johnson

Trick or Treat on the Square proved a big hit Oct. 31 as costumed kids, old and young, flooded the Stockbridge Township Square from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Rural township residents who typically enjoy only a rare knock on their country-home doors, packed up their folding chairs and migrated to the Township Square to pass out treats to hoards of grateful trick or treaters.

My Body Shop relocated its annual Trunk or Treat Trunk decorating contest to the square, and participants' Halloween-themed trunks added to the festivities. Lines were steady at SAESA's table, offering doughnuts and cider.

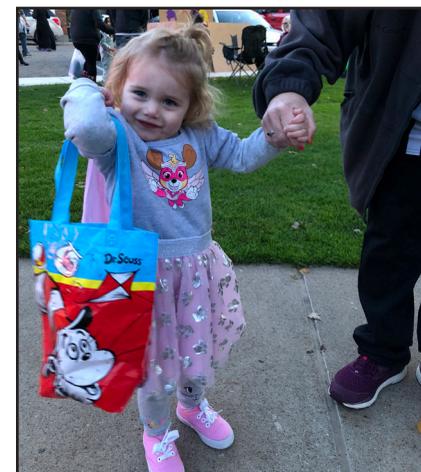


New to the square this year, My Body Shop sponsors Trunk or Treat. Photo credit Patrice Johnson

Earlier in the evening, the village streets were chock full of trick or treaters. Amazing costumes added a new dimension to the already decorated town. Residents' porch lights welcomed little ones walking with their parents.



The Grinch and Cindy Lou Who travel from snowy Mount Crumpit to the Stockbridge Township Square to trick-or-treat. Photo credit Patrice Johnson



Your favorite Paw Patrol pup reporting for duty. Sky to the rescue! Photo credit Patrice Johnson

Local hospitals graded A to F in patient safety

by Tina Cole-Mullins

St. Joseph Mercy of Chelsea and the U of M's Michigan Medicine recently received A ratings for patient safety performance in the Fall 2018 review of Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades, thereby achieving back-to-back A ratings in both the spring and fall of 2018. Two other area hospitals, Sparrow Hospital and Health System of Lansing and Henry Ford Allegiance of Jackson raised their grades this fall from a B to A.

Only one area hospital received a B rating, St. Joseph Mercy of Livingston Hospital (Howell). Hurley Medical Center of Flint raised its rating to D from its former F rating in the spring.

"This marks the thirtieth A rating for the hospital," President and CEO of St. Joseph Mercy of Chelsea Nancy Graebner said. "We are thrilled to be among the top 32 percent of hospitals nationally that earned an A grade for patient safety. Our scorecard reflects our commitment to our patients and to achieve the best possible outcomes for them."

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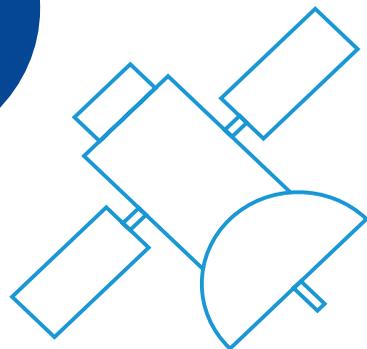
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Student of the Month: Jose Ortiz-Martinez



by Cindy Lance

Seventh-grader Jose Ortiz-Martinez loves soccer so much, he hopes to become a pro one day. But until then, Jose is busy being a star student in the classroom at Stockbridge Junior High.

This effort has been noticed by his teachers and Jose is being honored as December's Student of the Month.

Teacher Sarah Vowels said "not only does Jose work diligently on all of his classwork, but he is also a very thoughtful student personally."

"He is always ready to help a fellow student," she said. "Jose makes Stockbridge Junior High a better place each and every day."

Last year Jose was a straight A-student, with a love for science and math (and a good laugh with friends at lunch).

He has attended Stockbridge schools, along with his older sister, two younger sisters and younger brother, all his life. Along with his siblings, he lives with his dad, Jose, and mom, Betty.

Jose said his mom supports him so much. Without her, he wouldn't have made it this far in his soccer career, he added.

Another positive influence in his life is Lionel Messi, an Argentine professional soccer player. " (He) was just like me when he was my age," Jose said.

When Jose was still playing baseball, his coach gave him a baseball and the "heart" award.

Teacher Sarah Vowels says Jose works diligently on all of his classwork. "He is also a very thoughtful student, and he is always ready to help his fellow students. Jose makes Stockbridge Junior High a better place each and every day." School provided photo

He always came to practice with a smile. He lives by the motto "never give up." When he has a bad game, he tries hard again the next time.

In addition to hoping to one day become a professional soccer player, Jose dreams of "being remembered for doing something great."

With his determination and drive, it appears he is dribbling down that path toward a successful future.



From the superintendent's desk

Smith elementary ranks as a top performing elementary school in Ingham County

Our Smith school staff are passionate educators, dedicated to the teaching and learning of all children. Below are points of pride from Smith Elementary School as we continue to prepare students in our school district for upper elementary.

- The Michigan School Index System ranked Smith an overall 94.6 percent in school performance.

- Proud 1:1 school where staff and administrators utilize Chromebooks to augment the curriculum, and kindergarten through second-grade students use the technology to enhance their learning.

- Smith has an extremely positive school environment and a strong Positive Behavior Intervention and Support program. These benefits better enable students to maximize their learning potential and participate in positive learning activities.

- The kindergarten through second-grade STEM program at Smith helps build students' foundations in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

- Smith houses four preschool programs, thereby fostering great staff and student relationships and improving coordination of professional development opportunities.

Sincerely,
Karl Heidrich

Karl Heidrich has been an administrator for Stockbridge Community Schools since 1999 and Superintendent of Schools since 2013.

SRSLY

Stockbridge Community News is grateful to SRSLY for sponsoring 'Student of the Month'

German page 3

Americans gradually picked up the German Christmas customs and celebrated Christmas with eating, drinking, playing music and gift giving.

However, we celebrate the holiday in 2018, may we all experience peace, hope and love.

If you go

You can experience the Christmas traditions of a German family in the late 1800s, complete with music, a parlor tree covered in kugels (ornaments) and a table set with Christmas treats, at the Waterloo Farm Museum, Dec. 1 and Dec. 2. See the ad in this edition for more information.

Source: Many facts for this article were gleaned from George Wieland's book, "Celtic Germans, The Rise and Fall of Ann Arbor's Swabians."

Jazz page 1

After a brief intermission Crandall and Kroes took to the stage to perform what they called "Love and Lamentation. Trouble and Trains." The two men played a variety of banjos, guitars and harmonicas to present a nostalgic history of primarily American music, tossing in a few pieces from pre-American culture dating back to the 1600s and from other nations.

Both performances provided time to sit back, relax and enjoy good music in the presence of friends.



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Garden of the month



“Retaining wall made beautiful. Gargoyle watches over red poppies called Shirlies.” Photo credit Joan Tucker

by Joan Tucker

Dear Readers,
Congratulations Teri Branstrom, of Munith, November’s “Garden of the Month” contest winner. A judge writes, “Retaining wall made beautiful. Gargoyle watches over red poppies called Shirlies.”

If you have a favorite garden, send in photos of it. Each month, July to March, the Stockbridge Area Garden Club will select a garden for this feature. In March 2019, readers will vote for their favorite garden. The winner will receive a \$25 gift certificate from Tulip Tree Gardens. To enter, email up to five photos by the 10th of the month, attn: Gardens at stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com. Include your name, physical address of the garden, and a phone number.



Thank you to Pathway Landscape for sponsoring Garden of the Month

Death Notices

Included below are names of community residents who have recently died and of whom we have been notified. Death notices were also listed on Stockbridge Community News website within the past month. If you wish to have a death notice included in a future edition, please contact Stockbridge Community News.

There is no charge for this public service. Full obituaries are available for a fee.

- Pauline Nottingham - died Oct. 18, 2018 - Plainwell
- Margaret E. Pelton - died Oct. 24, 2018 - buried Oaklawn Cemetery
- Dorinda Barden - died Oct. 29, 2018 - Jackson
- Sophia Kaluszka - died Oct. 31, 2018 - Munith
- Hannah L. Glair - died Nov. 15, 2018 - Munith
- Wendy Hall - died Nov. 16, 2018 - Stockbridge
- Pauline Williams - died Nov. 19, 2018 - Stockbridge
- Douglas DeLong - died Nov. 19, 2018 - Stockbridge
- Glenadene Price - died Nov. 21, 2018 - Munith
- Vivian E. May - died Nov. 23, 2018 - Gregory
- Franklin R. Morris - died Nov. 24, 2018 - Munith

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Vision impairment: Not a hurdle too high when it comes to elections



No hurdle too high for Jill Ogden when it comes to elections. Photo credit Judy Williams

by Jill Ogden and Judy Williams

Voting can be daunting for most of us, considering the time it takes to go to the polls, wait in line and make all those choices. Add arranging transportation, asking for assistance to read and fill out a ballot—all while feeling inferior throughout the process—and you may come close to imagining what it is like to vote as a person who is blind.

Only in recent history have voters with visual impairments been able to vote independently. Jill Ogden, president of the Stockbridge PTO and mother of six, is one of those fortunate to vote in a state that requires accessible voting machines.

During the 2016 election, Ogden recalls breaking into a cold sweat as she entered her first polling booth, sat down, slid her ballot into the machine, made her selections and printed her ballot. After navigating that process, she took her ballot to the tabulator and cast it.

“It was exhilarating. I felt like a teenager leaving the Secretary of State’s office with a new driver’s license,” she said.

Recently, Ogden was given another opportunity to take her enthusiasm for voting a step further: She was asked to work as an election inspector.

Mandy Uruquhart, Stockbridge Township deputy clerk and elections coordinator, said, “Jill embraces every challenge with a ‘let’s figure it out’ attitude. She is fearless, ambitious and has a great sense of humor, which we absolutely love!”

“I said ‘yes’ with a little bit of apprehension and a lot of optimism.” She grinned.

Ogden’s first hurdle arose with a requisite four-hour elections training session in Mason. The challenge of learning new skills can intimidate anyone, but throw in blindness, and the feat grows to Great-Wall-of-China proportions. How to get there, and how to keep pace with the written materials during class were but two questions rifling through Ogden’s mind.

A friend solved Ogden’s first problem when she offered to drive her. Problem two fell by the wayside when the Ingham County elections coordinator emailed the PowerPoint presentation to her prior to class. Ogden was then able to pre-read the PDF-formatted document using an optical character recognition (OCR) program, thereby becoming fully involved and engaged in the training.

Ogden’s next obstacle arose in determining whether she could legally use adaptive technology in the polling place. In the state of Michigan, cell phones are allowed in polling places, but taking pictures of ballots or election equipment is prohibited, except when used as part of adaptive equipment for person with disabilities.

“I didn’t want anything to be misconstrued,” she said, so with the Michigan Department of State Bureau of Elections approval, she gained permission to use iPhone apps to run adaptive equipment that allowed her to read printed election materials.

The day of the election arrived.

“It took me a bit of time to find my stride and feel really useful,” Ogden said. At first, she helped set up the Voter Assist Terminal, a touch screen device available for anyone to use, but also an accessible voting machine. Then she collected voter applications and ballot stubs. Later, she was assigned the task of serving as one of the two workers (one Democrat and one Republican) to feed absentee ballots into the tabulator.

Using the iPhone apps, Ogden read tabulator error messages, but only when necessary. “And this was after the ballot had been scanned into the machine and dropped out of sight into the ballot box,” she explained.

At the end of the night, a fatigued but proud Ogden did her part in tearing down the election equipment.

“Through this elections process, I learned a lot,” she said. “My challenges in working the election were made easier because of the wonderful group of election workers in Stockbridge Township precinct one. They didn’t doubt my abilities and were not afraid to throw a challenge at me. I am looking forward to doing it in the future.”

Stockbridge Community Thanksgiving

by Diane Rockall

A burst of new volunteers from age 4 to well past that came forward to provide an admirable Community Thanksgiving to end the event’s 25th year and begin its 26th. Food service was provided from just before 11:30 a.m. starting time to just before 2 p.m. closing time.

The meal consisted of turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, stuffing, sweet potatoes, green bean casserole, salad, rolls and cranberry relish. A wide variety of cookies, brownies, and of course pies, were available to finish off the meal. Beverages included coffee, water, tea and fruit beverage.

Younger volunteers were busy clearing tables, resetting place settings, running errands, refilling beverages and serving dessert.

Older volunteers worked before, during and after on preparing, serving, and cleaning up. The spirit of community and sharing the day with other area residents and their guests was ever present.

Unfortunately, the counter used to register dinners served could not be located this year, but carryout and take-away orders were higher than in most recent years. On-site servings may have been slightly lower. Large quantities of excess food were delivered immediately after the meal to Jackson Interfaith Shelter by generous volunteers who after a long day made the trip to Jackson to deliver them.

All who participated helped in many ways and for many reasons to make the conclusion of 25 years of Community Thanksgivings memorable for all. Contributions for next year’s meal may be made to Stockbridge Community Schools - memo line Thanksgiving 2019 and mailed to 100 Price Ave., Suite A, Stockbridge, MI 49285.

A look back in time

by Diane Rockall



In December 1968, the Stockbridge village iron removal plant became operational, greatly improving the quality and taste of village water, according to those interviewed. The postmaster Elmer Lehman encouraged early mailing for the Christmas holidays. Santa arrived at the "Stockbridge Ambulance Building" on Dec. 7, sponsored by area businesses. Stockbridge First Baptist Church had a 26-member Grand Rapids group of singers on Dec. 8.

Communities like Munith, Unadilla, Gregory, Millville and Fitchburg provided occasional update columns on activities in their communities. The Town Crier announced early in the month that the Stockbridge Schools' three lunchrooms served 1,000 turkey dinners on the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving. Area farmers noted an excellent corn harvest.

Consumers Energy offered a \$500 reward for any individual caught damaging power lines. Nancy McKim Collins was killed in an automobile crash on Michigan 106. Later in the month, the Stockbridge Education Association established a scholarship in her memory.

Schools closed for the Christmas holidays on Dec. 20 and were scheduled to reopen on Jan. 6. More than 1,000 community members attended the Dec. 16 Christmas concert at the high school. Munith's Katz Elementary installed flasher signs on M-106. Area agencies provided holiday packages for 40 area

needy families. Stockbridge Council Members got a pay hike. Announcement was made that flu was circulating locally.

In December 1978, Ingham County announced plans for an \$8.5 million jail improvement. Two local minors were charged with a crime spree, including car theft and robbery.

The high school scheduled its holiday concert for Dec. 10. Exchange student Ola Tybrand finished in the top 5 percent in the 22nd annual Michigan Mathematics Prize competition. Stockbridge Quiz Bowl team defeated Napoleon on WKAR Quiz Bowl. The team consisted of Jeff Massey, Terry Dancer, Joe Jurken, Lance Goodlock, and Don Hurst.

Schools announced a new plan that would use radio to announce inclement weather school closings. Mid month Caskey Furniture was sold to new owners from Garden City, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smart. Fire destroyed Johnny Cole's house.

The Town Crier increased its price to 25 cents per issue. The telephone company relocated, as did the Town Crier. Santa visited the Township Hall on Dec. 23, sponsored by the Jaycees. Steve Mullins, age 12 from Gregory, finished as one of the top Moto-cross riders in Michigan. Abbott & Fillmore and Bob's Ford provided books to students on the last day of school before the holiday recess.

Diane Rockall serves in several capacities as a member of the Stockbridge Community News Board of Directors.



User provided photo

Recreational marijuana: What you should know

by Chief John Torres

The citizens of this great state have spoken, and the use marijuana for recreational purposes will soon become legal in Michigan. Whether you agree with the passage of this law or not, we must respect the process. Simply put, the yeas have it. For those who have questions, here are some excerpts from a few sources in a Q & A format.

When does the law take effect?

The law takes effect 10 days after the date of the official declaration of the vote, certified by the Board of State Canvassers.

What does the law allow?

It now will be legal for persons 21 years old and over to possess, use or consume, internally possess, purchase, transport, or process 2.5 ounces or less of marijuana, but not more than 15 grams of marijuana may be in the form of marijuana concentrate. The person may also possess, store and process not more than 10 ounces of marijuana from plants cultivated on the premises, and a person may not cultivate more than 12 plants. Further, the

plants cannot be grown in a location visible from the outside.

What does the law prohibit?

Residents still can't smoke marijuana in public or drive a vehicle under the influence. Nor can they possess marijuana at a K-12 school or on lands owned by the federal government, such as national forests or parks. Residents may grow plants but they can't sell them. Sales of any cannabis product require state licensing and testing.

Will the police stop enforcing pot possession laws before the new law takes effect?

Until the law goes into effect, marijuana is still illegal, so it is still possible that a person could be arrested for possession. Most likely, that would depend on the seriousness of the situation and whether other factors exist, such as quantity and the presence of weapons, etc.

Can I go to the store and buy a joint next month?

No. Personal possession and cultivating will be legal soon, but state and local governments must establish regulations before products hit the shelves. The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) will be in charge of this portion of the law.

Isn't marijuana still illegal under federal law?

Yes. You may be prosecuted if caught possessing on federal lands and parks. Also, many legal experts say that landlords still can ban tenants from using marijuana even in states that legalized it.

What is the penalty for a violation of the law?

First violation: Civil infraction and \$500 fine.

Second violation: Civil infraction and \$1,000 fine.

Third or subsequent violation: Misdemeanor and \$2,000 fine and forfeiture of marijuana.

There are other fines and penalties for persons under 21 years old who violate this law. For more information go to the link:

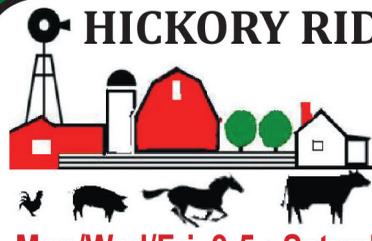
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/Full_Text_-_CRMLA_635255_7.pdf

Additional sources: Bridgemi.com and Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police

Be vigilant. Be safe.

Chief Torres

Chief Torres, a native of Flint, 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.



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Small page 1



Cheese lovers enjoy products from Steffey Farm's ParaPara Creamery. Photo credit Suzi Greenway

The market also dazzled with Son-in-Law hot sauce products and Sue Wireman's woodworking. Local Girl Scout Troop 30731 sold cookies, candy and mixed snacks.

Creator and organizer of the market, Suzi Greenway, said, "We believe in the shop small philosophy and that is what we bring to Stockbridge."

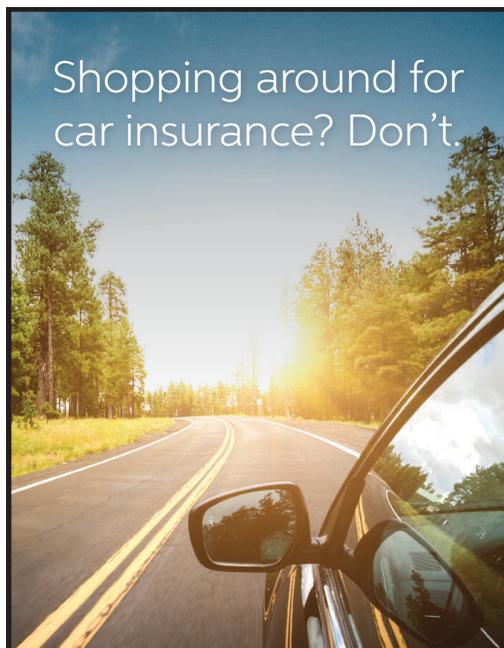
The market will take place indoors Jan. 12, Feb. 9, March 9, and April 13 before returning to its summer home on the township square.

Panther Cub PTO held its first SBS craft show at Heritage School from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. There, a larger-than-anticipated array of 80 area vendors made interesting and creative pieces available for purchase to the burgeoning crowd of attendees. Vendors, PTO members, and shoppers expressed satisfaction with the inaugural event.

As always, local businesses offered special activities and sales for interested, energetic shoppers. In-store crafts for kids delighted young elves.

The day drew to a close with annual Festival of Lights activities beginning at 3 p.m. and culminating with a sparkly parade at 6 p.m.

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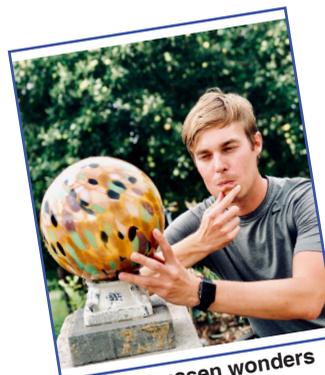
Happy Holidays from the Cosmos

by Eric Rasmussen

Take a peek at your current house address. Writing 303 St., Denver, CO 80249 might get a person's mail delivered correctly, but from a cosmic view, it's wholly incomplete.

A cosmic address for an Earth-based resident would need to include USA, Earth, Solar System, Milky Way, Local Group, Virgo Supercluster, Laniakea Supercluster, Universe.

Advancing past the first five steps of our address only begins to mark our place in space. The sixth step of our cosmic address reveals our planet as but one in a system we call the Solar System. Here the



Eric Rasmussen wonders what our observable universe may look like to an observer from a higher 4th dimension. After all, our observable universe is a sphere. Photo credit Patrice Johnson

sun reigns supreme, grasping all objects within its gravitational realm in a tight embrace.

Add one more step to the cosmic address, and we now find ourselves looking toward Earth from 100,000 light years away. And consider this: a light year is the



distance light can travel in one year, about 6 trillion miles. From this vantage point, our sun is hardly unique. It's but an average star of 250 billion that make up our galaxy, the Milky Way.

Not to be outdone by Starbucks and its festive holiday cups, astronomers extracted images from the Virgo Supercluster to create this fun graphic and ring in the season. Source: Happy Holidays: <https://goo.gl/h4QzM7>

As we continue to zoom out, from the Milky Way, we now see a structure composed of millions of galaxies in a cosmic grouping that stretches 110 million light years — the Virgo Supercluster.

The graphic above shows the Virgo Supercluster as seen with telescopes from Earth. While researching this vast tract of space, astronomers noticed some of the galaxies looked like letters. Not to be outdone by Starbucks and its festive holiday cups, they extracted those letter-like images to create this fun graphic to ring in the season.

How many steps can we take in our cosmic address? How far out into space can we see from Earth? Answer: about 47 billion light years.

However strange it may seem to be bound by such an abrupt border, beyond this point we are forever blind, despite any advancements in technology. This physics of this fact not only keeps us from investigating the cosmos that surely stretches past this cosmic horizon, but it may also spell doom for the 'Happy Holidays' written in our night sky.

You see, all points in space are expanding away from one another, and the farther any two points are, the greater the expansion. Our universe is accelerating in its expansion, and at the outer reaches this expansion is greater than the speed of light, once thought impossible.

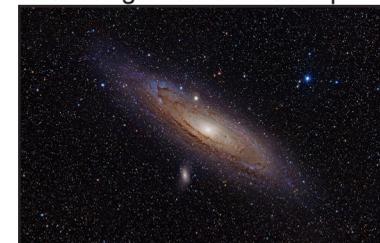
As our observable universe expands, entire galaxies will be pulled beyond this veil and lost from sight forever. One day in the distant future astronomers may look up and see nothing but darkness beyond our Milky Way; no neighboring galaxies, no Happy Holidays.

This physical reality of the cosmos represents another true wonder of science: Neither fact nor an object, the wonder is time itself. And our time, now, is but a pinprick on a continuum.

To us, the night sky may appear eternal and unchanging, but physics shows it, like everything, is fleeting. Let us all look to the heavens this holiday season and be reminded of how lucky we are to live in a moment and experience such exquisite splendor together.

Happy Holidays from the Cosmos!

Eric Rasmussen, BS, M.Ed., obtained his bachelor of science degree at the University of Colorado at Boulder. He majored in ecology and evolutionary biology, and now serves as a Learning Technology Coach at Erie High School and Erie Middle School in the St. Vrain Valley School District, CO.



The Andromeda galaxy, our closest neighbor at 2.5 million light years away, is presumed to look similar to our Milky Way galaxy. User provided photo

VILLAGE OF STOCKBRIDGE SYNOPSIS

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

Roll Call: PRESENT: President Molly Howlett, Pro-Tem Frederick Cattell, Trustee Patrick Harden, Trustee Richard Mullins; ABSENT: Trustee Christina DuWig, Trustee Carmelita Valdez-Weaks, Trustee Chadwick Quintanilla; Others Present: Debbie Nogle, Village Clerk, John Gormley, Village Attorney, Citizens were also present Pledge of Allegiance President Howlett led the pledge of allegiance.; Approval of Agenda MOTION by Cattell, SUPPORTED by Harden to approve the November 5, 2018 agenda as amended; Motion carried with unanimous ayes.; Approval of Minutes MOTION by Cattell, SUPPORTED by Mullins to approve the minutes of October 1, 2018 as amended, correct date on page two from November 6, 2018 to November 5, 2018. Motion carried with unanimous ayes. Public Comment: Scheller discussed her water and sewer REU's request.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Accounts Payable MOTION by Cattell, SUPPORTED by Mullins, APPROVED; the accounts payable as presented by Clerk Nogle. AYES: Mullins, Harden, Cattell, Howlett, NAYS: None, ABSENT: DuWig, Valdez-Weaks, Quintanilla MOTION PASSED President Report: President Howlett updated council: New tire replaced on backhoe, Salt truck is being repaired prior to the start of snow. The blue ford truck has electrical issues. Received a progress report from John Holland, Michigan Rural Water Association, DPW is actively working on recommendations noted in his report. Police Report Chief Torres gave his police report. Nehr to Fulltime Status, MOTION by Mullins, SUPPORTED by Harden, APPROVED; to promote Officer Frank Nehr to full-time at the rate of \$18.00 per hour. AYES: Harden, Mullins, Cattell, Howlett. NAYS: None ABSENT: DuWig, Valdez-Weaks, Quintanilla MOTION PASSED; NEW BUSINESS: Lead and Copper Report: Harden and Cattell discussed the meeting that they attended regarding new requirements for municipalities. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Blight – Cattell gave an update on blight. Bank Parking Lot Update: Ongoing/no update.

Public Comment- NONE

Council Comments: Harden – Disappointed that the American Flags are placed under the banners. Would like to see them above the banners. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION by Mullins, SUPPORTED by Harden, APPROVED to adjourn the Council Meeting at 7:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Debbie Nogle,
Village Clerk

STOCKBRIDGE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES November 19, 2018

Stockbridge Township Supervisor CG Lantis called the Regular Stockbridge Township Board Meeting to order on November 19, 2018 at 7:35 pm at the Stockbridge Township Hall. Members present at the Stockbridge Township Regular Board Meeting; Supervisor CG Lantis, Clerk Becky Muraf, Treasurer Kris Lauckner Trustee Terry Sommer, Trustee Ed Wetherell Member absent from meeting: None Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Parker Sommer and Landon Myer

Moment of Silence No Comments

Citizen's Comments Sommer motion to accept the Stockbridge Township Regular meeting agenda with the following items added light poles at the end of west sidewalk and the roof on the Stockbridge Township Hall on to New Business. Under Old Business Garden Club planting flowers at the Library. Wetherell second All in Favor Motion Carried.

Sommer motion to except the Stockbridge Township Board Meeting Minutes with the correction of on the bottom of the first page No vehicle shell needs to be changed to No vehicle shall Lauckner second All in Favor Motion Carrier

Lauckner motion to accept the Stockbridge Township Board financial report as printed from April 1, 2018 thru November 19, 2018 Sommer second All in Favor Motion Carried.

Administrative Chief Deputy of Ingham County Drain Commissioner Carla Clos was present to discuss the petition from White Oak Township to move the Bauer Drain. If anyone would like to view the full discussion it is available at the Stockbridge Township Office

Ingham County Sheriff Wrigglesworth was present to talk about what is going on with the Ingham County Sheriff office and just to touch base with Stockbridge Township. The new Ingham County Jail is hoping to be completed in 2023. A great Ingham

County School Safety video is at www.ingham.org. Sheriff Wrigglesworth introduced Ingham County Deputy Kelsi Simison who is assigned to Stockbridge Township.

Old Business

Stockbridge Township as decided to decorate this years Christmas Tree in Purple for all cancers. Stockbridge Township asked Jean Bliss if she would light the Stockbridge Township Christmas Tree.

Lantis motion to increase General Clerks Salary from \$11.00 for training to \$15.00 to regular play. Sommer second All in Favor Motion Carried.

Garden Club will help in the Spring with sprucing up the Stockbridge Library in the back where the new mulch and stepping stones are located. Jean Bliss with help with picking out the new bench for the Library and find new planters.

New Business

Stockbridge Township house keeping Stockbridge Township needs to get new chains for the tractor and wheel weights along with new paper towel holders for the restroom and the kitchen in the Stockbridge Township Hall.

Lantis will start looking for contactors to come in and give estimates for the Stockbridge Township Hall renovations

Stockbridge Township is looking into putting up two additional light poles in front of the Stockbridge Township Hall by the benches.

Sommer motion to pay Jeremy Stomp \$700.00 to repair the tears in the Stockbridge Township Hall roof above S.E.A.S.A area Wetherell second All in Favor Motion Carried.

Sommer motion to pay the Stockbridge Township Board monthly bills in the amount of \$35,166.63 Lauckner second All in Favor Motion Carried

Citizen's Comments No Comments

Lantis motion to adjourn the Stockbridge Township Board regular monthly meeting at 9:26pm Sommer Second All in Favor Motion Carried
BM

Obituaries

Wendy Hall

Wendy Hall, 62, of Stockbridge, passed away Friday, November 16, 2018, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Born in Philadelphia, PA, on January 3, 1956, Ms. Hall was the daughter of F. Brooke and Margaret C. (Johnson) Hall, late of Norristown, PA, where Wendy attended high school.

Ms. Hall attended West Virginia University and graduated from Duquesne University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Before moving to Michigan, Wendy began her nursing career in Pittsburgh, PA, at Allegheny General Hospital. At the time of her death, she had worked more than thirty-four (34) years at Child & Adolescent Psychiatric Hospital (CAPH) at University of Michigan.

Ms. Hall is survived by her daughter, Kara M. (James D., Jr.) Eagen, and her beloved granddaughters, Illeana R. and Raelynn N. Harrison, all of Stockbridge; and her sister, C. Michele Hall of Glen Mills, PA.

Ms. Hall was predeceased by her husband, Douglas M. Mehrhof, and her son, Andrew D. Mehrhof, also of Stockbridge.

A memorial service will take place at 11:00 AM on Saturday, December 1, 2018, at Staffan-Mitchell Funeral Home, 901 North Main Street, Chelsea, MI 48118.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to Huron Valley Humane Society, 3100 Cherry Hill Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105; or to 3rd Coast Labrador Rescue, P.O. Box 389, Clare, MI 48617.



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Church Christmas Schedule

First Presbyterian Church of Stockbridge

The First Presbyterian Church will be presenting a Christmas cantata, "The Glory of Christmas," during the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7 p.m. The cantata will be conducted by Marina Stojanovska and performed by the FPC Choir and musicians from MSU.

The First Presbyterian Church of Stockbridge Choir will be presenting a Christmas Cantata featuring musicians from Michigan State University
Dec 24 ~ 7:00 pm

Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian Church and St. James Catholic Church

Celebrate our Saviors birth with us!
Christmas Vigil Masses - Mon., Dec. 24th
 4 pm - St James, Mason
 7 pm - Sts C & C, Leslie
 10 pm - St James, Mason
Christmas Day Mass - Tue., Dec. 25th
 10 am - St James, Mason

ST JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH 1010 S. Lansing Ave., Mason
STs CORNELIUS & CYPRIAN 1320 Catholic Church Rd., Leslie

You are invited to join us for our many Christmas events:
 Dec 3: Capitol City Ringers at St. James at 7 p.m.
 Dec 20: Penance Service at St. James at 7 p.m.
 Dec 15: Advent Day of Reflection with Lay Dominicans at Sts. C & C at 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Dec 24: Christmas Eve Vigil at St. James at 4 p.m. & 10 p.m.
 Dec 24: Christmas Eve Vigil at Sts. C & C at 7 p.m.
 Dec 25: Christmas Day Mass at St. James at 10 a.m.

St. Paul United Church of Christ, Chelsea

Christmas Eve SERVICE
 Join St Paul United Church of Christ, Chelsea for our traditional Christmas Eve service at 7:30 pm.

St. Paul United Church of Christ, Chelsea, wishes to welcome everyone to attend a traditional Christmas Eve service on Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m. Sunday Services and Sunday School at 10 a.m. Children begin Sunday School in church. Located at 14600 East Old U.S. Highway 12, Chelsea.

Trinity Lutheran Church, LCMS, of Gregory, to host holiday services

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMS
 5758 W. M-36, 2 mi E. of Gregory
 www.trinitypinckney.org
HOLIDAY SERVICES:
 Dec 5, 12 & 19 ~ Soup Supper ~ 5:30 pm
 Worship following at 6:30 pm
 Christmas Eve at 6:30 pm
 Christmas Day 10 am

CHURCH OFFICE
 (734) 878-5977
Pastor Merelyn Snider

Trinity Lutheran Church, LCMS, east of Gregory, will host holiday services Dec. 5, 12 and 19. A soup supper will be held at 5:30 p.m. with worship following at 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services will be held at 6:30 p.m. and 10 a.m. respectively.

STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

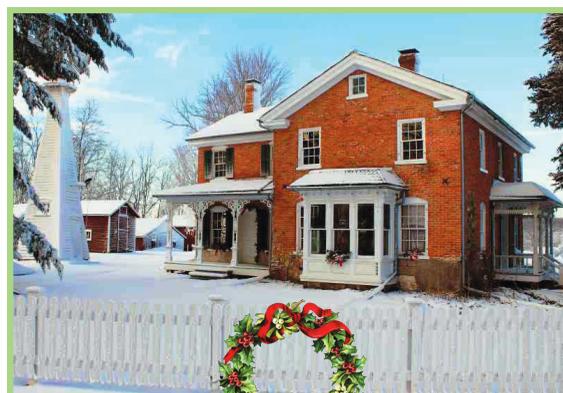
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- SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN CAN RIDE THE BUS WITH YOU
- GET TO KNOW THE STUDENTS YOUR CHILDREN ARE FRIENDS WITH
- THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET PAID WHILE WATCHING YOUR CHILDREN ATTEND FIELD TRIPS & SPORTING EVENTS
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For more information contact Tracey Wooden woodent@panthernet.net or



Christmas on the Farm

December 1 & 2, 2018
Saturday 10-4 / Sunday Noon-4

A re-creation of historical Christmas traditions. Tour the buildings; purchase hand crafted greens, baked goods, and gift items.

Refreshments and live music.

—No Pets, Service Dogs Welcome—

THE WATERLOO FARM MUSEUM

13493 Waterloo-Munith Rd.
 Grass Lake, MI
 in Waterloo Township
 Jackson County

Fees
 Adults \$5 / Seniors \$4
 Children 5-12 \$2
 Children under 5 and members free unless noted above.

During all special events, the Gift Shop and Dewey School Museum will be open. Snacks and lunch will be available.

CALL 517-596-2254 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Sundaes with Santa and Stuff a Bus



Holite Doxtator helps daughters Madilyn (left) and Kellie (right) take a picture with Santa November 2017. Photo credit Hope Salyer

by Diane Rockall

This year, Sundaes with Santa is scheduled for Dec. 8 at Township Hall sponsored by the Stockbridge Lions Club. The event welcomes all children, old and young to visit Santa and later enjoy sundaes made possible by the local Lions Club. Bourree Dance and performers will entertain as well as Boyer the Magician (Jeff Boyer). Stuff a Bus will be accepting gifts that people wish to share. The fun begins at noon, so be sure to be there.

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\$500 first place

\$200 second place

\$100 third place

Drawing to be held at Heritage School during Festival of Tables on March 23, 2019
Need not be present to win

The Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation has raffle tickets available for purchase for Christmas! All cash prizes! Please consider SAEF when you are doing your holiday shopping!

Contact person: Lance Chapman cell 517-795-6611 or email lance.chapman@rocketmail.com

Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation Mission: To fund programs and projects that create or enhance educational opportunities available to residents within the boundaries of the Stockbridge Community School District.





Rural perspectives Sexual assault investigation

by Rose Collison

The bald eagle is a bird of prey found in North America. A sea eagle, it has two known subspecies and forms a species pair with the white-tailed eagle. Its range includes most of Canada and Alaska, all of the contiguous United States, and northern Mexico. Mass:

6.6-14 pounds, Wingspan: 5.9-7.5 feet

(adult), Life span: 20 years (in the wild). Speed can reach 75-99 mph while diving. Bald eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.



A bald eagle in the Stockbridge area looks for dinner.



Wingspan: 5.9 - 7.5 feet (adult)

After retiring from Stockbridge Community Schools, Rose Collison joined the board of Stockbridge Community News. She serves as volunteer photographer and manages the Where's Waldo contest. She and husband Ken have lived in the area for a number of years.



The Unadilla Township Police Department conducted an investigation of a reported sexual assault that took place in June of 2018. The suspect, 19-year-old Bradley Nowak, of Gregory, assaulted a 16-year-old female while they were both visiting the residence of a mutual friend. As a result of the investigation, the Livingston County Prosecutor's Office charged Nowak with two counts of third-degree sexual assault and two counts of fourth-degree sexual assault. The Unadilla Township Police Department arrested Nowak on Oct. 30 and he was lodged at the Livingston County Jail. Nowak was arraigned on the charges and released on a \$50,000 bond.

Nowak is an employee of the Ingham Intermediate School District in Mason, Mich. and volunteered with Stockbridge Community Schools. If anyone may have additional information, please contact the Unadilla Township Police at 734-498-2325 or send an email to tips@unadillaplace.org.

Survivors of sexual assault or domestic violence are encouraged to reach out to LACASA 24 hours a day at 866-522-2725.

Chief David S. Russel

Unadilla Township Police Department

Annual Bev Penix Memorial Toy Drive

by Diane Rockall

Sons of the American Legion and Ladies Auxiliary will host DJ Phatboy on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 7 p.m. to midnight at the American Legion Hall, 830 S. Clinton St., Stockbridge. Sons of the American Legion will tend a cash bar. The Ladies Auxiliary will be tending concessions for 7 until 9 p.m. There is a \$5 admission fee or bring a new unwrapped toy. All proceeds and toys will go to Stockbridge Community Outreach on behalf of the annual Bev Penix Memorial Toy Drive.



User provided photo

Stockbridge Halloween Lamp Post winners revealed

First Place

Second Place

Third Place

Fourth Place

Fifth Place



Article by Hope Salyer; Photo credit Rose Collison

The winners of the second annual lamp post decorating contest were revealed during the Halloween celebration Oct. 31. Winners were as follows:

First place: Band Boosters, donating proceeds to the Stockbridge High School band for a trip to Disney World; Second place: Elder Ridge; Third place: Whitaker Family; Fourth place: Adiska Dental; Fifth place: Bowling Alley

Over \$2,700 in donations were raised for local charities, up from last year's \$1,650.

Photos of the winning poles, above, and all of the poles decorated may be found at www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com.



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School Staff Spotlight. Nicole Borowy: A Dedicated, caring, positive educator



"I find working with students who struggle in general education classroom very rewarding," teacher Nicole Borowy said. Photo credit Amy Haggerty

Borowy feels grateful to former administrators Jane Clarke, Mary Lou Clifton and Bruce Brown for hiring her just out of college as a sixth-grade Special Education Teacher. She believes the best thing about teaching in Stockbridge is, "the involvement with our community members that help make a difference in our students' daily lives."

She is rewarded every day, Borowy said, when she sees her students smile or interact positively with their peers. And her greatest sense of accomplishment comes as she watches her former students become successful adults. "I love hearing about my past students having careers, starting a family, furthering their education, or just creating their own success story."

Borowy lives by the words from Haim Ginott: "I am the decisive element in my classroom. It is my personal approach that creates the climate. I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration. It is my response that decides whether a crisis will be escalated or de-escalate a child humanized or dehumanized." She teaches all of her students to "be kind and always give your best effort!"

by Amy Haggerty

The phrase, "It takes a village" has held true for Nicole Borowy during her 19 years in the classroom. Borowy, who started her teaching career at Stockbridge Middle School, moved to Heritage School this past fall after administration approached her about working with students who have behavioral issues. With some convincing she took on this new challenge and was blessed to have some amazing paraprofessionals in support of her program. Borowy knew if she was to take on this endeavor, she needed to form her team to operate a successful classroom. She soon discovered that she loves her new job.

"I find working with students who struggle in general education classroom very rewarding," she said.

Principal Sarah Bentley described Nicky Borowy as a "dedicated, caring, positive educator who goes above and beyond for students." Bentley said Borowy's passion centers on "making sure all students have what they need, and she works hard to meet students where they are, so that they are able to achieve."

Bentley emphasized that special education teachers can often face challenges to keep the variety of students on the same page. They have to work diligently to communicate with teachers, paraprofessionals, families, and administration, she said. "Nicky is always willing to do whatever it takes to build those relationships with everyone involved. And she does this with a smile, every day! She is a pleasure to work beside as we take care of kids."

Borowy, who grew up in Flushing, Mich., married her high school sweetheart, Bryan Borowy, in 1999. They currently live in the Pleasant Lake area and have two children, 15-year-old Brenden Joseph and Andrea Nora, 12. Borowy attended Central Michigan University with a major in Special Education Cognitively Impaired and General Education. She minored in Child Development.

"I have been blessed to be surrounded by many people that have influenced me to pursue a teaching career," Borowy said, attributing her parents, who were educators themselves, for helping her choose the teaching profession.



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.

ENBRIDGE
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Letters we receive

Dear Editor,

I had to write you. Early this week I got a copy of the Stockbridge Community News. The more I looked at it and read through it, the more happy I got!

I noticed instantly how positive this paper is! There was not a negative article in the entire paper! This is so refreshing!

Previous papers had everything and everyone the police came in contact with, had our local representatives fighting, etc. News that made our community look horrible. It wasn't enjoyable to read. Thank you for everything you do for our community and with this paper!!!!

It definitely goes noticed!

Sincerely,

Mike Dalton (a huge supporter)

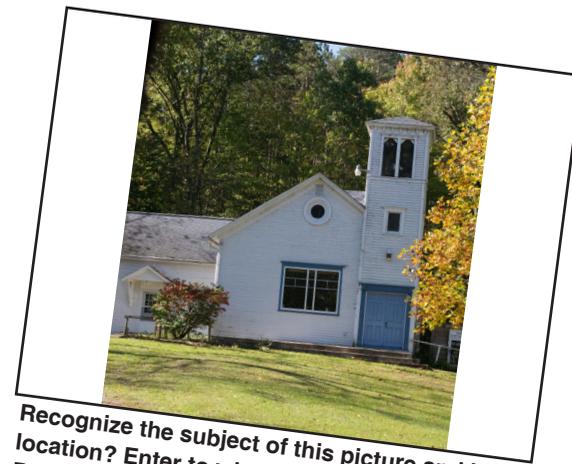
December's 'Where's Waldo' mystery location

Think you know the area? Here's your chance to prove it. Each month, SCN photographer Rose Collison is photographing a mystery location within the Stockbridge School District. Names of readers who correctly identify the subject of the photo will be entered into a drawing, and one overall winner will be selected.

December's winner will receive a \$20 Farmers State Bank branded Prepaid Visa gift card. Thank you to Farmers State Bank.

Congratulations to last month's winner, Justin Wright, for correctly identifying the building near the corner of Baseline and Mushbach Roads.

Justin Wright's name was drawn at random from other correct entries.



Recognize the subject of this picture and its location? Enter to win a \$20 Farmers State Bank Branded Prepaid Visa gift card. Photo credit Rose Collison



To participate, enter your best guess as to the subject of the photo along with your name, address and phone number. Email Rose at stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com or snail mail to Stockbridge Community News (c/o Rose), P.O. Box 83, Gregory, MI 48137.

Entries must be dated or postmarked no later than Dec. 7.

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Check from Stockbridge Bowl awarded to Crossroads 180 Youth Center



Rob Ames, new associate pastor at Crossroads Church, receives a check for \$364.45 from Theresa Trevisan of the Stockbridge Bowling Alley.

article and photo by Deanna Kruger

Stockbridge Bowl presented a check for \$364.45 to Crossroads 180 Youth Center.

The funds, generated from the Halloween Light Pole Decorating contest, will go to support the Crossroads 180 Youth Center under construction at the new Stockbridge Activity Center, or SAC, at the former Middle School.

STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY NEWS

Notice: Jan. 1, the annual subscription price to SCN's print edition will go to \$35 from \$30, due to increased print and postage costs. SCN thanks all our supporters for their continued patronage.

STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY NEWS — Subscription Form
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STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY NEWS — Donation Form

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Lights page 1



The Electric Parade bedazzled spectators with holiday lights artistically painting two fire engines, rescue vehicles and even a couple of county snowplows. Photo credit James Clark-Swalla, DigitalCrumbs Photography

in a SAESA fire truck.

Then came another highlight: Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived in a horse-drawn white carriage—a spectacular sight. Santa wished all a Merry Christmas, and the joy of the season could be read on the faces of all in attendance. Children of all ages ended the evening with a lighter heart and refreshed community spirit.



Grand Marshalls Jo Mayer and Paul Crandall waved from their seat of honor in a SAESA fire truck. Photo credit Jenny Smith



The annual gingerbread decorating contest is a crowd favorite. Photo credit James Clark-Swalla, DigitalCrumbs Photography



Santa, Mrs. Claus and Santa's elves transformed the Stockbridge Township Hall into the North Pole for children young and old. Photo credit James Clark-Swalla, DigitalCrumbs Photography

The Electric Parade bedazzled spectators with holiday lights artistically painting two fire engines, rescue vehicles and even a couple of county snowplows. Multiple brightly lit floats, including one from Juel Childcare and Eaton Federal Bank, rolled past to music from the Stockbridge High School Jazz Band in a giant sleigh. Floats featured tiny, lighted houses, a vardo wagon, and even classic cars. Hot air balloon-fueled heaters on trucks flamed into the sky and warmed the crowd. Local juniors and seniors proudly carried banners declaring the winners of various categories.

Grand Marshalls Jo Mayer and Paul Crandall waved from their seat of honor

Jacob Moran sings at the Wooden Nickel to television film crew



Jacob Moran, of Dansville, sings at the Wooden Nickel Nov. 16 to an undisclosed film crew. Stay tuned for an as-yet undisclosed television performance. Photo credit Patrice Johnson

SHS robotics team arrives in American Samoa



On the robotics team's arrival in American Samoa, SHS student Michelle Zemke wrote, "We have finally made it to American Samoa!" Photo credit Bob Richards

by Patrice Johnson

On the robotics team's arrival in American Samoa, SHS student Michelle Zemke wrote, "We have finally made it to American Samoa! The team was greeted by Jo, Gene, Bel from the National Marine Sanctuary, and was given flower leis. We loaded up all of our luggage and team gear and headed over to the house. Once at the house, we unloaded the truck and ate a delicious Thanksgiving feast. Tomorrow, we will go watch a boat race, and then head to the Ocean Center to meet everyone else from the National Marine Sanctuary.

Readers may join 13 Stockbridge school explorers on SCN's website and follow their daily postings as they join hands with students in American Samoa to explore the ocean, share knowledge, culture and a love of the ocean.

We need your sports photos

HELP! SCN does not have a sports page this month due to the fact that we need volunteers to provide us with photos or information.

We are a volunteer staff and unable to cover all of the events. If you have a child participating in a sport and are attending their events, please volunteer to take a couple of photos and add information about the photo, names, and what's happening. Contact SCN at stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com.