



STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY NEWS

a nonprofit newspaper

September 2020

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

****ECRWSEDDM****
LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OWOSSO, MI
PERMIT NO. 54

Lakewood Apartments go up in flames in downtown Stockbridge

by Hope Salyer

At 8 p.m. Aug. 11, Village President Molly Howlett was seated in an outdoor council meeting when her phone dinged with a text from Stockbridge Chief of Police Johnnie Torres. An enclosed photo showed flames shooting from a building roof. Torres wrote: "FYI. Major fire at Lakewood Apts." Immediately following Torres' first text, another arrived from him. He reported, "All people out and safe."

Black clouds billowed into the sky. The scent and haze of smoke traveled for miles. The Lakewood Apartment complex was on fire in downtown Stockbridge.

Local and surrounding area fire departments and emergency services rushed to the scene, and firefighters battled the massive structure fire. On hand were Stockbridge Area Emergency Services Authority, Dansville Fire Department, Unadilla Fire Department and Chelsea Fire Department.

Early reports indicated the possibility of a total loss.



Photo credit Josh Akers

Families left homeless after fire at Lakewood Apartments; community rallies to help

by Tina Cole-Mullins

Hours after a major fire destroyed 16 units at the Lakewood Apartments Aug. 11, displaced resident Vivian Risner welcomed the morning with a sense of gratitude despite the loss of her home.

"I've lived to see the dawn of a new day," she said. "The fog is laying on the field and it's beautiful and I'm thankful. I know it was God who helped me out of that building. Without his help, I could have perished.

"Now I hate to see my memories gone," she continued. "Stuff that was Mommy's, stuff she made. But it will be all right. (At) least I'm alive. That's the important thing."

The Stockbridge Area Emergency Services Authority (SAESA) was called to the fire shortly after 7 p.m. Aug. 11 at Lakewood Apartments Complex B in the 800 block of South Clinton Street in downtown Stockbridge. Multiple fire units also responded to assist in fighting the blaze. No injuries were reported.

But plumes of smoke could be seen for miles and as dusk began to settle in, so did the recognition of the devastation that faced residents of those apartments. Complex B contained 16 units and the property is expected to be declared a total loss. At least 15 families, or about 26



Dansville firefighter Corey Barrett retrieves the ashes of resident Jeannie Smith's husband. Photo provided by Smith family

people, now were homeless.

"It appears the fire may have started somewhere between apartments 14B and 15B; the cause is unknown at this time," according to Brent Stowe and John Beck, on-scene firefighters of the SAESA. The Meridian Township Fire inspector will be conducting the initial investigation, they said.

Rob Sands, of PK Housing & Management Companies, had no comment at the scene the following morning. (After I introduced myself as a "community facilitator" outside of the reporting of the story and offered my support, Sands said, "All community support is needed and welcomed at this time. Negativity is not needed and nothing gained," of which I could nothing but agree.)

See Lakewood on page 5.

Cause of Lakewood Apartments fire in downtown Stockbridge not yet known Inspectors uncertain of cause, but electrical ruled out

Update from PK Company

Stockbridge, MI - Aug. 18 – A fire inspector, electrical engineer and a forensics engineer have determined the fire that occurred on Aug. 11 at Lakewood Apartments was not caused by an electrical problem, but are uncertain of the exact cause of the fire.

No one was injured in the fire. Twenty-three people from 15 apartments had to evacuate, some with help from neighbors from nearby buildings. All are displaced and won't be able to reoccupy their units until rebuilding is complete, which will start this fall.

The fire broke out between 6:30 and 7 p.m. Aug. 11 and took firefighters until midnight to extinguish it. SAESA, the Stockbridge Police Department, and the fire departments from Mason, Leslie, Chelsea, Unadilla, Henrietta, and Dansville all assisted in the response to the fire.

The Red Cross arrived at the scene with funds and toiletry kits. They continue to help the displaced residents with further needs.

See Update on page 9.

Visiting parks and recreational facilities: Protect yourself and others from COVID-19

From the CDC

Staying physically active is one of the best ways to keep your mind and body healthy. In many areas, people can visit parks, trails, campgrounds, and open spaces as a way to relieve stress, get some fresh air, and stay active.

While these facilities and areas can offer health benefits, it is important that you follow the steps below to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

DO



Eric Rasmussen and L.D. (Little Dog) hike a trail in Stockbridge area. Photo credit Patrice Johnson

- Visit parks that are close to your home.
- Check with the park or recreation area in advance to prepare safely and to find out if the bathroom facilities are open and what services are available.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others you don't live with ("social distancing") and take other steps to prevent COVID-19.
- Carefully consider use of playgrounds, and help children follow guidelines.

See Parks on page 4.

Staff Spotlight: Early childhood parapro Lori Cook assists children in developing a strong foundation

by Amy Haggerty

A preschool paraprofessional is an important member of the educational team as they assist in orienting young children to education, care, and nurturing in the classroom. Lori Cook has been working with this age group for 20 years in the Stockbridge Community School District. Every day she assists young students with handling personal care and learning new skills. She also assists in the planning that takes place to get each child ready for kindergarten.

In Stockbridge, the preschool program is housed in the Smith Elementary building, where the kindergarten through second-grade programs also are located. Cook is instrumental in making the transition to school seamless for preschool age children.



Preschool paraprofessional Lori Cook plays a key role in the future development of many children in the district. Photo credit Amy Haggerty

Growing up in Dexter, Mich., Cook was the daughter of Don and Mary Ray. She attended Dexter High School and took classes in child care to further develop her interest in working with preschoolers. Cook mentioned that it was her mother Mary who had the biggest influence on her. She describes her mom as caring and someone who always helped others.

After high school, Cook married her husband, Bob. Their big day was April 1, 1989. They have two children together; she considers her two boys to be her greatest accomplishment in life. Bobby is 25, and Kyle is 23.

"Stockbridge is where my children went to school," Cook remarked as she explains how important it was to her to work close to home to be available for her kids. She's always enjoyed working in the district and credits her co-workers and the students as the reasons she's been happy with her job.

Co-worker Sue Gasieski explains that the feeling is mutual. "Lori does an amazing job. She spends her own money and gives much of her extra time discovering creative things for the kids to do." Cook also comes highly recommended by staff at Smith.

Returning to one of her favorite topics—the kids—Cook has played a key role in the future development of the children in the district. Thanks to her, so many of our children have developed that important foundation they need for the future.

Cook's advice to Stockbridge students: "Follow your dreams and keep moving forward."

Community Resource Guide notice

by Diane Rockall

For the fourth year, the Stockbridge Community News is planning a Community Resource Guide for groups and resources in the Stockbridge area. It will appear in the January 2021 print edition and sometime in late December on SCN's webpage at stockbridgecommunitynews.com.

This message is your chance to edit or alter the information previously printed about your organization. Please send changes, corrections, or okay to print to one of the following by December 1, 2020.

Email: stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com with attention Kayla or CRG in the subject line.

Mail: Information can also be sent to NEWS, PO Box 83, Gregory, MI 48137 also indicating attention CRG OR KAYLA.

If you have a civic group or organization providing resources and special services to the community at large, feel free to provide your information for inclusion in next year's guide.

BIGOS PRECAST
Redi-Mix Concrete • Septic Tanks
CONTRACTORS & HOMEOWNERS WELCOME!
Open Mon-Sat
Fowlerville

555 Van Riper Rd • 517-223-5000 • WWW.BIGOSPRECAST.COM

BIGOS EQUIPMENT RENTAL
Mini Excavators with hydraulic grapple
Track & tire skid steers
Attachments - auger, trencher, grapple bucket
50' JLG Manlifts
Self propelled & pull style
Concrete Buggies
Daily & Weekly Rental
Pick up or Delivery

Gormley and Johnson
LAW OFFICES, PLC
101 E. Grand River Ave., Fowlerville | gormleylawoffices.com
Local Attorneys & Counselors at Law — Committed To Your Goals

John L. Gormley, Esq. Attorney & Counselor at Law 517.851.7014, Ext. 104	Christopher S. Johnson, Esq. Attorney & Counselor at Law 517.851.7014, Ext. 106
--	---

Stockbridge Auto Care Inc.

Complete automotive service & machine shop.
WE KEEP YOUR CAR ON THE ROAD

(517) 851-7047
Mon-Fri 8 am to 5 pm
121 E. Elizabeth St.
P.O. Box 460
Stockbridge, MI 49285
www.stockbridgeautocare.com

WELCOME BACK PANTHERS!

Have a **Seriously Great School Year!**

SRSLY

srslystockbridge.org

Julianne Muscato, second-place winner of 'This I Believe' essay contest

Below, is the second of what SCN plans to offer as a three-month student-written, "This I Believe," column. This month, we are pleased to feature Julianne Muscato's "This I Believe" essay. The essays, submitted anonymously to a Friends of the Library panel, are reviewed and winners recommended. The Friends then contribute \$25 to first place, \$15 to second place and \$10 to third place. Winners are typically photographed and their images displayed in the library.



Second-place "This I Believe" winner Julianne Muscato. Photo provided by Julianne Muscato

"You need to put a lot on more".

There I was standing in the trashed bathroom in the middle school looking at my reflection wondering how I messed up.

Puzzled on her advice I took a step back and asked her, "What do you mean I need to put more on? I thought to point in makeup was to look like you're not wearing any at all."

She let out a little laugh and went on "No silly it's so you can tell. The mascara is supposed to be noticeable."

I, who had never worn makeup before, took my friends advice and the next day I came back to school with my lashes completely covered in some old gunky mascara I had to sneak from my mom. Jessie, my gorgeous friend, was really happy for me but, for whatever reason it still wasn't enough. I wanted to feel and look just as pretty as Jessie. Every guy I knew was about drooling over her and I felt like a trash can standing next to her. Before I ever met Jessie I didn't know anything about makeup or how girls are supposed to look. My whole life I would just wear whatever was comfortable for me. I didn't care about my body shape or the little hair follicles at the end of my eye lids. I just had fun. Then I met Jessie. She hit me like a truck going 90 mph. All of the sudden I found myself looking at flaws I'd never seen before. From the way I dressed to every single hair my leg, I felt ashamed of how I was. My innocent 12 year old self went from having not a care in the world to hitting the panic button on her self esteem. Lost in a bottomless ocean, I found myself suffocating on standards that I could not meet.

It wasn't just me that hated my looks. It was also a group of boys and girls. They did not like how I dressed or how I did my hair. In general I just wasn't enough for them.

"I'm pretty sure shes a lesbian. I mean look at the way she dresses. Are those her brothers clothes? Has she ever heard of makeup? Maybe if she dressed differently then maybe boys would like her."

These are all the things I would hear when I would go to my locker and it made me feel so self conscious that I found myself thinking that I was even breathing wrong. How could people who have never talked to me hate on me so much? I wanted it to stop so badly so, It became my new goal to please these nasty people. Can you believe that? I wanted their approval? Why? They were so mean and yet I believed every word they said so, not even two months into the school year, I changed. I grabbed the girl I wanted to be, gave her all my money, and had her buy my clothes for me. Crop tops, leggings, mascara, basically all the things my parents didn't let me have. It cost me over \$100 which was a lot for me but, at that moment I felt that it was all worth it. It worked too. The mean people had now stopped and I had never felt prettier. At least for a little bit. Then I started to notice other things.

I had changed my priorities in life. In all the effort to "look pretty" I started to hate my friend Jessie because no matter what I did, I always felt she was prettier. I hated her for being prettier. Rather than being a good friend and appreciating my friend for who she was. I deceived her and tried my hardest to make her feel dumb and ugly.

"I bet she's just keeps me around just to make her look prettier. That brat. I bet she wants to date the guy I like. I bet she stuffs her bra. She's probably not even pretty under all that makeup."

Sadly these are the disgusting thoughts I had about my best friend. In all my efforts to be pretty I had become the ugliest person I knew. I was mad at my body, I mad at my friend, and I was so sad with myself. I was spiralling down and was about to crash. I truly thought I was the only girl in my school who had ever felt this way.

"How I could talk about it to other people? They don't know how this feels. They'll just think I'm mean because of how jealous I am and they'll probably tell me I'm not ugly just leave it at that."

Lucky for me though I wasn't the only girl I knew who had these thoughts. Jessie had been going through the same thing and was too selfish to see it even though she was right next to me the whole time. I noticed it when I stopped eating. It had been a week of not eating anything except for some small fruit at home. On my second week my friend Jessie came to school without a lunch. She didn't need to stop eating. She was way skinnier than me. What was she thinking? Then it hit me. Every little negative thing going on with me was going on in her brain too. That was so crazy to wrap around my mind because every bone in my body thought she was the embodiment of beautiful, yet somehow she had these terrible thoughts too? I was in awe so I had to talk to her. We went to the bathroom during lunch and I asked why she wasn't eating. She shrugged her shoulders and asked me why I wasn't to avoid the question. Something must've just clicked inside me because in that moment a little piece of what was left of me came out and bluntly said that I wasn't enough. Being a good friend, Jessie told me I was and went on in long tangent on how I was beautiful and she envied me. She envied me? No way! I argued with her and told I envied her and how I wasn't a good friend because of it. Like the two teenage girls we were we started to burst into tears. We've must've looked crazy. I had never been so happy and sad at the same time. Happy to know wasn't alone yet sad to know that someone else had to feel the way I was feeling. I wish I could say that that day was the day I decided to not care but it didn't work out that way for me. It took a lot of long talks and time alone to decide who I wanted to be as a person. The hardest part was to get all the negativity out of my brain because since my brain was unhealthy it made my body feel sick to the stomach. There were some ups and some downs and I still deal with some of the bad thoughts. The one thing I'll never let it take advantage of again is how I treat the people around me because they don't need it and they probably have these negative thoughts too.

It's no secret that beauty standards are a thing. Unless you have lived under a rock for your whole life and are now just hearing this from me then, you have been exposed to what today's society wants you to look like. From magazines, songs, movies, social media, and television shows you'll see what people expect you to look like. It's true that you can change just about anything on your body. Your hair can be any color, your lips can be plumped, your eyes can be tattooed, and even your ribs can be broken for a smaller waist. The thing is though, no one needs that at all. No one needs to please other people with their physical appearance. What we need is to love ourselves so we stop caring so much on how look. People need to stop looking at every microscopic detail on their body and open their eyes to the world around them.

Another thing that we need to do is to not contribute to the negativity. We as humans have no right to tell people how they should look or how bad they look. Build up the people around you and they'll do the same for you. It's amazing on what can make a person's day and what can possibly stop them from doing something they'll regret. From eating disorders, to depression, and even suicide these so called "beauty standards" can cuase the ugliest things to happen. I believe we are truly all beautiful as long as we build each other up.

A proud sponsor of

**Bridge to
the Future
COVID-19
Relief Fund**



GREG: 734-905-0990 | GERI: 734-644-0544
Serving Stockbridge & surrounding areas



thegucrew.com

Lissa Avis defends tradition along a new course

by Amy Haggerty

Math teacher Lissa Avis has accepted a position close to her heart. The graduate of Stockbridge High School (SHS) will be coaching the girls cross country team, and she has already met the returning team through the summer running program.

“They are a wonderful group!” Avis said.

The fast-approaching season starts Aug. 12, according to the Michigan High School Athletic Assn, (MHSAA). “I am excited for the season,” Avis said.

Avis, who coached volleyball for 10 years at SHS, says coaching cross country will be a new experience for her. She is excited to work with veteran Steven Allison, who coaches the boys team. Along with his experience and guidance, the year promises to be a wonderful encounter for all.

Avis ran for three seasons at SHS, 1991 to 1993. In 1993, the girls qualified and ran in the state meet with Jim and Anita Lister coaching. Avis said a friend talked her into joining the team, and “I never regretted it. I learned a lot about pushing my own physical limits and setting and reaching attainable goals.”



Stockbridge Jr./Sr. High School math teacher and new cross county coach Lissa Avis. Photo provided by Avis

Avis encourages others to join the team. “Even if they haven’t been running or have never run before but want to be in shape for another sport.”

Stay tuned for news about this promising team and its new coach.

Parks page 1

• Play it safe around and in swimming pools, hot tubs, and water playgrounds by keeping space between yourself and others.

DON'T

- Visit parks if you are sick with, tested positive for COVID-19, or know you were recently exposed to COVID-19.
- Visit crowded parks or campgrounds.

You can fill them or we can fill them

Dumpsters Storage Boxes

AFFORDABLE MOBILE STORAGE & DUMPSTERS

James Moss
517-596-3335
jcm9269@yahoo.com

5010 S. M-106 HWY
STOCKBRIDGE, MI 49285
WWW.KITLEYSCUSTOM.COM

M-F 8:00AM-5:00PM
SAT 8:00AM-12:00PM

CUSTOM EXHAUST & AUTO
517-851-7111
Stockbridge, Michigan

COMPLETE AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR
-CUSTOM EXHAUST SYSTEMS
-ALL AUTO & TRUCK SERVICES
-NEW & USED TIRES
-WELDING & FAB
-RV/MOTORHOME REPAIR
-HITCHES & TRUCK ACCESSORIES

THE OPEN AIR MARKET
SEPTEMBER 4, 11, 18, 25 ~ 4 to 7 pm

10th Season Occasional music during Sept. — Watch our Online ads! —

ITEMS: corn, potatoes, tomatoes, squash, melons, peaches, frozen meat, cheese, bread, eggs, honey, jam, maple syrup, baked goods, herbal sprays, soaps, candles, art, kettle corn, etc.

For more information, call Suzi at 517-851-7437. OUR MARKET IS YOUR HOMETOWN FOOD SOURCE!

OPEN AIR MARKET OF STOCKBRIDGE

2020 CENSUS

Capital Area United Way
Clinton | Eaton | Ingham

Reminder!
Complete the 2020 census.

#BeCounted

my2020census.gov
844-330-2020

Accepting New Patients

Because Everyone Deserves a Beautiful Smile

Our Stockbridge location:
100 West Main Street
517-851-8008

www.adiskafamilydental.com

Lakewood page 1

Community response and support, like that of the emergency response teams, was almost instantaneous, at first to embrace and offer aid in simple gestures. In an almost overwhelming response to the emergency, Community Outreach first responders struggled to assess and vet the most immediate needs of the displaced residents.

Dansville firefighter Corey Barrett not only rescued resident Jeannie Smith, but he also saved the ashes of her late husband, a military veteran. (His fellow firefighters shared this with me, and Smith's family wanted to thank Barrett for his efforts.) Sadly, some items including her husband's memorial flag of service were lost in the blaze.

True to our community spirit when our neighbors are in need, simple gestures do not go unnoticed. Bud Patrick, a displaced resident, said a complete stranger provided him with a walker, after his was lost in the fire.

"I didn't even know who the gentleman was. He must have heard me say I couldn't get my walker out. It was a newer one, one of those seated kind," he said, referring to his lost walker. (I reassured him that I would have him in a seated walker, making sure to get his phone number. As I sat here completing this piece, Mr. Patrick's walker was delivered to my home directly.)

How to get help or donate

Below is a list for those who are in need, those who would like to donate to help the families, and the appropriate drop-off points.

NOTE: There currently is no drop-off point for large items, such as furniture and household needs, until storage is available.

This list is ongoing and will be continuously revised, and I am personally helping with it. If you have questions, please contact me or:

Stockbridge Community Outreach, the lead on this, as they have direct access to the Red Cross. PLEASE NOTE: The Outreach Office phone number is currently out of service and the temporary phone number is 517-833-0747. They will let us know of specific needs once a needs assessment has been completed. More than anything MONETARY DONATIONS are needed and would be greatly appreciated.

- Rob's Pizza has started an official "Stockbridge Fire Victims Fund" account at Eaton Federal Bank with a \$1,000 donation. Donations can be made directly to the bank in this account. The donations will be equally divided among those displaced by the fire.

- Crossroads Community Church. Crossroads is now accepting appointments for victims of the Lakewood fire to select clothing. To make an appointment, call Crossroads Church Office at 517-851-7075. Crossroads Community Church will be handling clothing distributions. Currently the community has heeded the call to action and blessed the church with an abundance of clothing donations. We now ask for time to sort and distribute the donations to those on the ever-changing list.

- Gregory Community Church will be taking appointments for displaced residents for use of the community clothing closet. Call 734-498-2591 and leave a detailed message.

- Online group Wake Up Stockbridge will be handling personal request needs, gift cards, food and gas cards. Along with the Gregory Pub, a donation jar has been established. Donations will be deposited directly into the "Stockbridge Fire Victims Fund" at the Eaton Federal Bank account set up by Rob's Pizza.

- Online group Munith/Stockbridge Pay it Forward will handle personal hygiene and personal request needs. Contact Anita Monical at 734-709-8435.

- Online group Their Guardian, Their Voice will handle pet needs. Contact Heather Walling by email at guardiansvoice@hotmail.com.

Reporter's Note: Please use caution when making donations to the residents of Lakewood Apartment Fire Victims Funds. If you question where donations are going, the information above will help make sure your donations get to the appropriate organizations.



Rural perspectives

Article and photo by Rose Collison

Mornings, readers' ears may be treated to the distinctive cackle of a ring-necked pheasant making its presence known. Because ring-necks nest on the ground and don't tend to roost in trees at night, they and their fledglings are vulnerable to fox and dreaded coyotes.

Ring-necked pheasants, native to China and East Asia, have been successfully introduced in other parts of the world, including North America, and specifically here in the Stockbridge area. Males are vibrantly colored with blue-green heads, red face wattles, and distinctive

white neck rings. Females and youth are plain brown.

Pheasants along with most members of the grouse family, have specialized, powerful breast muscles—the white meat found on a chicken. These muscles deliver bursts of power that allow the birds to escape trouble in a hurry, flushing nearly vertically into the air and reaching speeds of nearly 40 miles per hour. While birds normally don't fly more than 600 feet at a time, strong winds can extend their flight considerably.

Because they live in tall vegetation and old fields, ring-necked pheasants can be hard to spot even in places where they are abundant. Keep an eye out for them running between patches of cover as you travel through agricultural areas, particularly along dirt roads where the birds often forage in weedy areas.

Since they don't migrate south, winter is a good time to look for ring-necked pheasants. Vegetation is minimal then, crops have been harvested, and some areas have a snowy backdrop for the birds to stand out. In spring and summer, listen and watch for males performing their calling and wing-flapping display in open areas.

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.



Ring-necked pheasant struts through the yard!

On a farm, you
don't work 9 to 5.

Neither do we.

Let us help
you cover all
you've worked
so hard to
build.

Auto-Owners
INSURANCE

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

Abbott & Fillmore
Agency, Inc.
517-851-7777
www.InsuranceMichigan.com

734.498.3476

www.cts-tax.com

CTS**Smart Business Solutions****TAXES & ACCOUNTING SERVICES**

Your partner in tax preparation, bookkeeping & operational support

**Corn • Soybean • Wheat**

Faist FARMS, INC.  **PIONEER**
BRAND • PRODUCTS
AUTHORIZED DEALER

www.faistfarms.com

4241 Territorial Rd.
Pleasant Lake, MI 49272

Pioneer Hi-Bred Seed

Jacob Faist
517-937-2407
faist.farms@plantpioneer.com

September's 'Where's Waldo' mystery location

Think you know the area? Each month, SCN photographer Rose Collison is selecting a mystery location within 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.

September's winner will receive a \$20 Farmers State Bank Prepaid Visa gift card. Thank you to Farmers State Bank. Congratulations to August's winner Sandy Smith for correctly identifying the barn on M-52 and Millville Road.

To participate, enter your best guess as to the subject of the photo along with your name, address and phone number. Email Rose at



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

stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com or snail mail to Stockbridge Community News (c/o Rose), P.O. Box 83, Gregory, MI 48137.

Entries must be dated to postmarked no later than Sept. 7.

Only entries through email or snail mail will be accepted. No Facebook or website comments will be entered in the drawing.



Free Estimates

97% Dust Free

FLOOR CRAFTERS

— HARDWOOD FLOORS —

Installation ~ Refinishing

(517) 648-6982

Rob Clark (owner)

floorcraftersmi@yahoo.com

www.FChardwoodflooring.com



First place winner, National Federation of Press Women 2019 Communications Contest.

Who we are

An unpaid, volunteer Board of Directors operates the Stockbridge Community News, a Michigan nonprofit corporation (IRS #C4-4001565). Our print edition circulates to approximately 21,000 residents in nearly 9,000 local households in the 125-square-mile area of the Stockbridge school district. Our website and Facebook pages host an estimated 2,700 views daily.

Our Mission

To promote the common good and general welfare of residents in the greater Stockbridge area through the quality, consistent collection and dissemination of local educational news and social-benefit information.

Board of Directors

Patrice Johnson, President
Joan Tucker, Vice President
Judy Williams, Treasurer
Bev Glynn, Secretary
Rose Collison
Mary Jo David
Amy Haggerty
Roberta Ludtke
Hope Salyer
Terry Sommer
Nancy Wisman

Roles and Responsibilities

Editor-in-chief
Writer, Revenue and Content Tracker
Chief Financial Officer
Gregory & Unadilla News
Photography, Rural Perspectives & Contest Admin.
Business and Feature Writer, Editor
School News
Subscriptions and Public Relations
Technologist, Graphics Designer, Reporter, Editor
Financial Manager
Sales and Operations

Volunteers & administrative assistance: Carol Berger, Bruce Wm. Brown, James Clark-Swalla, Tina Cole-Mullins, Cathy Collins, Paul Crandall, Kayla Fletcher, Agnes Geiger, Karl Heidrich, Molly Howlett, Arlene Kaiser, Ron Kaiser, Mary Krummrey, Cindy Lance, David Lindemer, Jessica Martell, Jo Mayer, Keith Michaels, Dennis Petsch, Linda Petsch, Audrey Price, Connie Risner, Diane Rockall, Tammy Salyer, Jenny Smith, Jon Sweet, Michael Sweet, Rachel Sweet, Johnnie Torres, Jr. and Alex Weddon.

Contact Us: Stockbridge Community News, P.O. Box 83, Gregory, MI 48137
stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com
facebook.com/stockbridgecommunitynews or stockbridgecommunitynews.com

THANK YOU SPONSORS

We at the Stockbridge Community News are grateful to all who have expressed their encouragement and financial support. While those who have contributed their time and effort are too numerous to mention here, the News gratefully wishes to recognize our Annual and Charter Sponsors.

Platinum: \$5,000 to \$7,999

SAEF, Charlotte and Robert Camp Memorial Endowment Fund*

Silver: \$1,000 to \$1,999

Diane Rockall*
Michigan Press Women*

Roberta and Gary Ludtke*
Trinity Health*

Bronze: \$500 to \$999

Abbott and Fillmore*
Adiska Family Dental*
Andrea and William Stickney*
Angelo and Ruth Ann Parente*

Caskey Mitchell Funeral Home*
Dalton & Zick Builders LLC
Eleanor R. Cosgray*
Granger*
Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition*
5 Healthy Towns Foundation

Friend: \$100 to \$499

American Legion Post #510*
Anne Marie Young
Anonymous*
Audrey Price
Bev and Dave Glynn*
Cameron and Debra Corts*
Carol Steingasser
Chuck and Joan Bumpus
Chuck and Nancy Wisman*
Connie Spadafore
Dale and Sue Kellenberger
David Rowse & Kristen Fillmore
Don Hannewald Construction*
Dorothy and Aaron Craft*
Ed and Lori Zick*
Elaine and Clifford A. Skinner, III*
Elizabeth Potter & Marilyn Potter*
Farmers State Bank*

Glenn-Brooke Realty*
Gloria Henry
Hickory Ridge Farms*
In Memory of Warren K. Scheppe
Jack and Anne Potts
Jane James
Janice and Robert Jacobs
Janice and Thomas Lovachis*
Jeannine Wayman*
Jennifer and Edward Grumelot
Jim and Patrice Johnson*
Joe and Detta Kelly
John & Nancy Ocwieja
Jon and Elizabeth Fillmore*
Judy and Bob Williams*
Karen Lunsford
Kenneth and Evelyn Stoffer
Linda and Clair Risner*

Lois McGauley
Marlene Huttenlocher
Mary Jo David and Gary Hicks
Molly and Rick Howlett*
Open Air Market of Stockbridge*
Roger Liebman*
Stan and Susan Daily
Stockbridge Area Arts Council*
Stockbridge Area Garden Club*
Stockbridge Area Genealogical/Hist. Soc.
Stockbridge Community Education*
Stockbridge Lions Foundation*
Sts. Cornelius & Cyprian Catholic Church
Taylor Gary and Joan Allen
Todd and Carol Weddon
Vivian May*
Warren and Anita Scheppe
Wendy and Mitch Hause*

* **Charter Sponsors**

Make your absentee ballot count



by Judy Williams

Due to COVID-19, more people voted absentee ballot in the August primary. Mistakes made by voters can cause their ballot not to count. The most common mistakes causing a ballot not to count are the ballot arriving after 8 p.m. on election day, the envelope missing the ballot, unsigned voter ballot envelope, and a signature on the ballot not matching the voter's signature on record at the state.

After checking with some local clerks, this reporter found the voters in our community to be careful in following absentee voting instructions.

Clerk Jan Kitley of Waterloo Township said, "My advice to absentee ballot voters for the November 3rd election is return your ballot to the township in person or leave it in the drop box, and if you plan to mail your absentee ballot, mail early."

Clerk Sally Keene of Henrietta Township has advice for voters who plan to vote by absentee ballot, but have not yet turned in an application. "Get your application now and return it to the clerk's office. We have a drop box at the front of our building. You can drop off your application for an absent ballot or your ballot if you do not want to mail them."

Deputy Clerk Mandy Urquhart of Stockbridge stated, "Citizens need to make sure all of their information is included and clear on their applications for an absent ballot. We spend a lot of time making sure everything is correct. We have a drop box for applications and/or ballots you do not want to mail."

Linda Topping, clerk of Unadilla Township, agreed with the other local clerks and added, "We can always use election workers. People should contact their local clerks to find out about the required training. You can even work the elections in precincts other than where you live."

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the longtime director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said during the week of Aug. 15, he believed Americans should be able to safely cast a ballot in-person, as long as they follow necessary social distancing protocols.

"I think if carefully done, according to the guidelines, there's no reason that I can see why that not be the case," he told ABC News' Deborah Roberts during a National Geographic event.

Fauci compared the safety of casting a ballot in person to that of an in-person shopping trip to the grocery store in "counties and cities that are doing it correctly."

Even though our local clerks are taking every precaution to make sure the polling places are safe for both residents and election inspectors, many voters will choose to vote absentee. If absent ballot voting is your choice, follow the advice of our experienced clerks. Do not make a mistake that will cause your vote not to count.

	Stockbridge TWP	Waterloo TWP	Unadilla TWP	Henrietta TWP
How many citizens voted in person?	340	225	521	430
How many voted by absentee ballot?	526	474	353	650

	Stockbridge TWP	Waterloo TWP	Unadilla TWP	Henrietta TWP
How many ballots came in late?	2	5	3	0
How many ballot envelopes were not signed?	2	0	0	0
How many envelopes were missing ballots?	0	0	0	0
How many signatures on ballots didn't match with the state?	2	0	0	1

Ready for those cooler fall temperatures?

We're here to help

Certified Service  

15% OFF!

Any Repair Work*

*Offer valid for repair work only, maintenance not included. Coupon must be presented at time of write up. See service advisor for complete details. Offer ends 9/30/20.

Certified Service  

\$15 OFF!

Colling System Service

Coupon must be presented at time of write up. See service advisor for complete details. Offer ends 9/30/20.

Certified Service  

\$10 OFF!

Oil Change

Coupon must be presented at time of write up. See service advisor for complete details. Offer ends 9/30/20.

(734) 475-8663

www.chelseachevy.com



BUICK



Karl Heidrich

Superintendent's Desk

Dear SCS Families and Community:

Our "Return to Learn Plan" was approved by the Board of Education for opening school on August 24th. The plan was approved for phases 1-3, 4, and 5. The approval adopted was for a progressive option for the start of the school year for this fall.

The progressive option provides the safest alternative to returning to in-person learning for our families. It is very important that we first establish a robust

and effective online program for our students. Having a strong online program established in the beginning will greatly assist us in any future potential school building or district closure due to COVID-19 during the 2020/2021 school year. We also will be much better equipped to dial in and out of in-person and online learning as soon as the next day of school. Once the online program has been established during the first two weeks, we would progress to bring PK-2 Smith and Junior High students back for in-person learning on September 8th. All of our resources and personnel will be available to ensure their success at school and that all safety protocols and procedures will be followed. Once our Smith and Junior High students have been established and the buildings are running smoothly, we would finally progress to bring back 3-6 Heritage and 9-12 High School students on September 21st. Again, all of our resources and personnel would be available to ensure their success. By September 21st, all of our school buildings will be operating with in-person learning. It is important to note that all of our families have a choice for 100 percent everyday online option from home for up to the entire school year and not ever have to report for in-person learning.

Below is a bullet-pointed summary:

- All students in the district will receive online instruction from our teachers at home for the first two weeks of school on August 24th through September 3rd.
- On September 8th, Smith Elementary and the Junior High will begin in-person learning on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday (four days a week) with every Wednesday as a virtual learning day at home for all students.
- On September 21st, Heritage School and the Senior High School will begin in-person learning on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday (four days a week) with every Wednesday as a virtual learning day at home for all students.
- By September 21st all of our buildings will have in-person learning for students
- Families have a choice for 100 percent everyday online option from home for up to the entire school year and not ever have to report for in-person learning.

See Superintendent on page 19.



John and Theresa Kightlinger

Ask an Expert: Customers' rights in an insurance claim

Continued from last month

by John and Theresa Kightlinger

Breach of contract

Failure by either party to meet their contractual obligations to the other could result in a claim for a "breach of contract" or other applicable activities which may, through a legal course of action, be determined to be a civil wrong. An example would be deceptive trade practices, which may apply to any business, including both insurers and collision repairers who are found guilty of such practices that harm or take unfair advantage of consumers.

Breach occurs when a party to a contract fails to fulfill its obligation(s) as described in the contract, or communicates an intent to fail the obligation or otherwise appears not to be able to perform its obligation under the contract.

Unfair trade practices include misrepresentation, false advertising or representation of a good or service, tied selling, false free prize or gift offers, deceptive pricing and noncompliance with manufacturing standards.

Bodily injury/property damage

The most common type of third-party insurance claims are often referred to as a "bodily injury (BI)" or "property damage" (PD) claim. For example, if through your negligence you cause an accident and damage another's property (i.e. vehicle) and/or caused personal injury to others, the injured party can file a claim against you for their damages. If you have the coverage, you can then seek protection from your own insurance company and demand that they step in and resolve the claim to protect your financial assets and liabilities up to the financial limits of your auto liability coverage.

Should your insurer fail to fully resolve the third-party claimant's damages, the third-party claimant can seek recovery of their damages directly from you or the at-fault driver and, if needed, bring a lawsuit against you for the recovery of their damages. After all, their damages were caused due to your negligence, not that of your insurer.

Then you would call upon your insurer to protect you as promised in your policy contract. If they fail and a judgment is levied against you for the victim's damages, you may then have a cause of action against your insurer for failing in their duty to protect you and placing you in harm's way.

It's important to note that while the first-party claimant (policyholder) may have specific dollar limits of coverage within their policy contract, the third-party claimant (victim) is not bound by the policy contract or its limitations and is entitled to the full recovery or reimbursement of their losses.

See Expert on page 9.

PUBLIC NOTICE



Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and our area's current Executive Governor's orders, the annual "A Day in the Village" event has been cancelled for 2020.

Thank you ~ Stockbridge Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

BBRam Excavating, LLC • 517-812-4198

For your smaller job needs...

Trenching: Electric & Water

Grading: Driveways & Landscaping

Excavating: Pond Banks



Brian Butterfield, Owner
Chelsea, Michigan

MY BODY SHOP INC.



517-945-2059



You fought a deer? We'll fight the insurance company.

No matter how your vehicle gets damaged, we'll get it fixed on time and the right way. No short cuts or compromises. Remember, where you get your car fixed is NOT up to your insurance company, it's up to you. Make the right decision, bring your vehicle to My Body Shop.

Recipe

Sauteed Pork Chops with Apples



INGREDIENTS



Sugar and Spice Rub

2 tablespoons packed brown sugar
2 teaspoons chili powder
1 ½ teaspoons kosher salt
1 ½ teaspoons garlic powder
1 ½ teaspoons onion powder
1 ½ teaspoons ground cumin
¾ teaspoon cayenne pepper
¾ teaspoon black pepper

Pork Chops

4 (8 ounce) bone-in pork center-cut chops, cut ¾ inch thick
2 teaspoons canola oil plus 1 tablespoon, divided
¼ cup dry white wine
2 cups thinly sliced Granny Smith apples
½ cup reduced-sodium chicken broth or chicken stock
Fresh thyme (optional)



Sponsored by

DIRECTIONS



1. To prepare Sugar and Spice Rub: In a small bowl, stir together brown sugar, chili powder, salt, garlic powder, onion powder, ground cumin, cayenne pepper and black pepper.
2. To prepare chops: Trim fat from chops. Brush 2 teaspoons oil over all sides of chops. Sprinkle chops evenly with 1 tablespoon of the rub (reserve the rest for another use); rub in with your fingers. Cover with plastic wrap; chill in refrigerator 1 hour.
3. Preheat a large skillet over medium-high heat 2 minutes. Add the remaining 1 tablespoon oil; swirl to lightly coat skillet. Add chops; cook 7 to 10 minutes or until 145 degrees F, turning once. Transfer chops to a warm platter; cover and keep warm.
4. Remove skillet from heat. Slowly add wine to hot skillet, stirring to scrape up any browned bits from bottom of skillet. Return skillet to heat. Add sliced apples, broth, and 1 thyme sprig. Bring to boiling; reduce heat. Simmer, covered, about 3 minutes or just until apples are tender. Using a slotted spoon, transfer apples to a small bowl; cover and keep warm. Bring broth mixture in skillet to boiling. Boil about 5 minutes or until liquid is reduced by half. Return chops and apples to skillet; heat through. If desired, sprinkle with snipped thyme. Serve immediately.

Recipe from: <http://www.eatingwell.com/recipe/259614/sauteed-pork-chops-with-apples/>

Expert page 8

If the third-party claimant's damages exceed and exhaust the negligent policyholder's limits of available liability coverage, and the insurer has provided payment of the limits under the terms of the policy contract, the third-party claimant can then turn their attention to the at-fault party and seek recovery of any and all remaining unpaid amounts due them until indemnified (made whole).

First-party claims

First-party claims are made by the insured policyholder (aka first-party claimant) against their own insurer. This may be under their collision or comprehensive coverage for the repair or replacement of their vehicle due to damages incurred in a covered loss. This may include rental car coverage during the repair of their covered vehicle (if they have such coverage available to them in their policy contract).

If their insurer fails to resolve a claim in a proper, equitable and timely manner (as mandated in most states), the policyholder may seek compensation for their damages by filing a civil lawsuit against their insurer for breach of contract and/or failure to act in good faith (aka "acting in bad faith," "bad faith conduct," etc.) and/or deceptive trade practices, etc.

Examples of such behavior are:

- Failing to perform their obligations under the contract in whole or in part.
- Failing to perform a proper and thorough investigation of the claim.
- Delaying or denying a claim and compensation without a justifiable reason.
- Failing to acknowledge and reply to a claim promptly.
- Attempting to settle a claim for less than is reasonably necessary to indemnify the policyholder.
- Using misleading and incorrect information to deny claim payments.
- Failing to inform the insured of an appeals process.
- Requiring unnecessarily burdensome documentation to process a claim.
- Using investigative methods to harass and intimidate the claimant.
- If the insurance company misinterprets the contract.

There are many other ways in which an insurer may act in bad faith to avoid paying out fair consideration. Oftentimes, when found guilty of such conduct, the courts will hand down stiff financial penalties (punitive damages) and sanctions to the offending insurer to send a message and warning to the auto/casualty insurance industry that such behavior will not be tolerated.

In an Auto Damage Experts (ADE) poster provided to repairer clients, it states in part:

"When an insurer representative fails to fully ascertain the full extent of all loss-related damages, and/or fails to provide proper consideration for each necessary process, part and/or material, the failure can be defined as either: ignorance, gross incompetence or intentional misrepresentation (or a combination thereof)."

As you can see, in a first- or third-party claim, any of the previously mentioned events could be found to be a breach of contract or failure to act in good faith by the insurer.

Summary

It's important for all to know that insurance claims people and collision repair professionals are placed in a position of public trust, and the unwary consumer often relies upon expert professionals to do the right thing and protect them in their time of need.

The medical profession has the Hippocratic Oath and a new physician swears to uphold long-standing professional ethical standards and to "do no harm." This pledge also strongly binds the student to his teacher and the greater community of physicians with responsibilities similar to that of a family member.

The collision industry would do well to develop a similar oath and abide by it when serving the industry and their one and only true customer: the vehicle owners and their families.

John and Theresa Kightlinger own My Body Shop at 401 N. Clinton St., Stockbridge. The couple have lived in the area and raised their children here over the past 20 years. John has been in the auto body business since 1985, and Theresa began work at General Motors after high school. Between the two, they have been working on cars for more than 75 years.

Update page 1

Any residents who were affected are asked to have their insurance companies contact Lakewood Apartment's property manager. Due to the unsafe nature of the building, residents will not be able to retrieve any belongings until a property restoration company can do so for them.

"We're very grateful for the community of Stockbridge," said Marea Powell, director of property management for PK Companies, the property management company that oversees Lakewood Apartments. "Everyone stepped up, whether it was with food, money, clothing, or support. I'd like to give special thanks to Rob's Pizza and Eaton Federal Bank for organizing monetary donations. We'd also like to thank The Red Cross and Stockbridge Community Outreach."

Founders of the Waterloo Area Historical Society (Part 1)



The Realy farmstead before receiving the loving attention of the Waterloo Area Historical Society (WAHS). Photo circa 1962. Provided by the WAHS

by Arlene Kaiser

This is the first of a three-part series. The Waterloo Area Historical Society was the driving force behind the restoration of the Realy farmstead to become the Waterloo Farm Museum.

As we look to the future with great concern, I'm taken back to our past. How our ancestors survived through illness, drought, floods and poverty. The Realy family went through all of these and still thrived. Pioneer life was difficult, even for energetic workers, with little opportunity for socializing. But socialize they did, with neighbors and family. Stories about the Realy family make the farm come alive.

The Realy farmstead would have been demolished if it hadn't been for a few good folks of the Stockbridge area who took on the giant task of saving the farm and creating a source of Pioneer Farm and Schooling history to be passed on for generations.

See Farmstead on page 10.

Farmstead page 9



East side of the Realy farmstead, circa 1962. Photo provided by the WAHS

In the winter of 1962, 12 people gathered at the home of Harriet and Sidney Beckwith in Stockbridge. The discussion around the dining table focused on whether it would be possible to generate interest in saving the old Realy Farm on Waterloo-Munith Road, 3 miles north of Waterloo.

These 12 people were instrumental in founding the Waterloo Area Historical Society. Some were well acquainted with each other; some were merely responding to a newspaper notice. Yet, in the ensuing months, this nucleus of men and women drew a crowd of 200 to the Stockbridge Town Hall to discuss the common thread that had brought them together around that simple dining table.

Who were these 12? What were their individual backgrounds? What was the motivational force that compelled them to found the Waterloo Area Historical Society and drove them to begin restoration of the Realy farmhouse?

Sidney and Harriet Beckwith: For most of Harriet's childhood, she grew up in her grandmother Hattie's house. Located in Jackson, at that time the area was practically country and her grandmother owned the whole block with gardens and orchards; horses, cows, dogs, hens, and a parrot; as well as a marvelous attic. Her grandmother's memories of the Civil War and the trunks in her attic became even more important to Harriet. Life on an island off Newfoundland also gave her insights about pioneer life—of woodstoves, water barrels, spinning wheels, and dog teams. Armed with this background and knowledge, she was ready to take on the task.

Dr. Sidney Beckwith was the photo historian of the society, from the beginning through the final restoration. With these volumes of photos, we are able to see how the farmhouse was and how it should continue to be.

L. Erston Clarke grew up the grandson of Abby Clark, the first white child born in Ingham County. Harriet Beckwith requested assistance from him to help work on the dilapidated Realy house along with those who created the museum. He took many of the original photos of the weed patch that surrounded the house.

Harold and Hazel Harr made their home on a farm, where Harold grew potatoes and had a registered herd of Guernseys. His diary relates, "...in winter, cutting ice and firewood was a daily, tiresome chore..." Yet, his sense of community helped him

find time to be a director of the Farmer's State Bank of Munith. After graduating from Eastern Michigan University in 1920, Hazel eventually became principal in Stockbridge for four years. She also taught mathematics and history at Stockbridge High School, became principal for the Munith 10 grade school, and taught several years in a one-room school not far from Harrlands, their home. As a member of five organizations, including the Waterloo Needlework Club, Hazel's background prompted her to be one of the first to be invited to join the small group who would meet at the Beckwith home to discuss saving the old Realy house.

To be continued.

Information source: The Founders of the Waterloo Area Historical Society, compiled by Agnes Dikeman, former WAHS president and museum director.



North side of the Realy farmstead, circa 1962. Photo provided by the WAHS

CELEBRATING OUR HOME TOWN

SPECIALTY SATELLITE



Tom & Janice Lovachis
100 S. Clinton St.
Stockbridge
specialtysatellite.com
517-851-9100

- Grew Up In:** Both – Redford Township
- First Job:** J: McDonald's
T: Drug Store
- Nickname:** J: Bear T: Lovach
- Claim to Fame:** Honest, detailed installation. Tom is a perfectionist.
- Behind the Scenes:** Tom was on SDDA for 9 years.
- Why Stockbridge:** In 1979, we made Stockbridge our home. It's a great place to raise a family.

Presented by
Susan Pidd REALTY
The only locally owned and operated
real estate company in town.





FIRST SAVINGS

B A N K.

Where you're always First

Local. Experienced. Reliable.

Ben Barber

Mortgage Loan Originator NMLS#237903

(734)224-9678 • bbarber@fsbbankwl.com





Manna

Try Our Convenient
"Ride Up" Window

Located at Stockbridge
Trailhead • 915 S. Clinton St.

SUMMER HOURS
MON: 11 am to 7 pm
TUE – SAT: 9 am to 7 pm
SUN: closed

Food worth walking about

517-985-6233



Village of Stockbridge to lease 60 acres of tillable irrigated land located off Green Road

Notice from the Village of Stockbridge

The Village of Stockbridge has 60 acres of tillable irrigated land for lease located off Green Road. Those who are interested are asked to contact Molly Howlett, village president, for more information at 517-851-7435 or 517-290-8245.

Back to school: Parents facing tough choices during COVID-19 pandemic



Sisters Cheyenne and Chloe Davis engage in daily activities in their home classroom created by their grandmother. Photo credit Tina Cole-Mullins

by Tina Cole-Mullins

After schools closed in March and the governor's emergency orders filled the summer, cases of COVID-19 still continue throughout the state. Now as fall begins, school administrators, staff, teachers and parents are working to safely provide the best education for students during the pandemic.

What will be best learning environment for the child? How comfortable are the parents that the child's needs will be met, in whatever choice is made? The options available are face-to-face, remote learning through the district, blended learning, virtual school and self home-school. But there is no simple, or single answer to the questions during this unique time.

Returning to the classroom

Amanda Preston, a single mom and essential worker in the medical field, feels she has no other option when it comes to her children's education. Preston's son, Brayden, is a returning first-grader and daughter, Paige, is in kindergarten.

"I'm sending my kids back because that way they have IEP's and need in-school learning, so it will be in their best interest," Preston said. "It's imperative for them to be in school. They're not suited for online. With being a single mom (and) working full time during the day, they would not have any structured learning. So yes, I will send my kids back."

Older student decides

Stockbridge High School student Josie Beutler made the choice to return to learning in the classroom.

"Both my younger sister, Clare, and myself will be attending," she said. "I am saddened by the safety measures such as 6 feet apart from those who aren't of our household; however, I know that these guidelines are in place for everyone's safety.

"I'm not very worried about having to wear a mask. I've been wearing one whenever I'm in the store. I am curious as to how effective our learning experience will be considering our new normal," she continued. "... Ultimately I see that there are many positives and negatives to this situation, but I also know that many students (myself included) learn better in a classroom."

Help from family

This also is a time when grandparents such as Tisha and Robert Fineman are stepping up. The Finemans moved to Stockbridge in the spring of 2016 to be closer to their granddaughter and soon-to-arrive grandson.

"Fast forward, and here we are, in the altered reality of the COVID pandemic. It is a blessing to be a hop and a skip from the children and the grandchildren," Tisha Fineman said. "Last year, Vin attended a great preschool in Chelsea. This year, he will not be attending in person, although he is enrolled as a distance learner there. Due to my prior experience teaching young fives and kindergarten, I've been called on to provide some structured concrete hands-on in-person experiences."

Having retired in 2011, Tisha Fineman realized how much things had changed.

See *School on page 14.*



Internet





LIGHTNING FAST 4G SPEEDS
We use the fastest 4G and LTE towers available. This isn't a hotspot. It's a router with direct Ethernet connection or wireless.



**NO CONTRACTS
NO CREDIT CHECKS**
Most internet service providers make you sign a 2-3 year agreement and run your credit. We have NO Contracts and NO Credit Checks.

**WIRELESS INTERNET
AT HOME OR ON THE GO**


NO
CREDIT CHECKS


NO
CONTRACTS

SHOCKINGLY
FAST
SPEEDS

AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE
WITH DOWNLOAD SPEEDS UP TO 70MBPS



Downtown Stockbridge • On the corner

- Available nationwide
- 14 day trial period
- Download Speed up to 70 Mbps
- Online order entry with Drop Shipping



(517) 851-9100

100 S. CLINTON
STOCKBRIDGE, MI 49285
SPECIALTYSATELLITE.COM

UTPD Activity from July 1-31, 2020

Wednesday, 7/1 - Medical-Kathryn Ct./W. M-36, Welfare Check-Woodside Dr./Lake Shore Dr., Domestic Physical-Location Undisclosed
 Thursday, 7/2 - Assist EMS--/Fall-Pleasant Dr./Woodside Dr., Electrical Hazard-Joslin Lake Rd./Hadley Rd., Respond to Alarm-Worden Rd./Doyle Rd., DHS Referral-Location Undisclosed, Property Damage Accident-Main St./Dewey St.
 Friday, 7/3 - Assist EMS - W. M-36, Fraud - Main St., Animal complaint - Stockbridge St., Assist EMS - Doyle Rd., Assist other Agency - Kaiser Rd.
 Saturday, 7/4 - Animal Complaint - Berkshire Dr.
 Sunday, 7/5 - Noise Complaints - W. M-36, Medical - Main St., Assist EMS - Doyle Ct., Trespassing - Bradley Rd., Assist EMS - Bullis Rd.
 Monday, 7/6 - Welfare Check - W. M-36, Citizen Assist - Donohue Rd.
 Tuesday, 7/7 - Citizen Assist - Webb St., Assist Fire Dept. - Wasson Rd./Dutcher
 Wednesday, 7/8 - Follow up - Main St.
 Thursday, 7/9 - Motorist Assist - Kaiser Rd, Subpoena Service - San Luray Dr., Assist Fire Dept. - Church St., Electrical Hazzard - Hadley Rd./Kaiser Rd., Assist Fire Dept. - Bullis Rd.
 Friday, 7/10 - Assist Fire Dept. - San Luray Dr./Williamsville Rd., Assist EMS - Graves Rd./M-36, Animal complaint - W. M-36, Assist Fire Dept. - Doyle Rd.
 Saturday, 7/11 - Assist EMS - San Luray Dr./Williamsville Rd., Property Damage Accident - Graves Rd./W.M-36, Noise Complaints - W. M-36/Livermore, Suspicious Situation - Dream Catcher, Shots fired - W. M-36
 Sunday, 7/12 - Lockout - Kathryn Ct.
 Monday, 7/13 - Citizen Assist - Webb St.
 Tuesday, 7/14 - Assist EMS - Arnold Rd., Assist EMS - Doyle Rd., Fraud - Gregory Rd., Personal Injury Accident - Doyle Rd./Unadilla Rd., Follow

Up - W. M-36, Personal Injury Accident - M-36, Alarm - Rockwell Rd./Kane Rd., Assist EMS - Orlando Dr./Williamsville Rd.
 Wednesday, 7/15 - Hazard - M-36/Spars Rd.
 Thursday, 7/16 - Assist EMS- Weller Rd.
 Friday, 7/17 - Lockout - Dexter Trail/M-36, Suspicious Person - W. M-36
 Saturday, 7/18 - Executive Order Violation - Doyle Rd./Van Sycle Rd
 Sunday, 7/19 - Noise Complaints - Park Dr./Woodside, Assist EMS - Spears Rd./Pingree, Animal complaint - Pinckney Rd
 Monday, 7/20 - Assist EMS - Williamsville Rd., Destruction of Property - Van Syckle Rd., Property Damage Accident - Unadilla Rd., Animal Complaint - Livermore Rd./Doyle Rd.
 Tuesday, 7/21 - Assist EMS - M-36/Spars Rd., Motorist Assist - Spears Rd., Chase Pursuit - M-36
 Wednesday, 7/22 - Fraud - Kathryn Ct.
 Thursday, 7/23 - Citizen Assist - Webb St., Assist Fire Dept. - Webb St., Citizen Assist - Dutton Rd., Fraud - Webb St.
 Friday, 7/24 - Assist Fire Dept. - W. M-36, Executive Order Violation - Unadilla Rd., Follow Up - Mason Rd.
 Saturday, 7/25 - Assist Fire Dept. - Roepke Rd./Bowdish Rd., Citizen Assist - Webb St., Larceny - Main St., Hazard - Dutton Rd./Dexter Trail, Domestic - Stockbridge St., Shots Fired - Wasson Rd./Bull Run
 Sunday, 7/26 - Domestic - Dutton Rd
 Monday, 7/27 - Assist EMS - Gregory Rd., Citizen Assist - Barton Rd/W. M-36
 Tuesday, 7/28 - Suspicious Person - M-106/Doyle Rd., Assist EMS - Main St./Bullis Rd.
 Thursday, 7/30 - Assist EMS - Barton Rd., Assist other Agency - Bull Run Rd.
 Friday, 7/31 - Personal Injury Accident - Spears Rd/Rose Hill Rd, Assist EMS - Graves Rd.

VILLAGE OF STOCKBRIDGE**Unapproved Special Minutes 11, Aug. 2020**

Meeting called to order by President Howlett at 7:02 pm. Roll Call: PRESENT: President Molly Howlett, Pro-Tem Frederick Cattell, Trustee Richard Mullins, Trustee Kim Morehouse, Trustee Heath Corey; ABSENT: Trustee Heath Quintanilla, Trustee Greg Uihlein; 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 Morehouse, APPROVED; the August 11, 2020 agenda. Motion carried unanimously Approval of Minutes MOTION by Cattell, SUPPORTED by Mullins to approve the Regularly Scheduled Meeting minutes of June 1, 2020 as presented by Clerk Nogle Motion carried unanimously Public Comment - None; FINANCIAL REPORT: Accounts Payable MOTION by Mullins, SUPPORTED by Cattell, APPROVED; the accounts payable as presented by Clerk Nogle. AYES: Morehouse, Corey, Cattell, Mullins, Howlett NAYS: None ABSENT: Uihlein, Quintanilla MOTION PASSED; President Report President Howlett updated the council on ongoing projects. NEW BUSINESS David Dillard Pay Increase Request MOTION by Howlett, SUPPORTED by Mullins, APPROVED; pay increase for

David Dillard from \$18.00 to \$20.00 per hour. AYES: Morehouse, Corey Mullins, Cattell, Howlett NAYS: None ABSENT: Uihlein, Quintanilla MOTION PASSED Jetting and Vacuum Sanitary Sewer MOTION by Corey, SUPPORTED by Cattell, APPROVED; 3 year plan and hire MK Jetting for first year; second and third year will require quotes. AYES: Cattell, Morehouse, Corey, Mullins, Howlett NAYS: None ABSENT: Uihlein, Quintanilla MOTION PASSED Planning Commission increase MOTION by Howlett, SUPPORTED by Cattell, APPROVED; increase for Planning Commission Board Members \$45.00 per meeting; Planning Commission Chair \$60.00 per meeting, effective immediately. YES: Mullins, Uihlein, Cattell, Morehouse, Howlett NAYS: Quintanilla, Corey ABSENT: MOTION PASSED Cemetery Rates Heath Corey will research other cemeteries and will report his findings at the next council meeting. Public Comment Geri Uihlein discussed SDDA Patronicity Project will be starting that will help downtown businesses who suffered during the COVID-19. Geri Uihlein described how the Bridge to the Future. The SDDA hired Total Local to help with the project. Council Comments None ADJOURNMENT: MOTION by Cattell, SUPPORTED by Mullins, APPROVED to adjourn the Council Meeting at 8:35pm. Motion carried unanimously. Respectfully submitted: Debbie Nogle, Village Clerk



Bankruptcy might be the answer. Save your home and get rid of credit card debt.

DROWNING IN DEBT?**M^cGivney Law Firm, PLLC**

104 W. Main St., Stockbridge, MI 49285

517.851.7507

No charge for initial consultation

"We are a debt relief agency. We help people file for bankruptcy relief under the Bankruptcy Code."

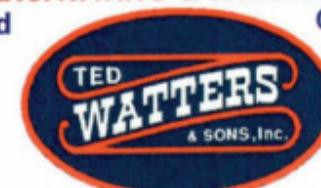
Jeff Caskey

Brad Caskey

**SEPTIC TANK CLEANING**P.O. Box 188
Stockbridge, MI 49285517-851-7695
www.wildsanitation.com**KootsiQuilting LLC**LONG ARM QUILTING • HAND BINDING
T-SHIRT QUILTS • CUSTOM SEWING**On the town square!**120 E. Main St. • Stockbridge
(734) 717-3413 • kootsiquilting.com
f KootsiQuilting LLC**EXCAVATING & TRUCKING**

Sand

Gravel



Fax: 517-851-8938

P.O. Box 577
Stockbridge, MI 49285

Office: 517-851-7730

Jim's Gutter Service

Seamless Aluminum Gutters

Installation or Repairs

Cleaning and Screening

Jim Weiland

Free Estimates ~ Insured

517-851-4673

**Susan Pidd
REALTY**

C: 517-775-1610

O: 517-851-7568



A Realtor You Can Trust

SusanPiddRealty@gmail.com

Sowing seeds of cheer and neighborliness during high-stress times



Arloa and Mark Smith stand with their grand-dog Chloe, in front of the progenitor hollyhocks. Photo credit Patrice Johnson

by Patrice Johnson

The month was July, the year 2018. SCN writer Bob Castle wrote a terrific story about Mark “Baler Man” Smith retiring at the young age of 89. I offered to snap a photo to accompany the story so stopped by the Smiths’ home. Afterward, I complimented wife Arloa on her lovely display of hollyhocks lining the barn.

Soon after, an envelope of hollyhock seeds arrived on my doorstep with a thoughtful thank-you note. I planted a flat of seeds the following spring, hoping a few seedlings might grow. Ten days later, I had green shoots sprouting everywhere.

I gave seedling six packs to daughter Kelsey Rasmussen, Lori Zick, Becky Whitaker and to anyone who might enjoy them. Then I planted the remaining flat.

A year passed, and my seedlings sprouted more than a foot tall but produced no blossoms. Then 2020 hit with COVID-19 and protests/riots rocked the nation. In contrast to despair, the hollyhocks appeared to symbolize hope. Oblivious to chaos and fear, they stood strong and tall, towering 6-feet high with multicolored flowers ascending toward the skies.

Out West in Colorado, the hollyhocks took their time. Kelsey Johnson said, “They kept us in suspense last year by not blossoming, so we’re pleased to finally see their magnificent color.” She added, “These hollyhocks bring so much joy as they represent a connection across time and space to my mom and the Stockbridge community.”

“Over the years,” Arloa said, “farmers have asked about the flowers and we’ve given them seeds, so they’re probably flowering all over the area. The seeds’ ancestors came from the Smith family farm on Heeney Road—the one that burned down,” she explained.

Lori Zick summarized the spread of Arloa’s seeds this way: “I have been so blessed to have these hollyhocks. They are the first things I see when I look out to my garden because they’re so tall. But what makes them so special is they are from Arloa Smith’s garden. She used to be my neighbor for years.”

Just as the virus knows no politics, Arloa’s hollyhocks may be said to know no strangers, only neighbors.



Arloa’s seeds thrive at the home of Patrice Johnson, also of Stockbridge. Photo credit Patrice Johnson



Hollyhocks from Arloa Smith’s garden bloom in Lori Zick’s garden outside of Stockbridge. Photo credit Lori Zick



Kelsey Johnson said, “These hollyhocks bring so much joy as they represent a connection across time and space to my mom and the Stockbridge community.” Photo credit Eric Rasmussen

A new career could be closer than you think.

Learn about our virtual tax course:
hrblock.com/class

CALL THE OFFICE FOR DETAILS ON HOW TO ENROLL , Virtual Class - take the course from the comfort of your home!
 ENROLL TODAY, CLASSES START IN SEPTEMBER!!! |



1171 S Main St #3
 Chelsea Mi 48118 | 734-475-2752

Enrollment in, or completion of, the H&R Block Income Tax Course is neither an offer nor a guarantee of employment. Enrollment restrictions apply. Not open to persons who are employed by or seeking employment with any professional tax preparation company other than H&R Block. H&R Block reserves the right to immediately cancel any such student’s enrollment. CTEC# 1040-QE-2355

FREE **GUIDING GOOD CHOICES** Virtual Parent Workshops

Parents are you feeling prepared for the teen years?

Are you having a hard time setting rules and boundaries?
 Communicating?
 Bonding?
 Managing conflict?

- ✓ Boundary Setting
- ✓ Decision Making
- ✓ Resiliency

To find out more about Guiding Good Choices or upcoming workshops visit:

srslycoalition.org or email ggc@srslycoalition.org

Obituaries

Phyllis Lee Choate



Phyllis Lee Choate

Feb. 26, 1961 to Aug. 18, 2020

Phyllis Lee Choate, age 59, of Gregory, MI, passed away on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at her home. She was born February 26, 1961 in Howell, MI, the daughter of Thomas and Joan (Davis) Humphries.

On February 16, 1997, she married Frederick I. Choate, and he survives. Also surviving are two children, Breanna Choate and Frederick Choate, both of Gregory; two brothers, Christian Stone of Brighton, and James (Jimmie) Humphries of Texas; and one sister-in-law, Laura (Chuck) Lewis of White Lake; her mother-in-law, Janet Cherum of Howell, as well as her father-in-law, Ervine Choate of South Lyon. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Phyllis had lived in the Gregory area for the past 25 years, moving from Pinckney. She was a 1979 graduate of Howell High School and worked for Kroger as a cashier for ten years. Phyllis enjoyed spending time outdoors gardening and feeding her wild birds. She was especially fond of Orioles and Hummingbirds. She loved walking her dog and loving on her cats. She loved animals of all kinds.

A private Memorial Service will be held at a later date. Arrangements by Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home, Stockbridge.

Marlene Onnalee Ramsdell



Marlene Onnalee Ramsdell

Sept. 21, 1944 to Aug. 15, 2020

Marlene Onnalee Ramsdell, age 75, of Stockbridge, MI, passed away suddenly at her son's home in Holly, MI on August 15, 2020. She is survived by her loving husband of 53 years, Ed Ramsdell; their daughter, Shelly Bumpus (Matthew Bowler), and son, Scott (Danielle) Ramsdell; two grandsons, Alec (Brittani) Bumpus, and Ian (Jasmine) Bumpus; two great-grandchildren, Haley and Logan Bumpus; sister, Melanie (Kevin) Snider, brother, LeRoy (Jeanette) West, brother, Larry West, sister-in-law, Ethel Walling, brother-in-law, Richard (Maryellen) Ramsdell; so many nieces and nephews; her dear friend, Jean Weathers; and her little dog, Lilly. Marlene was preceded in death by her parents, Lewis and Marguerite (West) Haines. Marlene was born in Jackson, MI on September 21, 1944, and moved to Stockbridge at the age of 16. She went on to earn her nursing degree and was involved in

the early open heart surgeries at University of Michigan Hospital in the mid 1960s. Marlene was the owner of Shelly's Flowers and Gifts, where she satisfied her love for flowers. She thoroughly enjoyed quilting, gardening, cooking, and most of all spending time with her family—especially at their cabin in Northern Michigan. She was the most caring and loving soul with the biggest heart, and she will be missed so much by so many. The holidays will never be the same. She always made sure our tummies were full of her delicious food made with much love. At her request, cremation has taken place and there will be no services. Please join Marlene's family in celebrating her wonderful life from this day forward. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the American Heart Association of Michigan. Arrangements by Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home, Stockbridge.

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.

- Jerry Patrick - died April 14, 2020 - Jackson
- Jean Waters (Seger) - died June 27, 2020
- Paul Klawitter - died July 23, 2020 - Pleasant Lake
- Kathryn "Kay" Ann Broesamle - died July 23, 2020 - Munith
- Duane I. McCann - died July 30, 2020 - Leslie
- Karen Marjorie Heeny (née Ahlbaum) - died August 16, 2020 - Stockbridge

School page 11

"I went online to find an appropriate scope and sequence for 4-year-old learning," she said. "I also acquired a theme-based plan, which is how I like to organize things."

Tisha Fineman said she will follow the Chelsea Children's Cooperative Preschool pages to see what her grandson would have been doing there. She also looked at nature schools online because she wanted outdoor learning to be part of every preschool day. She has organized spaces in her home for a rug time spot, play area, table activities and a library nook.

No one fit for all

In this unprecedented time, not every option will be the best for all. The only thing we can do is prepare our children for the future as best we can, no matter the style of learning. Be it face-to-face, online remote learning or home schooling, what works best for one family will not always be the best option for the family next door.

Deanna Kruger, who always wears a contagious smile as she greets the students, parents and staff in the reception office of Heritage Elementary School, is optimistic about the weeks to come.

"This is a journey we are all traveling, for the first time, together," she said. "The school board and school staff are working hard to make this work for the safety of everyone and the well-being of 'our kids.' We miss the students so much! Bringing them back safely is the priority."

Paul Dobos, DDS

Family Dentistry

120 E. Main Street
Stockbridge
517-851-8455
pauldobosdds.com

"Where kindness and excellence meet"

Waterloo Township Board Unapproved Meeting Minutes July 23, 2020 7:00 P.M. 9773 Mt. Hope Road Munith, MI 49259

Call to Order: 7:00 p.m. Pledge Present: Lance, Kitley, McAlister, Walz, Morency. Public Comment: Cynthia Richardson announced herself as a write-in candidate in the November election for Republican Precinct Delegate. Consent Agenda: Kitley motioned with support from McAlister to accept the consent agenda as presented. Aye/all; no/none. Motion carried. SPECIAL ORDER: Permit renewal for Aggregate Industries. Lance motioned with support from Morency to accept their permit renewal request for one year with the following conditions:

1. The new permit will apply to the existing 50.23+/- acres plus the original parcels of the operation, as listed as follows: i. 10-12-200-001-01 ii. 10-01-426-001-00 iii. 10-01-476-001-00 iv. 10-12-200-001-02 v. 10-12-100-001-00 (new parcel in expansion) vi. 10-01-451-001-00 (new parcel in expansion)

2. This permit will be valid until 7/1/2021.

3. All requirements and conditions imposed by the Planning Commission in its recommendation of approval to the Board in April 2013, for the special use permit, as amended, resolution # R-13-11-20-1 continue to be met.

4. Aggregate Industries is to comply at a minimum with all provisions of the Waterloo Township Zoning Ordinance and Sand and Gravel Extraction Ordinance as amended.

5. All haul routes remain at existing locations (as of November 20th, 2013).

6. All processing plants and stockpile locations shall remain at the existing locations.

7. Any 'primary feeders' installed to sort material for the conveyor will be located at a low level and very near to a mining face in order to minimize any noise levels coming from the unit.

8. Monitoring of wells 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, the freshwater lake, Pond Lilly, and clear lake all continue on a monthly basis.

9. Aggregate Industries will send quarterly well monitoring updates to the Waterloo Township Engineer so that the well monitoring sites can be closely followed. If necessary, the Township Engineer will contact the Township board and Aggregate Industries in order to discuss any concerning levels and take appropriate action.

10. Regular inspections will be made by the township engineer for at least the purpose of monitoring the extraction depth to ensure that it is maintained at a level at least 10 feet higher than the water table (as projected by the frc&h 2012 report).

11. Cells 1-4 of phase I must be reclaimed by the end of calendar year 2020.

12. Any changes to the signed copy of the lease agreement between Aggregate Industries and the DNR must be communicated to the township for review.

13. Reclamation activity is carried out according to the document provided to Waterloo Township by Aggregate Industries on December 6th, 2013, entitled "The Reclamation Plan".

14. Any changes to the reclamation plan are to be communicated to the township, as outlined in the Township Sand & Gravel Extraction Ordinance, as amended.

15. No extractive operations will occur below ground water level within the new expansion areas.

16. No water will be discharged offsite by the operation.

17. The existing Reclamation Surety Bond #929570818 shall remain in effect, with the following details: i. The "penal sum" in the first paragraph remains Eight Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred (\$867,500.00) ii. The amount required to "reimburse the Oblige for costs and reasonable expenses and fees", in the last paragraph on page one, shall remain One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) iii. In the second paragraph, the "effective" date should be June 17, 2013, and the "Renewal" date should be June 27, 2019. iv. The "aggregate liability" under the first paragraph on the second page shall remain Nine Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred (\$967,500.00).

18. Applicant shall provide to the Township prior to September 15, 2020, evidence that it has renewed the applicable insurance policies for the remaining term of this Permit renewal, including complete copies of the renewed insurance policies and endorsements demonstrating continued compliance with all the insurance requirements of Section 8.03 of the Township Ordinance, which relevantly provides: i. 8.03 Insurance. The applicant shall provide a liability insurance policy underwritten by a provider licensed in the State of Michigan to cover property damage for surface and/or subsurface occurrences

and bodily injury in an amount not less than Four Million (\$4,000,000.00) Dollars per occurrence, in any combination of primary and umbrella coverage, naming Waterloo Township, its elected officials and appointed officials as additional named insureds and provide a copy of this policy to the Township Clerk. Said insurance shall provide an endorsement which provides that the general aggregate limit of the operator's commercial and general liability applies to the site. Waterloo Township must be sent a notice of intent to cancel the insurance not less than twenty (20) days before the cancellation thereof. Failure of the operator, or any persons, firm or corporation named in the policy to maintain the insurance shall be cause for immediate cessation of operations.

19. Aggregate Industries shall continue to comply with all setback requirements established in previous approvals, including but not limited to the 150-foot setback from Green Road, and shall not engage in any extraction within any setback area, including but not limited to the road, the right-of-way and the associated setbacks from Green Road. Although Aggregate Industries applied for extraction within Green Road, its right-of-way, and the associated setbacks, that approval is not granted by this renewal, and Aggregate Industries shall be required to apply for an amendment to its SUP and extraction permit in order to conduct any extraction within Green Road, its right-of-way, and the associated setbacks.

20. Replace and or establish a new concrete benchmark and share that information with the Township by the end of calendar year 2020.

21. Aggregate Industries shall remove the overburden in cell 8 within 60 days of the granting of the permit.

22. Doan plant shall be demolished and restored by the end of the 2020 calendar year.

23. Aggregate Industries will work with Waterloo Township to establish a \$5000 replenishable account in which the township can withdraw applicable funds.

24. If Aggregate Industries has not submitted an application with a new site plan by the end of the 2020 calendar year, a closure plan shall be submitted for the existing site plan by January 31st, 2021.

If Aggregate Industries has not submitted an application with a new site plan by the end of the 2020 calendar year, a closure plan shall be submitted for the existing site plan by January 31st, 2021.

Yes/Lance, Morency, McAlister, Kitley; No/Walz. Motion carried. Correspondence: None. Old Business: Wendy stated that the Parks and Recreation group met in person this time. Rain garden is still in the planning stages. They are still working on updating the Waterloo Township Recreation Plan. The footprint is having more activity. Still looking at trying to get some updating from Jackson County done to Clear Lake County Park.

New Business: Morency stated that the Planning Commission was working on the Air BnB issues for the ordinances. They reviewed section 6, 3.8, looking toward reviewing 7. Schulz will be conferring with our attorneys. Looking at doing things electronically or over speaker phones if pandemic worsens. Glenn Seeds was looking to get rezoning done on their commercial property to allow for a marijuana growth in their facility. They want the Board to look at reviewing their marijuana ordinance for commercial growths. Because of Zoning and allowed use of land in the township, Lance said the Planning Commission should look at the request. They could make recommendations and get back to the board with their feelings. They could recommend that we rescind our ordinance or keep it with conditions. Mr. Tapping was told to make a formal complaint regarding an Air BnB. Zoning Administrator and Zoning Enforcement people will address it.

Kitley motioned with support from Morency to pre-buy \$1,000 in propane from Avery Oil and Propane at \$1.459 a gallon. Roll call vote: Yes/Morency, McAlister, Walz, Kitley, Lance. No/none. Motion carried. Public Comment: Pat Deanhofer asked about Mt. Hope Road and was told it will be resurfaced before November 1, 2020. It was originally pushed back because of a strike last year and now they have a new contract with that company. It could start as early as August. Nate Glenn suggested calling Baker Propane for a lower price. Glenn also spoke further about the marijuana growth possibilities for the township in jobs, etc.

Adjournment: Walz motioned with support from McAlister to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Aye/all; no/none. Motion carried. The next Planning Commission meeting will be on Tuesday, August 18, 2020. The next regular Board meeting will be on Tuesday, August 25 at 7:00 p.m. Minutes will be published in the Stockbridge Community News at the end of each month, on our website at www.waterlootwpmi.com and on our Facebook page at: [waterlootownshipmichigan](https://www.facebook.com/waterlootownshipmichigan).

Submitted by: Janice Kitley, Clerk

Letters to the editor

Dear editor:

A quote from Benjamin Franklin 1722:

"Whoever would overthrow the liberty of a nation must begin by subduing the freeness of speech."

Submitted by, Jane James, an avid reader of Stockbridge Community News

Dear editor:

There have been so far three break-ins at 3750 Chapman Road, Stockbridge. It is our rental and currently being rented by Miguel Medina and Jake Sutton. All three times Ingham County police have been called.

The first break in was on Jan. 27, 2020. Guns were taken. A window was broken and climbed in that way. All items belonged to Jake.

The second was on Aug. 4, 2020, a very expensive bow and accessories, work phone and a gun. and other items. Again, same window broken and climbed into. Took items belonging to Jake and Miguel.

The third break-in was Aug. 20, 2020. Most anything left of value was taken: video gaming sets and security cameras destroyed. Took a pellet gun and, after outside, shot out five windows. Again, the same window entered.

Any more info, please contact Taylor Gary Allen, 517-851-1045 or Kimberley Medina, 517-416-3488, JR. Medina, 517-812-7366.

Thank you.

J. Taylor

Dear editor:

Unadilla Township Residents,

You are LAGGING behind; way behind the other Livingston County municipalities in responding to the 2020 US Census.

For every person not counted, man woman or child, you are losing approximately \$1,800 in benefits per year for the next 10 years. That is a total of \$18,000 per person. These federal dollars come to the county and townships for our kids' schools, Meals on Wheels for seniors, school lunches, roads, libraries, community health clinics, etc. These programs will suffer if you do not get counted. Please respond today.

The government has shortened the deadline to Sept. 30. You are running out of time to be counted. Please PHONE: 844-330-2020 or ONLINE at www.my2020census.gov.

Nancy Sauvage

Maria's School of Dance

105 E. Grand River, Fowlerville
517-223-0036

Facebook: [Marias Dance](https://www.facebook.com/mariasschoolofdance)

Now registering for Fall Classes

Register by phone or online:

www.mariasschoolofdance.com

Walk in registration dates/times:

9/2 at 5:30-7:30 & 9/12 at 10:30-12:30

Classes start September 14th

Located downtown ~ free parking



Classes: Ballet, Pointe, Tap, Jazz, Lyrical, Hip Hop and Modern/Contemporary
Ages 3 - 103

Dancers participate while social distancing, hands sanitized before classes begin, all surfaces disinfected between classes. Instructors & staff wear face coverings. All classes available in person & online! Dancers with experience, email for an assessment placement!

Local salon owner overcomes long-term challenges



Laura Cole Chrisinske checks in Robin Lowe-Fletcher's temperature using a touchless forehead scanner. "I can't thank our community enough for the support that has been given through these times and through COVID-19 challenge," Robin emphasized. "And can't wait for the day when we can get back to some normalcy and take down our partitions and start hugging again." Photo credit Patrice Johnson

down, coping with COVID-19 is one of the hardest challenges I've faced with the salon."

When Robin first fell ill, people spoke in whispers about her condition, and she felt too ill to operate the salon. But people in her sphere wouldn't hear of letting her walk alone and stepped forward. One example, Laura Cole Chrisinske voluntarily took on more hours styling hair, and she added operational responsibilities.

See Salon on page 17.

by Patrice Johnson

Robin Lowe-Fletcher founded Simply You Hair Salon nearly nine years ago, as "a new beginning." Three years ago, she received a bleak cancer diagnosis, and her challenges looked immense. Recently, when asked how she was doing, Robin grinned and replied, "Still here, and I'm still going, but hands

STOCKBRIDGE TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES Aug. 17, 2020

Stockbridge Township Supervisor CG Lantis called the Regular Stockbridge Township Board Meeting to order on August 17, 2020 at 7:31PM at the Stockbridge Township Hall. Members present at the Stockbridge Township Regular Meeting Supervisor CG Lantis, Clerk Becky Muraf, Treasurer Kris Lauckner Via Video Call, Trustee Terry Sommer, Trustee Ed Wetherell Member Absent. None

Pledge of Allegiance
Moment of Silence
Muraf Motion to accept the Stockbridge Township Board Meeting Agenda with the amendment of adding Clean up day and Tax auction of property 3495 Morton Rd under old Business Wetherell Second All in Favor Motion Carried.

Citizen Comments: Discussion

Old Business

Stockbridge Township Clean up day will be on Saturday September 26, 2020 from 10 am to 2 pm Fliers will be out soon

Lauckner motion that Stockbridge Township does not wish to pursue ownership of property at 3495 Morton Rd Stockbridge MI Sommer Second All in Favor Motion Carried

New Business

Lantis motion to accept the Outdoor Gathering permit for Wheeling Down on the Farm Mud Bog for October 3rd and 4th Sommer Second All in Favor Motion Carried

Lantis motion to accept the updated Outdoor Kennels, Subject to Section 7.02.12

Recommended update for ordinance:

I. Outdoor Kennels, subject to Section 7.02.12."

"Section 7.02.12 Kennels

A. All kennels shall be operated in conformance with all applicable county, state and federal regulations; permits being valid in accordance with the following schedule:

- First year: Review and inspection quarterly
- Second year: Review an inspection semi-annually
- Third year and beyond: Review and inspection annually

Inspections shall be made by the Stockbridge

Township Zoning Administrator or another assigned official.

B. For kennels, the minimum lot size shall be ½ acre for the first dog and ½ acre for each additional dog up to 10 dogs (10 dog limit regardless of lot size. Puppies and adult combined). Additional dogs may be considered by the township board on a case by case basis.

C. Buildings shall not be located nearer than 100 feet to any occupied dwelling or any building on an adjacent parcel used by the public and shall not be located in any required front, rear or side yard setback area.

D. Such facilities shall be under the jurisdiction of the Township Board, and subject to other conditions and requirements of said body deemed necessary to insure against the occurrence of any possible nuisance by requiring necessary minimum distances, berms, fencing, soundproofing and sanitary requirements."

E. Proof of licensing and approval by the appropriate State of Michigan and Ingham County Departments.

F. Proof of liability insurance directly related to the kennel.

G. If at any time, there is a violation of the agreed upon site plans or operating conditions Stockbridge Township Board may revoke the Special Use Permit.

Sommer Second Roll Call Vote Sommer Yes, Lauckner Yes, Wetherell Yes, Muraf Yes, Lantis Yes All in Favor Motion Carried

Lantis motion to accept bid to have two men and a truck move the new fire proof file cabinets replacing all the current ones with a cost up to \$1,200 Muraf Second All in Favor Motion Carried

Sommer motion to pay Stockbridge Township Board monthly bills in the amount of \$59,439.95 Lauckner second All in Favor Motion Carried

Citizen Comments: Sommer motion to have Lantis reach out to Country Club Turf about weed and feed for the Stockbridge Township Squares lawn Wetherell Second All in Favor Motion Carried

Lantis motion to adjourn the Stockbridge Township Regular monthly board meeting at 8:22PM on August 17, 2020

BM



Happy tails. We didn't spend Saturday morning on a long walk with our best friend. And we didn't coax them out of a mud puddle or two. But we did heat the water that made the cleanup a little more enjoyable for you both. When the energy you invest in life meets the energy we fuel it with, good clean fun happens.

ENBRIDGE
Life Takes Energy™

Salon page 16



Laura Cole Chrisinske displays the customized “reset tub” consisting of freshly disinfected supplies and materials like clips, gowns and towels prepared in advance for each arriving guest. Photo credit Patrice Johnson

At the time, Laura stated, “Robin needs to direct all her energies to getting well and not worry about her business. This is how I can help her.” Often working long hours alone and into evenings and weekends, Laura was determined to see Robin through her tough times. She cut back on her hours in an Ann Arbor salon. Vacations? “Not for a while,” she replied without complaint.

Other employees pitched in as well, often despite working other, sometime full-time, jobs. Stylists Kelsey Kunzelman and Nicole

Coleman picked up more hours and focused on helping in ways they could. Receptionist Linda (Fletcher) Petsch, a full-time elementary teacher at the time, cheerfully kept clients rolling in and helped with salon events like its annual Christmas tree-trimming contest.

“I am blessed to have these ladies,” Robin said, with uncharacteristic intensity. “They really stepped up when I got sick. I’m blessed to have them.”

Throughout her difficult, sometimes-debilitating recovery, Robin worked behind the scenes from home. She communicated with staff, kept the books, managed inventory, and planned events. Above all, she worked to ensure Simply You remained a vibrant and attractive haven for its customers.

Today, Robin is again playing an active role in the salon, helping it rise to the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic. “COVID has really changed the industry,” she said and summarized her three priorities as safety, safety and safety.

Gone are the days of walk-in customers. Patrons are asked to call ahead for appointments and call on arrival. Each is escorted inside through an otherwise locked side door, one customer allowed per one stylist. Instead of the welcoming reception area that once housed coffee, water and cookies, customers' temperatures are taken with a forehead scanner, and they are asked to complete a contact-tracing form. Hand sanitizers? Of course. Plastic and plexiglass partitions block virus spread. Each stylist’s station bears a sign certifying she is “barbicide licensed.”

“It’s the warmth that we’re missing,” Robin lamented. “We love to have the families coming in, and now we’re one at a time. We miss our drop-ins.”

“We implemented masks from the beginning,” Laura chimed in, “and we have sanitation regulations that go above and beyond.” As an example, she toted out a “reset tub” consisting of freshly disinfected supplies and materials like clips, gowns and towels. Each tub is efficiently prepared in advance, she said, and customized for arriving guests.

“Staff cleans high touch-points like door handles and the restroom every hour,” she added and proudly displayed a new color processor that “cuts customer time from hours to minutes.”

Despite sterile adaptations, Robin and friends have succeeded in maintaining the salon’s customary warm and welcoming ambience. Friendly-looking signs remind customers to social distance, wash hands and wear masks. Bright sunshine cuts through regulated plexiglass.

Among myriad other welcoming touches, Robin said, “We added flowers to combat the sterile look.”

“I can’t thank our community enough for the support that has been given through these times and through COVID-19 challenge,” Robin emphasized, “and can’t wait for the day when we can get back to some normalcy and take down our partitions and start hugging again.”

Simply You Salon is located at 115 East Elizabeth, Stockbridge, and may be contacted by phone or Facebook.

Celebrating tractors at the Waterloo Farm Museum



Big Jim and John Zick. Photo provided by Arlene Kaiser



Bob and Veronica Zick and Ron Kaiser. Photo provided by Arlene Kaiser

by Arlene Kaiser

Once again, the sound of hit-and-miss engines, tractors and trucks were heard during the annual Antique Tractor, Truck and Farm Equipment Show Aug. 8 and 9 at the Waterloo Farm Museum.

Organizers weren’t sure they would be able to have an event at the museum this year, due to the restrictions on group gatherings because of the coronavirus pandemic. But the Board of Directors pulled together to make it happen and with cooperation from the DNR Parks Division, it turned out be a great weekend.

Still, COVID-19 protocols resulted in some necessary changes to the show this year on the museum grounds at 13493 Waterloo Munith Road in Grass Lake.

Guests were greeted by a nurse who took their temperature and asked the pertinent health questions before they were allowed to enter. Masks were worn and/or social distancing was seen all day. Everyone was respectful of these health requirements.

See Tractor on page 20.

StockBIZ: Business news in and around Stockbridge Big changes for small-town eateries due to COVID-19

Article and photos by Mary Jo David



Mary Jo David

Ask the average Joe or Jo about how their daily lives have changed during this coronavirus pandemic, and you're bound to hear, "We've never cooked at home this frequently" or "I feel like I'm constantly loading and unloading the dishwasher." As time has progressed, these conversations have started to morph into cautious reports like, "We've been ordering more carryout," and the occasional, "We're going to eat at the restaurant."

Back in March, area restaurants had to do a quick 180-degree turn to adapt their businesses for carryout-only. As of June 8, they have been allowed to go back to serving food inside, but they have to follow stringent rules to meet State of Michigan guidelines.

Some of the big changes appear obvious to customers: Required masks to enter, special virus-related signage, 50 percent less seating capacity, Plexiglas screens at the register, and shorter hours of operation. Other requirements or adaptations aren't so visibly apparent:

Condiment containers are no longer left on the table, no fountain pop is served, and self-serve plastic silverware is a no-no. Behind the scenes, establishments are required to report on their sanitizing and employee health screening to the Health Department.

After visiting a few area eateries to learn how they've jumped through hoops to stay open, this author has a renewed respect for the owners and employees of restaurants, in general, and especially those in small-town America. Read on for a taste of what it's like to work in some of our local, dine-in pizzerias, grills, and pubs during this pandemic.

Mary Jo David is a longtime writer and editor who moved to Gregory in 2018. She and her husband, Gary Hicks, are enjoying life in the country, including the Stockbridge Community News.



Jim Sommer, owner of C&J Pizzeria, 975 S. Clinton St., in Stockbridge, has had to discontinue offering the C&J buffet and fountain drinks but is still going strong with pizza and other menu offerings. As with many businesses, C&J has plenty of COVID-related signage, including its custom floor markers to remind customers to social distance. "The health department was just out yesterday and they were very happy with our COVID-related procedures," Sommer noted.



"The Pub was doing OK with just carryouts, but we're glad to have customers eating in again," says Cole Foster (pictured), kitchen manager at the Country Pub in Gregory. The pool table has been moved out to make room for spacing tables farther apart, the barstools are gone for now, and as owner Bob Taylor points out, "There are signs all over—front and back—along with hand sanitizer at the entrances. As for masks, we respect people's beliefs and we have a couple options, but they have to cover nose and mouth until they're at their table."



In March, The Munith Café and Big Chuck's Pizza Plus combined businesses. Plans were in the works for an official ribbon cutting, but then the "dine-in shutdown" hit due to COVID-19.

In June, the café reopened for a short time. (The carryout pizza business has been open throughout the pandemic.)

Once the state began requiring masks indoors, co-owners Jesse Fowler (right) and Patrick Crabtree (center) closed

the eat-in café again until further notice. "We didn't want to be in the business of 'forcibly encouraging' people to wear masks at the risk of losing our business license," explained Fowler.

Also pictured, pizzeria employee Ryan McClain (left).



"We've only got half the number of barstools and open table seating for now," explains Theresa Trevisan, as she greets customers on a first-name basis. Trevisan, along with her brother Mike Klimkiewicz, is a co-owner of Sparty Victors and Stockbridge Bowl at 900 Clinton Street. "People have been very good about wearing masks when they come in. Since they take them off at the table, we can't have the walk-around socializing people are used to, so they just have to yell out to their neighbors to catch up!"

Superintendent page 8

• Our plan also includes additional support for students as part of the online student support plan as identified and as needed. A schedule will be developed and communicated to families after the registration process.

We would like to thank the community and our staff for their support and encouragement as we navigate through these unique times. We are looking forward to an exciting and engaging school year that provides opportunities for everyone to receive an outstanding education from Stockbridge Schools.

All of our "Return to Learn" plans can be reviewed at www.panthern.net under the 'District Covid-19 Updates'. We encourage you to reach out to any of the following administrators for any questions you may have in regards to the start of the school year.

Go Panthers!

Sincerely,

Karl Heidrich

Superintendent Stockbridge Community Schools

September Garden of the Month



by Joan Tucker

Dear Readers,

Congratulations to Amy Chimner of Gregory, garden winner for September. A judge writes, "Vegetable gardening can be easy and beautiful with these practical raised beds. Lush plants of corn, cabbage, cucumbers and basil—to name a few—are thriving in a contained environment. Besides efficient watering, fertilizing and providing protection from critters, these planters are also physically easier for a person to care for. As seen from the photo, building these raised beds takes quite a bit of time, but the work upfront will be worth the harvest of good healthy food. How satisfying!"

This Garden Contest runs from May 2020 through March 2021. A garden will be chosen and shared each month. In March 2021, readers will vote for their favorite garden. Next

Amy Chimner's raised beds with corn, cabbage, cucumbers and basil—to name a few—are thriving in a contained environment.

year's winner will receive a \$50 gift certificate to Tulip Tree Gardens funded by Dorothy Craft's Sewing and Alterations and Tulip Tree Gardens. To enter a garden, send up to five photos by the 15th of each month. Email photos to StockbridgeCommunityNews@gmail.com and use "Gardens" as the subject. Include your name, physical address of the garden and a phone number.

Stockbridge Community News is grateful to the Stockbridge Area Garden Club, established in 1984, for sponsoring this contest.





it's a Dog Thing
GROOMING SALON
517-936-7646

4461 Territorial Rd. • Munith MI 42959

Peggie Ransom Owner/Operator
itsadogthingGrooming@yahoo.com
Australian Shepherd Puppies Available



SEWING AND ALTERATIONS

DOROTHY CRAFT

4425 BROGAN ROAD
STOCKBRIDGE, MI.
adcrafft@fnwusers.com
517-851-7934



Boyd Heating and Cooling, Inc.

Bryant Dealer
"Whatever it Takes"

BOYD

HEATING & COOLING

New Construction / System Replacements
<http://www.boydhc.com>





Mike Boyd - Owner
517.851.7557 office
517.812.7127 cell
3410 Morton Rd., Stockbridge

B & W Tree Service, Inc.

Complete Tree Service
Residential - Commercial
Removal - Trimming



Lot & Land Clearing
Brush Chipping
Stump Removal

Insured
Free Estimates
Senior Discounts

Brian & Wanda Outwater
Office (734) 498-2374
Cell (517) 404-0896

bandwtreeservice@core.com

STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY NEWS — Subscription Form

Have an out-of-town family member or friend who would enjoy receiving a paper? Want to receive the paper at your vacation home? Purchase a 12 month subscription for \$35.

Name

Address

Email

Payment Type: Cash Check



Please mail this form along with payment to: Stockbridge Community News,
P.O. Box 83, Gregory, MI 48137. Make checks payable to SCN.

STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY NEWS

— Donation Form —

Name

Address

Email

Amount



Please mail donations to: Stockbridge Community News,
P.O. Box 83, Gregory, MI 48137. Make checks payable to SCN.
Donations may not be tax deductible.

Tractor page 17



Rumley Oil Pull at the Waterloo Farm Museum Tractor Show.
Photo provided by Arlene Kaiser



Beverly Larsen at the Waterloo Farm Museum Tractor Show. Photo provided by Arlene Kaiser



An Allis-Chalmers at the Waterloo Farm Museum Tractor Show.
Photo provided by Arlene Kaiser

Physical tours of the farmhouse could not be conducted, but guests were able to take “A Peek Through Time” self-guided tour from each of the four porches. Narratives on each porch described the view as guests looked through the (locked) screen doors and windows. For most of the weekend, the Log House had a guide who talked as guests stood by the roped-off doorways.

Woodworker Steve Hopkins, blacksmiths MK, Chris and Rob, along with Beverly Larsen, who operated her sock machine, found all the guests to be very cooperative and respectful with masks and social distancing.

While the show did not offer as many tractor and equipment displays as in the past, some fine examples of vintage machinery could be seen on the museum grounds. This gave lots of room for guests to wander at safe distance.

John Shiel, president of the Jackson Antique Tractor Club, brought his Ford 8N and was present all weekend to help with the organization of the tractors and tractor games.

Antique farm equipment on display included:

- A rare 1953 International Harvester Super M, one of a very few made in Louisville, Ky., not Chicago, where the majority were manufactured.
- A 1923 Rumley Oil Pull 20/40 made a great addition to the lineup.
- A 1928 Cross Engine Case, very rare, was added to the lineup.
- A 1954 Allis-Chalmers CA, headed up a collection along with a 1956 Allis-Chalmers WD 45, and a 1949 Allis-Chalmers WD.
- Not to be outdone by the Allis-Chalmers orange, the International Harvester red could be seen as well. A 1940 Farmall H and a 1941 Farmall A arrived from Dansville. A completely restored Farmall Cub shone beautifully in the summer sun.
- Bob and Veronica Zick had their beautiful 1953 Ford pickup pulling the trailer of engines that ran a water pump and industrial fan all weekend.
- A small-scale Kenworth semi and miniature “Cat” bulldozer joined the event on Sunday.
- A 1946 Dodge pickup rounded out the trucks to the event.

(NOTE: This list is not complete. I know I'm forgetting some. Please forgive my errors.)

Throughout the weekend, many people enjoyed the company of those who are passionate about their tractors and passionate in their support of the museum.

A special thank-you to all the exhibitors who participated. They helped to make the 14th annual show a success during this unusual time.






GENTLE REINS FARM

Horseback Riding... and Driving too

16250 Bowdish Rd.
Stockbridge

734-730-2164 

www.gentlereinsfarm.com

Filling the COVID time warp: We've asked area residents, 'What's your secret?'



Left: SafeHouse Center donation quilt sewn by Ann Kehn and Grace Boxer. Right: Auction quilt sewn by Glenna Schweitzer and Marilyn Knepp to raise money for SafeHouse. Both quilts were quilted by Laura Jarvis at KootsiQuilting in Stockbridge.

by Mary Jo David

Secret #1: Dip into your heart to help others

Laura Jarvis was looking for a way to fill her time and, at the same time, accomplish something meaningful during the pandemic shutdown, before the state began opening back up. As the owner of KootsiQuilting at 120 E. Main St. in Stockbridge, she decided to capitalize on her quilting know-how and ready access to her long-arm quilting machine. Jarvis reached out to the Greater Ann Arbor Quilt Guild (GAAQG) and offered long-arm quilting services, at no charge, to volunteers of the Guild who were making quilts to donate to SafeHouse Center.

SafeHouse Center provides support for those impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault in Washtenaw County and the surrounding areas. They serve over 5,000 survivors and their children each year. A volunteer-made quilt is gifted to every SafeHouse client upon arrival—something they can keep with them throughout their time at SafeHouse and when they leave.

"It's a labor of love. You want to do something, so you dip into your heart to see what you can come up with," Jarvis explained.

She knew that many of those volunteers working on quilts would feel timid about leaving their homes during the pandemic, so in addition to doing the quilting, she also provided regular porch pick-ups and drop-offs. All in all, her efforts resulted in finish-quilting for approximately 70 donated quilts.

"Funny how I reflected just these past couple of days about being truly thankful I was in a position to be able to offer this as it made my heart happy and also gave me a purpose every day to get up and go into my shop. Or go pick up quilts."

As the pandemic shutdown restrictions have loosened, Jarvis continues to quilt SafeHouse quilts for free when volunteers also bring in a personal quilt for quilting; otherwise she charges \$40 for SafeHouse quilting, which is a discount of 50% from her standard charges.

In addition to providing SafeHouse clients with quilts, the GAAQG sponsors a non-juried quilt show every other year to earn money for SafeHouse. This year, that show is being held online and is titled, "Celebrate the Quilt From Home 2020." To learn more about the show and to access a link to it, go to safehousecenter.org/2020gaaqg

NOTE: If you're considering donating your quilt-making skills, be sure to consult with the organization you'll be working with for size guidelines.

Secret #2: Tell people what you're up to.

Since moving her 96-year-old father, Glen Burgess, to an assisted living facility in Dansville in January, Colleen Redfield of Stockbridge knew she had a big job ahead: Emptying the Grass Lake home that her father, a WWII veteran, had lived in for 25 years. Then she needed to put it on the market.

Redfield recently retired from her job in the after-school program in Stockbridge. Before retiring, she found herself with time on her hands when the district closed schools this spring due to the coronavirus.

With help from her brother and sister, she sorted, donated, and purged. "I did a little bit every day," Redfield noted. Her original plan was to have an estate sale, but the pandemic caused her to rethink that plan. "We took 12 carloads to Goodwill, and Habitat for Humanity was a big help with emptying out the garage." It warms her heart to know that "Dad's tools may be used to build homes for people who need them, or maybe they'll be sold to earn money to support Habitat's home-building efforts."

Redfield recalls that, years back, when they were helping her Dad make decisions about his estate, "I always said I would do this for him." She just had no idea at the time how big the job would be. "But I've learned you just need to tell people what you're up to and you'll hear how they can help you out."

Secret #3: Don't laugh until you try it!

After Michigan began relaxing some of its COVID-19 restrictions, Gregory resident Gary Hicks contracted with a tree-cutting company to take down five trees on his property. They made easy work of taking the trees down, but for Hicks, splitting and stacking what was left turned into a major undertaking and a good pandemic diversion. Stacking the wood in a simple row was not going to do the trick as he soon learned when he was about three face cords into the job and the row collapsed. Contemplating what to try next, he looked at some online videos.

"I remember laughing as I watched a video of a man who bragged that he wasn't good at much but he was good at stacking wood," recalled Hicks. Not expecting much, he nonetheless continued watching the video. By the end of the lesson, Hicks was convinced the man in the video was a wood-stacking genius, and he was determined to put the lesson to good use.

See Secret on page 22.



Colleen Redfield of Stockbridge is pictured with her father, Glen Burgess, a 96-year-old WWII veteran and long-time resident of Grass Lake who recently moved to Dansville.



Gary Hicks of Gregory solved his wood-stacking conundrum by building a Holzhaufen stack (German for "wood house").

Secret page 21



The birds in Gregory are living it up, thanks to Tim Bair and crew. From bird condominiums to outhouses, Bair and family found a way to use wood and the early days of the pandemic as an outlet for their creativity.

Penny's husband, Gordie, and Bair's teenagers, Max and Kaylee, also got into the birdhouse-building action. Friends and family were the lucky recipients of many of the finished pieces. Although the designs are creative, all of the birdhouses are built to be functional.

"I always liked art classes and sculpting, and in Boy Scouts we did a lot of woodworking," explained Bair. "Plus I've had 10 years of previous experience as a rough framer carpenter." His artistry and skill are evident in many of the birdhouses. A recent tour of Penny and Gordie Kunzelman's property showcased a number of the unique birdhouses, some perched on fence posts and others put to good use among ornamental grasses.

All totaled, Bair guesses they made close to 50 birdhouses, which just goes to show, COVID-19 is for the birds!

We'd love to hear how you've filled your time during the pandemic. Email your feedback, with your contact information, to Attn: Mary Jo at stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com or mail it to P.O. Box 83, Gregory, MI 48137. Don't forget to send pictures!

Across many days and with the help of neighbor Keith Sanders—and a gas-powered wood splitter—a lion's share of the wood was piled into what is known as a Holzhaufen stack (German for "wood house"). Since its completion, Hicks notes that the unusual shape of the woodpile has been quite the conversation piece to casual observers.

Secret #4: COVID-19 is for the birds

As an appliance installer at Big George's Appliances in Ann Arbor, Tim Bair of Gregory found himself with time on his hands when the appliance store temporarily reduced staff for a month or so in the early days of the coronavirus. While he was off, his mom, Penny Kunzelman, asked if he'd make her a birdhouse. That idea set Bair's creative juices into gear. He began crafting birdhouses to bide the long days of the pandemic.



In July the SAEF Board votes to select the Hellen Mitteer Employee of the Year from the nominations submitted by peers or members of the community each school year. This individual is awarded \$1,500 to use toward any educational project of their choice. We will be announcing the winner of that award soon.



At this time the Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of the employees of our Stockbridge Community School district working so hard to bring our children back to school safely during this very unusual time. We want you to know that we support you and appreciate you. We will get through this together as the strong community we are!

Thank you to ALL Stockbridge Community School Staff, Employees, Administration, Bus Drivers, Teachers... EVERYBODY!

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.





Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation approves four grants in partnership with Stockbridge Community Schools district



The Stockbridge Jr./Sr. High School Choir in concert attire. The Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation approved four grants in partnership with the Stockbridge Community Schools district. One of the grants went to Stockbridge Schools choir director, Carol Hatch, for attire for choir members while performing. Photo provided by SAEF

by Bruce Brown

Four grant requests recently were approved by the Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation in partnership with the school district. Each will enrich the school experience for Stockbridge area students. Optimistically moving forward with one's mission is well and alive in Stockbridge even during uncertain times.

The Stockbridge Schools choir director, Carol Hatch, submitted a grant request to update the dress and tuxedo attire that choir members wear when performing. Ms. Hatch was proud to say that, "During the December Christmas Concert, the choir looked and sounded very professional while entertaining approximately 450 parents and community members in our audience." Still, concert attire requires yearly replacement and repair to look sharp and accommodate the variety of choir member sizes.

Spanish teacher Christine Villegas requested a grant to purchase three iPads along with protective covers, and a tripod. Ms. Villegas looks forward to using the devices to implement new language testing measures called Integrated Performance Assessments. Using an iPad allows Ms. Villegas to be more efficient when testing her students, and also allows students to review their work for self-assessment.

Kindergarten teacher, Amy Taylor, requested a grant to improve her classroom dramatic play area. Ms. Taylor indicated she would, "Furnish an area with age-appropriate furniture and toys so students will develop creatively while learning to share, take turns, and follow rules." Classroom space limitations will require Ms. Taylor to review and possibly phase-in her dramatic play area improvements.

Through the grant process, the foundation partnered with the Stockbridge Community News (SCN) to do a multi-page layout displaying the photos of the SHS Class of 2020. In her application, the SCN Treasurer noted, "This should have been a time for the community to recognize the accomplishments of these young adults who have worked so hard throughout their school career. The SCN Board would like to honor the Class of 2020 by printing senior photos and listing the accomplishments of each senior."

Stockbridge Sr. High School holds outdoor graduation ceremony amid COVID-19 pandemic

Photo collage provided by Julie Weiland



WE ALL COUNT. BE COUNTED!



CENSUS 2020

Livingston Counts



9 QUESTIONS • 10 MINUTES • COMPLETELY SAFE

Make a difference for your family and our community by finishing your 2020 Census.

You'll be helping your child's school, our local healthcare, community services, and more!

You have two safe and easy ways to respond!

 **ONLINE:**
www.my2020census.gov

 **BY PHONE:**
844-330-2020

Annual Stockbridge Athletic Boosters Golf Scramble a success, despite COVID-19 restrictions

by Mackenzie Williams

The 26th annual Stockbridge Athletic Boosters Golf Scramble, held July 31 at Hankerd Hills Golf Course in Pleasant Lake, raised funds from golfers and local business sponsors to help fund Stockbridge High School athletic programs. On hand and coordinating the event were coaches Jeremy Killinger, Steve Allison, Jeff Trapp and Darren Hejnal.

The Scramble went on despite the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19. In this hard time, participants were able to gather at 7 o'clock to start.

A grinning Bob Williams stated, "What a perfect day. Beautiful weather and I'm out here playing golf with my son, my granddaughter, and my wife."

Early bird golfers arrived extra early to hit the driving range and putting green. Golfers then piled into their carts and cruised to their assigned tee boxes to begin their rounds. Participants could not have asked for a more perfect day.

There were fewer golfers than in years past, and many things were handled differently to ensure the safety of all participants. Everything was held outdoors, the Hankerd hills staff served the food instead of the usual buffet style, and of course, face masks and social distancing were the order of the day. Unlike in past years, students were unable to man the par 3 holes and raise additional funds for the charity.



Willoughby Veterinary clinic came in first place in the men's D1 category. Composing the team were Tom Houk, JJ Castleberry, BJ Castleberry and Paul Newhouse. Second place went to **The Brew Crew**, made up of Mo, Rick, Skippy and Jack or Larry! In 3rd place was **We Are Good** comprising Carson Robinson, Trevor, Cannon and Bud. *Photo by Jeremy Killinger*



K Team came in first place in the men's D2 category. The team was made up of Dan Wilson, Gordie Kunzelman, Benn Kunzelman and Matt Kunzelman. In 2nd place was **Clay's Crew**, Clay Harmon, Jeff Misak, Patrick Paul and Wayne Trost. In 3rd place was **BBSD**, Bill Lucas, Brandon Marshall, Scott Basar and Don Reilly. *Photo by Killinger*



Chris' team came in first place in the women's division. The team was made up of Chris Decroix, Kim Fullerton, Allison Cole and Jane Amb. Women's 2nd place was **Hot Mess**, which was made up by Julia Jackson, Mellissa Dilley, Kathy Dilley and Lena Jackson. Women's 3rd place was **My Fair Ladies**, which was made up of Beth McLellan, Connie Spadafore, Normi Spadafore and Nancy Mitchell. *Photo by Killinger*



Aspen Heating and Cooling came in first in the senior division. The team was made up of Ricky Frinkle, John Flannery, Paul Titus and Gary Schultz. 2nd place was **Garden city Connection**, which was made Jerry Hopkins, Jared Hopkins, Craig Sylvester and Tom Tucker. 3rd place was **Lions**, which was made up by Merelyn Snider, Bob Busby, Rich Mullins. *Photo by Killinger*



Six rows of golf carts ready to hit the links!
Photo by Judy Williams



Smite and Friends came in first in the coed division. This team was made up by smite, Meghan Kunzelman, Kelly Woodland and Lance Woodland. 2nd place was **Fore Williams**, which was made up of Mackenzie Williams, Judy Williams, Shon Williams and Bob Williams. 3rd place was **Dexter Drivers**, which was made up of Tim Kuzma, Katherine Kuzma, Bod Opland and Carol Opland. *Photo by Killinger*

