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Tractor Supply in Stockbridge officially opens with ribbon-cutting ceremony



Tractor Supply Co. in Stockbridge held a grand opening ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 21. Photo credit Tom Tucker

TSC in Stockbridge," Shannon (Graham) Sandecki, SACC member, said. "The new location will bring jobs, convenience and a beautiful store for our community. Congratulations to Kari. Everything is perfect and the staff is so welcoming."

Kari Solowczuk, local resident and assistant store manager is proud of the team that helped get the store to this point. "We are excited to be here. The team worked hard to bring this beautiful store to the community."

See *Tractor Supply* on page 22.

by Tina Cole-Mullins
The Stockbridge Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a grand opening ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 21 at Tractor Supply Co. in Stockbridge.

"The Chamber is beyond excited to have

Local artist to be showcased once again in ArtPrize 2024

Berger draws inspiration from nature and friends



If you make it to ArtPrize 2024, don't miss a face-to-face with the horned puffins featured in Carol Berger's "Social Harmony." Photo credit Andrea Stickney

in the world. This year, it will be held from Sept. 13 through Sept. 28; you can find all pertinent information online at <https://www.artprize.org>.

See *ArtPrize* on page 18.

by Andrea Stickney

Carol Berger is an artist whose creative process stems from her affection for nature and friends. This is Berger's fourth year with a successful entry in the prestigious ArtPrize international art show in Grand Rapids, Michigan. It is arguably the largest attended public art event

Stockbridge Community Schools bids farewell to well-loved staff members



Michelle Burke taught students ranging from Little Stars through second grade, and also music, STEM and STEAM. Photo provided by Michelle Burke



Fourth grade teacher Kathy Pierce (left) and school secretary Deanna Kruger were honored together after long and noteworthy careers. Photo provided by Deanna Kruger



The lead cook at Heritage School, Jodie Jacobs' final year began with helping to prepare the 2023-24 Welcome Back Staff Breakfast. Photo credit Mary Jo David

by Amy Haggerty and Mary Jo David

The end of the school year is a bittersweet time. There's excitement and jubilation as kids—not to mention, staff—step out into the sunshine and the promise of all that summertime offers. But summer also brings with it the sadness of saying "goodbye" to teachers and staff who, after long and fulfilling careers, are ready to retire.

Stockbridge Schools bids a fond farewell to the following staff members. It's impossible to adequately describe the lengthy careers of each of these individuals in a paragraph, but it's important that we recognize them and let them know how much we appreciate the gifts they shared—with our children and the district. All six have been valued employees of Stockbridge Community Schools. They will be missed greatly and difficult to replace.

See *Retiring Staff* on page 19.

July 2024
Features

Stockbridge High School Graduating Class of 2024:
See pages 3-10 for the senior photos.

Gregory 4th of July Celebration: See page 20 for the 2024 events schedule.

A Day in the Village: See pages 24-25 for photos of the 2024 A Day in the Village events.

Stockbridge High School Class of 2024 Top Ten Seniors: See page 32 for our Top Ten Seniors feature.

Rural Perspectives: The rose-breasted grosbeak returns here each May

by Diane Constable



Diane Gray Constable

This relative of the cardinal, the rose-breasted grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) returns to our area each spring, around May, after wintering in Central America and the northern part of South America.

Only the male has the eye-catching black, white, and



The male rose-breasted grosbeak has the eye-catching colors of black, white and rose. The female and young birds are shades of brown and beige. Photo credit Diane Constable

rose-colored markings. The female and young look quite different and are shades of brown and beige. They all have the large pinkish bill, which comes in handy when eating various seeds, fruits, and insects, including potato beetles and large grasshoppers.

Although a shy bird, it readily comes to bird feeders for sunflower and safflower seeds and peanuts.

The rose-breasted grosbeak's song is often described as similar to a drunken, happy robin, yet more melodic.

Both male and female build the nest, feed, and protect their young from predators until the chicks are on their own. They prefer to nest in edges of woodlands and fields and will build their nest in forks of young trees. The nest can be so flimsy you can see the outline of the eggs from underneath. The grosbeak lays up to five pale-blue to green eggs with red speckles that will hatch in about 14 days.

The chicks stay in the nest about 14 more days before they leave. Like many fledgling songbirds, they will live on the ground and under cover for about a week under the watchful eyes of their parents while they hone their flying skills. They will live up to 12 years.

Fun Facts:

- During migration, the rose-breasted grosbeak crosses the Gulf of Mexico at night without stopping—a 500-mile flight.
- Rose-breasted grosbeaks often sing softly during the night.

As an avid photographer, Diane Constable regularly puts her formal education in both nature and photography to good use. Diane also enjoys gardening and her dogs and serves on the board of the Ann Arbor Dog Training Club.

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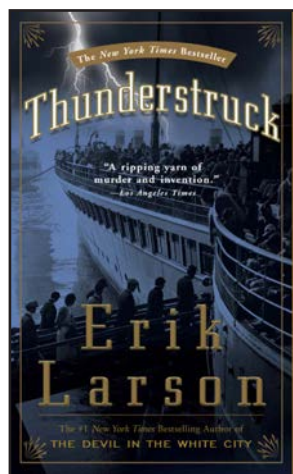
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Reading Between the Lines Erik Larson's 'Thunderstruck' offers an interesting blend of technology and intrigue

by Chuck Wisman



In "Thunderstruck," Erik Larson takes readers on a wild ride describing how the lives of two very different men intersected at the turn of the 20th century. Image credit: Amazon.com

"Thunderstruck," by the New York Times bestselling author Erik Larson, is nonfiction at its best. Larson takes us on a wild ride describing how the lives of two very different men intersected at the turn of the 20th century.

The book focuses on Guglielmo Marconi, the inventor of wireless telegraphy, and Hawley Crippen, a small, meek and unassuming man who is often described as the second-most-famous murderer in English history (after Jack the Ripper).

Marconi's father was Italian and his mother was Anne Jameson, daughter of the famous Irish whiskey empire. Although he was not a trained scientist and not college educated, he became an inspired inventor who began experimenting with wireless telegraphy while still in his early 20s. A tinkerer by habit, he experimented entirely by trial and error, often expanding upon the ideas of others.

Many scientists of the time believed it impossible to send signals through the air. Undersea cables connected North America and Europe at the time, but ship-to-ship and ship-to-shore communication were sorely needed.

Obsessed since childhood with the concept of telegraphy without wires, his initial attempts at wireless communication were very primitive, involving higher and higher towers, immense power generation, and high-voltage electricity. At one point, the sending of signals was accompanied by loud booms and bright flashes of electrical discharges lighting the night sky. He even tried balloons and kites to erect ever higher antennae. It was a Herculean endeavor by Marconi to extend a signal even a few yards, let alone a few hundred yards and beyond. During his efforts, he used up prodigious amounts of investors' patience and money while continuing his trial-and-error method of scientific advancement.

Initially, Marconi was successful at transmitting Morse code via cables and ultimately wireless. While he was making great inroads experimenting with wireless telegraphy in the late 1890s, others were racing to develop wireless before he could. This included Kaiser Wilhelm II and the Telefunken company of Germany. At the same time, shipping companies were competing to develop and use ever faster ocean liners to cross the Atlantic.

Meanwhile, Hawley Crippen grew up in a prominent and successful business family in Coldwater, Michigan (of all places!). He attended the University of Michigan School of Homeopathy but never finished. Subsequently, he traveled to England and practiced medicine at the Hospital of St. Mary of Bethlehem, popularly shortened to "Bedlam." He later became a successful purveyor of patent medicines which were quite popular at the time.


In 1892, Crippen married Cora Turner who was a polar opposite to Crippen. He was meek, mild and of small stature, while she was curvaceous, outgoing and dedicated to finding success in opera and acting. Crippen and Turner married in 1893. Cora, who used the stage name "Belle Elmore," readily took advantage of her husband's wealth for tutoring and classes in acting. She was a prodigious purchaser of clothes and jewelry and became a social gadfly in London. Later, "Belle" developed a close friendship with another actor whose photo she kept on display in her home. She was often seen about town in the actor's company, and, of course, meek Hawley Crippen had little to say about the relationship.

Subsequently, Crippen becomes infatuated with another woman, loses interest in his wife, Cora, and thus plans and executes an almost perfect murder.

Larson takes readers on a roller-coaster ride involving the development of telegraphy technology and a Scotland Yard detective's cross-ocean hunt for a murderer. In doing so, he illustrates how Marconi's wireless telegraphy played a major role in the pursuit of the murderer.

See Reading Between the Lines on page 16.

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Who We Are

Founded in 2016, the Stockbridge Community News is a Michigan nonprofit organization, IRS-licensed to operate as a 501(c)(4) organization (# C4-4001565). An unpaid, volunteer board of directors oversees all SCN operations.

Our monthly, printed newspaper is free and mailed at no-cost to members of the local community. Complementary printed copies are also made available at strategic locations in the community. Print subscriptions are available for a fee to those outside SCN's postal distribution boundaries.

Articles are posted online throughout the month and are available to view for free at stockbridgecommunitynews.com

Our Mission

To promote the common good and shared well-being of residents in the greater Stockbridge area through the collection and publication of local news and useful community information.

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Our Writers

Stockbridge Community News depends on our team of talented, local writers who regularly volunteer their time to ensure we deliver newsworthy content each month. Writer names are reflected in the bylines that appear with each story.

Editor-in-Chief Emeritus

Patrice Johnson, an SCN founder and first editor-in-chief (2016-2021)

We would love to hear from you!

Please share any article ideas or community events you think SCN readers would be interested in. You are also encouraged to contact us with your advertising questions or for information about volunteering.

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Active Aging

Embrace lifelong learning, volunteering

by Bernadette Beach



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute summer picnic in 2023. The author's journey with OLLI began with attending lectures and study groups until she decided to take a more active role. Photo provided by Bernadette Beach

Recently, I traveled to Washington, D.C. and New York City, where I was struck by the vibrant presence of older adults volunteering at art museums and theaters. Their energy and enthusiasm were contagious. During my visit, I had the pleasure of speaking with several of these dedicated individuals,

many of whom had been volunteering for years. Their stories were not only inspiring but also highlighted the rejuvenating power of giving back to the community.

One conversation that stood out was with an 85-year-old woman who proudly shared her passion for lifelong learning. She spoke of how volunteering made her feel invigorated and youthful. Her experience resonated with me, as I have also found immense joy and fulfillment through volunteering.

There are numerous reasons to consider volunteering, including the enhancement of physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. This has certainly been my experience as a volunteer with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Michigan. OLLI enhances the quality of life for individuals aged 50 and older by offering stimulating and meaningful lecture series, classes, travel opportunities, and social events.

My journey with OLLI began with attending lectures and study groups for a year. The experience was so engaging and fueled my curiosity for lifelong learning such that I decided to take a more active role. Drawing on my 50 years of experience as a nurse, I developed and facilitated a class on stress management specifically tailored for OLLI participants. This opportunity allowed me to share my expertise, build new friendships, and become part of a vibrant community.

Each fall, OLLI kicks off the season with an open house event. This gathering features an engaging speaker, delicious food, and an introduction to the upcoming year's classes, lectures, and fun events. It's a wonderful way to get a taste of what OLLI has to offer and to meet like-minded individuals who share a passion for learning and community involvement. This year's open house event, which is free, will be held on Sept. 4, from 10 a.m. to noon at Washtenaw Community College Lawrence Morris Auditorium. Please join us!

See Active Aging on page 16.

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Amanda Mathews

Positive Parenting

Encourage children of any age to practice writing at home

by Amanda Mathews

Preschoolers begin to write long before they learn to read. They scribble, make marks that look like letters, and try to copy down letters and symbols familiar to them or around them. Here are some practical ways to help your child of any age become more aware of, learn about, and practice writing.

Display your child's writing in a special place. Whether you display their work on the refrigerator, a bedroom door, on a corkboard, or taped on the mirror in the bathroom, you're signaling to your child that their writing is important and worthy of being shown.

Model writing for them. Whether writing a shopping list, letter, or email, or completing an application, explain what you are doing and let your child join in. During playtime, ask your child to tell you a story about the toys they are playing with or have them tell you a story about their day. When you are able to, write down exactly what your child tells you and then read it aloud to them. This will help build an understanding that print has meaning. You can even write your own story together and hang it up for your whole family to read.

Create greeting cards for special occasions. Provide paper, crayons, colored pencils, etc., so your child can make cards and then write phrases and sign their name when finished. Depending on your child's age, you can show them cards that have phrases like the following for them to copy: "Happy Birthday," "Get Well Soon," and "I Love You."

Create an "office" for your child. Include different types of paper, envelopes, pencils, colored pencils, crayons, pens, stickers, and labels on a shelf near a desk or table. Or, you can place materials in a basket for your child to take to a more comfortable place to write with a clipboard. You could also add more interesting materials, like an address or date book, calendars, and an old computer keyboard.

Give writing tasks while running errands. Have your child write a shopping list or a reverse shopping list of all the things you bought. If they cannot write yet, have them draw a picture. Provide a pad and pencil so they can write down what you buy while you are at the store. You even can have them cross things off your grocery list and do it together.

Activity Highlight: Water Pouring Station

In a shallow tote or bin, place a variety of containers, for example, spoons, measuring cups, and pipettes or a turkey baster. These do not need to be fancy. Anything you have around your home will work great. Fill some of the containers with water, then let your child explore! You can add food coloring or watercolors for an added color-mixing feature.

Area residents fortunate to have the perfect number of outdoor markets

by Mary Jo David

Beginning in ancient times, the number three has had a reputation as being a perfect number, one that signifies harmony among other things.

This bodes well for the outdoor markets in our area. Area residents are fortunate to have two weekly markets—and another coming soon—where they can go for local farm produce, vendors, and artisans.

- **Open Air Market of Stockbridge.** Of the three markets, this one has been around the longest. It takes place every Friday, into October, in the Stockbridge Township Square. Hours are 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., with live music added to the mix starting at 5:30 p.m.

- **Stockbridge Farmers Market** is held on Tuesdays, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the S.A.E.S.A. parking lot at 1009 S. Clinton St. (on the corner of M-106 and M-52).

- **Market Wednesdays in Gregory.** This market is returning on July 10 at the Mike Levine trailhead in Gregory. Hours: 4 to 7 p.m. The market will run through September.

It's easy to stay inside and hit SEND to order things online, but until you visit our area markets—and that goes for the indoor markets, too—you won't know what you're missing. Give them a try this summer!



A water-pouring station is easy to create. Enjoy watching your child mix colors, gauge amounts, and just have fun.

Image from pinterest.com





Clyde Whitaker

Clyde's Corner Val West and Libra Industries: Lessons in patience and confidence

by Clyde Whitaker

I'm sure most of you can recall your first real grown-up job. As I think back to mine, I remember the anticipation and maybe a little fear of what was to come. I also recognize, now, that my teachers really did help prepare me for what was to come after high school.

Following my graduation from good old Stockbridge High in June 1973, I applied at Libra Industries on Blackstone Street in Jackson and was hired as a warehouse supervisor.

The company was established in 1969 by owners Mel Maki and Tom Batista, along with their wives, Jane Maki and Gretchen Batista. Libra was basically a glove reconditioning house and a safety products distributor. The focus was on cleaning dirty work gloves and selling new ones, along with other products like hard hats, respirators, and safety shoes to name a few.

My position included stocking and distributing items from the warehouse and loading product onto our trucks for deliveries in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana. I worked as warehouse supervisor for approximately one year until I was promoted to outside sales representative, with a territory that included southern Michigan, northern Ohio, and Indiana.

Starting out as a warehouse supervisor was a tough, demanding job for this wet-behind-the-ears teenager, especially considering my only prior work experience had been manual labor on the Krummrey Farm.

Fortunately, my supervisor was a sharp-as-a-tack, no-nonsense individual named Val West.

Val taught this greenhorn everything about running a business. She was very patient, showing me how to set up and run an inventory, order products, manage my time, and make priority lists for each day. Yes, Val taught me so much about business, but also about believing in myself.

Val told me when I was hired that I would be reviewed in 30 days, and I would get a pay increase if I was catching on. Well, I guess I was catching on because, after a month, my hourly rate was increased by 25 cents an hour. Admittedly, back then, that extra quarter-per-hour increase was nice. But being young and dumb, I felt I deserved more. So Val diplomatically explained to me "This is just the start. You have a long way to go. Just be patient." And she was right.

To put that 25-cent increase in perspective, at the Christmas Party that year, I was handed a white envelope. I wasn't sure what it was, so I just put it in my pocket for later. After the party was over, I sat in my car and opened the envelope. I remember letting out a yell, because inside was a \$750 bonus check! You can bet I raced home and ran inside whooping and hollering to show my mom and dad the check I had received. They couldn't believe it.

I worked outside sales for Libra for approximately six years, and during those years, I discovered that what Val had taught me and showed me—it was all true. I made a substantial salary and I was confident in my business dealings with my customers. It helped that Libra has always been a first-class operation. And congratulations to them; this year marks their 55th year in business!

I continue to think about Val West a lot and appreciate all she did to help me become a successful and productive person. I will always be grateful for people like her.

"You have a long way to go, just be patient." These were words spoken by a very wise woman.

Clyde Whitaker is a 1973 Stockbridge graduate. He and his wife, Mary, raised four children in Stockbridge, and they still reside in the Stockbridge area.



After high school, Clyde was hired at Libra Industries, where he met sharp-as-a-tack Val West, who taught him about the business and believing in himself. Photo credits Clyde Whitaker



The Libra Industries building Clyde started working in, which is still in use today.

Bridge to Wellness

Beat the heat: Tips for preventing heat-related illnesses

by Jennifer Matthews



Jennifer Matthews

The warm summer months are a highlight to our year here in Michigan. Many of us are enjoying pools, vacations, and spending time outside doing various activities.

As the summer progresses and the temperatures rise, it's important to

know how to stay safe and well.

Heat-related illnesses, such as heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and even heatstroke, can have serious adverse and sometimes long-term effects on your health.

Extreme heat and heat advisories occur when temperatures outside are much hotter and/or humid than average. The National Weather Service notifies the community of heat advisories in the area. Being aware of and taking these warnings seriously can help prevent serious illness.

Environmental and health factors can increase the risk of heat-related illness.

See Bridge to Wellness on page 20.

STOCKBRIDGE TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES

June 17, 2024

Stockbridge Township Supervisor CG Lantis called the Regular Stockbridge Township Board Meeting to order June 17, 2024, at 7:00pm at the Stockbridge Township Hall. Members present at the Stockbridge Township Regular Board Meeting; Supervisor CG Lantis, Treasurer James Wireman, Clerk Becky Muraf, Trustee Terry Sommer, Trustee Ed Wetherell Member absent None Pledge of Allegiance Moment of Silence Sommer motion to approve the Stockbridge Township Regular Board Meeting agenda as written Wetherell Second All in Favor Motion Carried Citizen Comments None Sommer motion to approve the Stockbridge Township Board meeting minutes from May 20, 2024, as printed Wetherell Second Corrects second page remove the word off on the 5th paragraph down and 7th paragraph down change found to bids All in Favor Motion Carried Wireman motion to approve the Stockbridge Township Financial Report from April 1, 2024, thru June 17, 2024, Sommer Second All in Favor Motion Carried Memorial wall Plaque request Debbie Marshall was approved for memorial wall Sommer will follow up with family Old Business

Stockbridge Township will do a fall cleanup day with Unadilla Township on September 21, 2024 New Business Muraf motion to allow Hope Salyer to have Vendors in the Square on July 27, 2024, Sommer Second All in Favor Motion Carried Kitley Special Use Lantis meet with Building inspector at the property and Kitley is moving forward with the process Muraf, motion we pay \$4,443.04 for renewal of MTA membership Sommer Second All in Favor Motion Carried Sommer motion to change Stockbridge Township square garbage company from LRS to Dana Disposal for \$95.00 a month for the dumpster and emptying all trash cans on the square weekly Wetherell Second All in Favor Motion Carried Muraf motion to hire Karen Eastman for building department back up for \$15.00 an hour with 2 days training Sommer Second All in Favor Motion Carried Sommer motion to pay the Stockbridge Township monthly bills in the amount of \$50,268.00 Wireman Second All in Favor Motion Carried Citizen Comments Discussion - None Lantis motion to adjourn the Stockbridge Township regular monthly meeting at 7:25PM at the Stockbridge Township Hall Wetherell Second meeting adjourn BM

Waterloo Township, Jackson County, Michigan Special Outdoor Event Ordinance

Ordinance No. 24-05-30-01
Adopted: May 30th, 2024
Effective: May 31st, 2024

At a duly called meeting of the Township Board of Waterloo Township, Jackson County, Michigan, held at the Waterloo Township Hall on May 30th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., Board Member Richardson moved to adopt the following Ordinance, which motion was supported by Board Member Beck. THE TOWNSHIP OF WATERLOO, JACKSON COUNTY, MICHIGAN, ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. SPECIAL OUTDOOR EVENT – PERMIT REQUIRED

A. Definition of Large Gatherings: For the purposes of this Section, a large gathering shall be defined as a gathering of more than one hundred (100) persons, or should event utilize public resources or land, for the purposes of entertainment of an outdoor nature such as, but not limited to circuses, carnivals, theatrical exhibitions, public shows, displays, festivals, and concerts. A large gathering shall not be interpreted to include family gatherings or reunions.

B. Permit Required: No large gathering shall occur prior to the issuance of a temporary zoning permit after the approving body has determined that the large gathering will be adequately served by potable water, sewage disposal, and emergency services, and that such large gathering shall not threaten the public health, safety, and welfare.

C. Application, Permit, and Conditions

1. Application: The applicant may obtain a temporary zoning permit application for a large gathering from the Zoning Administrator, for action by the Township Board. The temporary zoning permit may be approved, modified, conditioned, or denied by the Township Board., and the Township Board may seek the comments of local fire and police protection services and other agencies providing public health, safety and welfare services.

2. Basis for Decision: In arriving at a decision regarding an application, the Township Board shall be guided by the following:

- a. That the nature and intensity of the proposed large gathering and placement of any temporary structure will be compatible with existing development.
- b. That the parcel shall be of sufficient size to adequately accommodate the proposed large gathering.
- c. That the large gathering will be adequately served by potable water, sewage disposal, and emergency services.
- d. That the location of the large gathering shall be such that adverse effects on surrounding properties will be minimal, particular regarding the traffic generated by the large gathering.
- e. The off-street parking areas are of adequate size for the large gathering and properly located and the entrance and exit drives are laid out so as to prevent traffic hazards and nuisances.
- f. The impact of any outdoor lighting on neighboring properties.

3. Conditions: The Township Board may impose conditions with the issuance of the permit which are designed to ensure compliance with the requirements of this Ordinance. The Township Board may revoke a permit at any time for nonconformance with the requirements of this section and a permit issued thereunder.

4. Performance Guarantee: The Township Board may require a performance guarantee in the form of cash, check or savings certificate be deposited with the Township Clerk in an amount equal to the estimated cost of removing any temporary structure authorized under this Section should it not be removed by an applicant at the end of an authorized period. The applicant shall similarly sign an affidavit holding the Township harmless against any claim for damages if the Township were to subsequently use the performance guarantee to remove the temporary structure after its authorized period had expired. The performance guarantee shall be returned when all the terms and conditions of the temporary zoning permit have been met and the temporary use or structure has been removed.

SECTION 2. AGREEMENT.

A. The applicant and sponsoring organization understand and agree to:

- 1. Comply with all local, state, and federal ordinances, laws, permits, and regulations, and understand that an approval does not relieve the applicant or organization from meeting any application requirements of law or of other public bodies or agencies. Applicant understands it must receive all necessary permits for this event.
- 2. Applicant and sponsoring organization further understand the approval of this Outdoor Special Event may include additional requirements and/or limitations based on the Township Board's review of this application. The applicant and sponsoring organization understand that it may be necessary to meet with Township officials during the review of this application and that Township Board approval is necessary.
- 3. Applicant (on behalf of any organization) by signing the below agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless Waterloo Township, Jackson County, Michigan, from any claim, demand, suit, loss, cost of expense or any damage which may be asserted, claimed or recovered against or from this Outdoor Special Event by reason of any damage to property, personal injury or bodily injury, including death, sustained by any person whomsoever and which damage, injury or death arises out of or is incident to or in any way connected to the Outdoor Special Event, and regardless of which claim, demand, damage, loss cost of expense is caused in whole or in part by the negligence of Waterloo Township or by third parties, or by the agents, servants, or employees.
- 4. As the duly authorized agent of the sponsoring organization, I hereby apply for approval of this Outdoor Special Event and affirm the above understandings. The information provided on this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. Further, I understand and realize that this form has been drafted by the Township for convenience. I acknowledge that I need to submit information demonstrate compliance with all Outdoor Special Event Ordinance requirements regardless if they are not covered by this form.

ROLL CALL VOTE

YEAS: Walz, Richardson, Lance, Beck, McAlister

NAYS: none

ABSENT/ABSTAIN: none

**Summary of Waterloo Township Board Meeting
May 30, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Waterloo Township Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00pm. The following motions were made and approved: Approval of amended Consent Agenda including the April Board meeting minutes; approve updated Special Outdoor Events Ordinance and Application/Permit as amended; approve Schumacher Land Division with conditions; approve Dixon Land Division, approve Knight Land Division; approve pay rate for Deputy Clerk and Elections Support Specialist; approve bank signature card changes; approve budget amendments; set budget hearing date; accept bid from Rusty Walz for light handyman work; Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. Complete minutes can be found on the Waterloo Township website. (<https://waterlootwpmi.gov/meeting-minutes/>). Bill Richardson, Clerk

From CADL Stockbridge

Get outside with help from the library



Bicycles are available to check out at CADL Stockbridge for three days at a time. Photo provided by CADL Stockbridge

by Head Librarian Sherri McConnell

A quiet, beige room with books along the walls and a few tables and chairs may come to mind when someone mentions a library. You might be surprised to find out that the Capital Area District Libraries offers ways to get outside.

The bicycles are back at the Stockbridge Branch and can be checked out for three days at a time, so they can be used for a full weekend. You must have a current CADL library card and be 18 or older to check them out. We also have pickleball paddles and disc golf sets to borrow, library card not required.

With your CADL library card, you can check out a Potter Park Zoo family pass, an Ingham County Parks pass that includes pedal boat rental or disc golf pass at selected parks or a pass to Impression 5 children's science museum in Lansing for four. These passes are

popular and there is usually a waiting list for them, so plan accordingly. Get more details at our service desk or at cadl.org/things.

Finally, CADL participates in the Michigan Activity Pass program. Use your library card to "check out" free or discounted passes to hundreds of cultural destinations, parks, campgrounds, and recreation areas. Start here to search all the places you can go with your library card: miactivitypass.org.

Capital Area District Libraries' Stockbridge Branch is located at 200 Wood St. For more information, call 517-851-7810 or visit cadl.org.

Reading Between the Lines page 11

As an added feature, the book contains a number of photographs of the participants in this story.

"Thunderstruck" is available, by order, through CADL's Stockbridge Library. Larson also has a number of other very popular books of historical nonfiction, including, among others, "The Devil in the White City," "Dead Wake," "In the Garden of Beasts," and "Isaac's Storm."

Chuck Wisman still resides locally on the family farm and is retired from state government after almost 40 years of service. His father was an Air Force radio operator on B-24 heavy bombers and was stationed in England throughout WWII. The elder Wisman's affinity and aptitude for high speed Morse code used in Air Force communications sparked his son's interest in this story about wireless telegraphy.

Active Aging page 12

The online catalog will be available in mid-August, so feel free to check out our fall and winter offerings (<https://www.oli-umich.org/>). To learn more about what OLLI has to offer, you also can join us for a presentation at the Stockbridge Area Senior Center on July 31 at 11 a.m.

Volunteering, whether at a museum, theater, or educational institute like OLLI, offers countless benefits. It keeps us active, engaged, and connected. It's never too late to start, and the rewards are immeasurable.

Bernadette Beach is a longtime member of OLLI who teaches classes and volunteers in a variety of ways for the organization. Visit oli-umich.org or call 734-998-9351 for more information. The Active Aging column is sponsored by the Stockbridge Area Senior Center, a great place to visit. Address: 219 W. Elm St., Stockbridge. SASC website: stockbridgeareaseniors.org. SASC phone: 517-480-0353.

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Community Calendar

- Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays** – Prepared Meals for Seniors, noon to 2 p.m. at the Stockbridge Area Senior Center
- Mondays** – Craft Drop In (Ages 8 and up) at the Stockbridge Library
- Tuesdays** – Drop-in pickleball. 7 p.m. at Veterans Park in Stockbridge. Bring paddle or borrow from Library. Questions? Email StockbridgeParks@vosmi.org.
- Wednesdays** – Drop-in pickleball. 9 a.m. at Veterans Park in Stockbridge. Bring paddle or borrow from Library. Questions? Email StockbridgeParks@vosmi.org.
- Wednesdays** – Family Storytime (Ages up to 6), 10:30 to 11 a.m. at the Stockbridge Library
- Wednesdays** – Wednesday Wonders (All Ages), 10:30 to 11 a.m. at the Stockbridge Library
- Wednesdays** – Pop-up food distribution for anyone in need, 1 to 3 p.m. at Stockbridge Community Outreach
- Thursdays** – Coffee chats, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Stockbridge Library
- Occasional Fridays (Call Library for dates)** – Keep Calm and Carry Yarn, 1 to 2 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library
- Saturdays (summer)** – Youth Run Club. 8:30 a.m. Mike Levine Trailhead in Stockbridge. Bring water. Dress appropriately. Questions? Contact fdwanielle00@gmail.com
- July 1** - Wellness Social Hours Sponsored by Stockbridge Area Outreach, 3 to 4 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library
- July 9** - Fiber Arts with the Flock (Teens and Adults) 2 to 3 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library
- July 13** - Waterloo Village UMC hosts Annual Ice Cream Social and Classic Vehicle Show, 3 to 7 p.m. at Waterloo Village United Methodist Church
- July 16** - Third Tuesday Book Discussion Groups (Adults), 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library
- July 17** - Family Drive-In Movie Night! (All Ages), 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library
- July 18** - Eaton Community Bank Customer Appreciation Day, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Stockbridge Eaton Community Bank Branch
- July 18** - After-Hours Book Discussion Group (Adults), 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library
- July 23** - Fiber Arts with the Flock (Teens and Adults), 2 to 3 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library
- July 27** - Local Vendors in the Square, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Stockbridge Township Square (See ad on page 18).

For more community events visit: www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com. To add your community events to our free community calendar, email submissions to stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com.

Unadilla Township Fire Department is proud owner of new rescue truck

by Mary Jo David

On May 17, 2024, the Unadilla Township Fire Department became the proud owner of a new Rescue Truck, to be used for, among other things, medical runs, farm accidents, and water and ice rescues.



Left to right: Sgt. Brad Smith, Fire Chief Wendy Hause, and Assistant Fire Chief Allen Beutler were on hand on May 17 to accept delivery of the new and much needed Unadilla Township Fire Department's Rescue 700—a rescue apparatus vehicle. Photo credit Mary Jo David

The purchase was originally approved to receive Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) grant money from the National Highway Traffic Safety

Administration (NHTSA).

After UTFD received the necessary grant approvals and sent in the Rescue Truck order, the NHTSA funds did not come through, so no funds were received from OHSP. As a result, Unadilla Township has had to fund the vehicle purchase or incur a large cancellation fee. The Township is still hoping to receive grant funds at the state or federal level, although their requests are falling on deaf ears in the short term. According to Fire Chief Wendy Hause, they are not giving up on pursuing these funds.

ArtPrize page 1

What you can't find without attending ArtPrize in person is the face-to-face experience of fine art and all it has to communicate to you.

Berger described that intimate exchange in a most interesting way. She explained, "It's almost like a window between you, the artist, and your viewer, and you have to communicate with the window between you. And the window is your painting." She added, "You want the painting to communicate itself. That's why it is hard to answer when I'm asked questions about my own interpretation of my work."

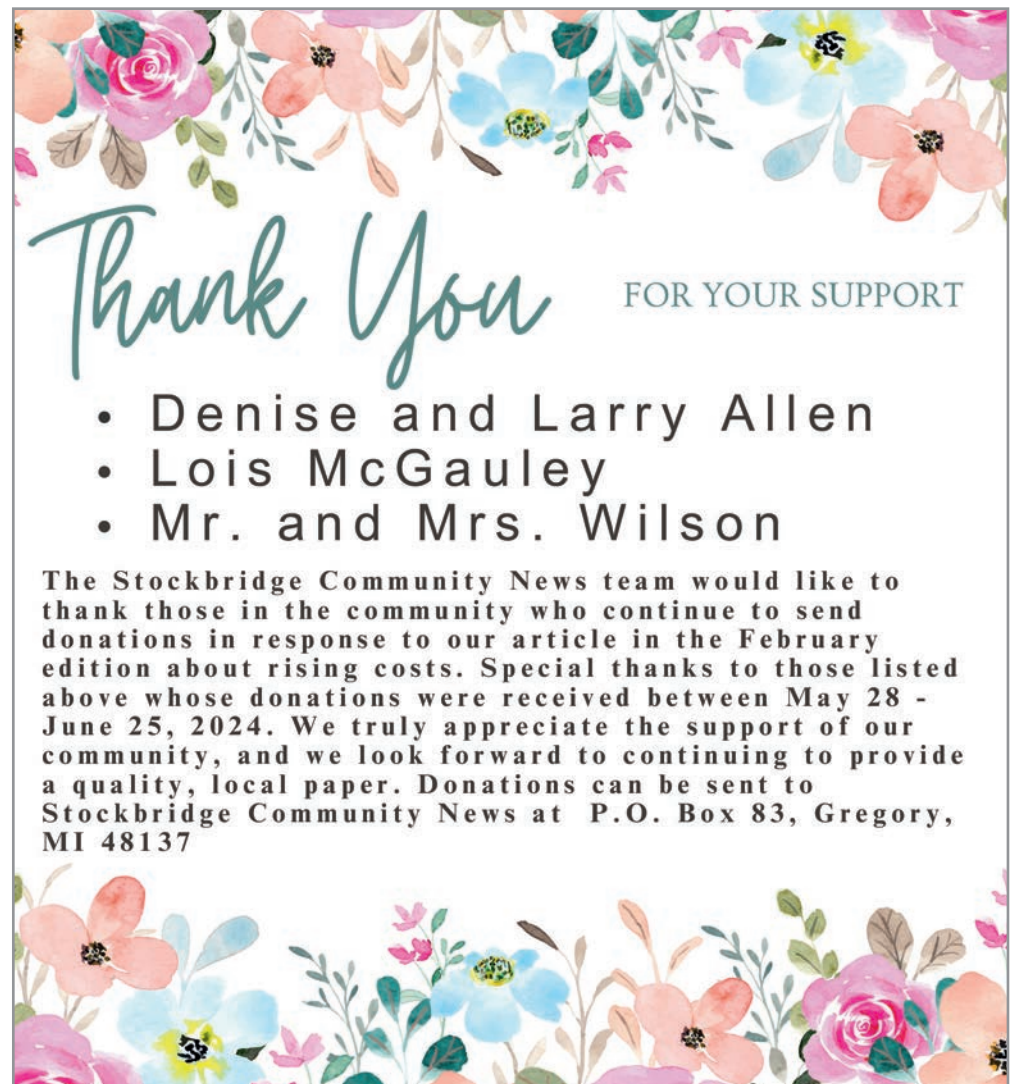
When you see "Social Harmony," her latest piece soon to appear in the 2024 show, you won't need to ask about her interpretation to enjoy it, but she did share a fascinating bit of background on the painting's origins for this article.

The artist's dear friend, Brenda, had just returned from a trip to Alaska and shared photos and stories of birds called horned puffins that she witnessed in their colony. It seems these puffins are very social, and Berger was inspired to paint them in their somewhat idyllic habitat. Since Brenda is a pianist, Berger decided on the title "Social Harmony," cleverly including a tribute to her friend for the inspiration.

Last year, Berger's entry, "Lucindas East of Eden," was displayed during ArtPrize 2023 at Cornerstone Church. They were so inspired by her art that when they found out she had entered "Social Harmony" they immediately invited Berger to display her art in the sanctuary once again.

If you've never attended ArtPrize, make 2024 the year. If you have attended, it's likely no encouragement is needed to convince you to return. It's an immersive experience of art, food, people-watching and memory-making in a great city transformed by art. While there, make it a point not to miss a face-to-face with the little birds of "Social Harmony." It will be among those memories you'll never forget.

Berger can be reached through AllArtworks.com where her work is displayed or by email at CarolsCanvas@gmail.com.



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- CINDY'S BEADED CREATURES
- SWEET CREATIONS BY KIM
- NORTHWOODS CUSTOM CREATIONS
- FAIRY CUTE BOUTIQUE
- WILD DAISY
- GLAZED & ROASTED BY JOE D
- RAVIOLI'S CREATIONS
- MICHELLS CRAFTS
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Retiring Staff page 1



Jeff Lewis, Heritage custodian, retired in December 2023 after 25 years of service in the Stockbridge School District. A quiet, unassuming man, Lewis turned down an opportunity to be spotlighted in the Stockbridge Community News prior to his retirement. He is currently traveling, an indication that likely means he's enjoying his retirement!

Michelle Burke retired in March. She arrived in Stockbridge in 1999 after teaching six years in Farmington Public Schools. Once here, she taught in three different elementary schools, including Howlett, Katz, and Smith, teaching kids ranging from Little Stars through second grade, and also music, STEM and STEAM.

Now retired, she enjoys adventures with her two grandchildren, Sam Jr. and Madelyn; riding her horse; traveling the lower 48 with her husband, Don; and relaxing at their home Up North on Lake Huron.

Kim Carpenter retired in March 2024 as transportation director for Stockbridge schools. She began working in the district in 2001. She was always most proud of her two children. She is likely enjoying her time with family and making the most of stints spent camping in her trailer. Carpenter was known among the staff for her love of sunflowers!

As transportation director, **Kim Carpenter** was responsible for ensuring that Stockbridge area kids made it to and from school safely on district buses. Photo provided by SCS

Deanna Kruger retired at the end of the 2023/24 school year. She started out volunteering with the Stockbridge PTO. Eventually that morphed into working as a secretary at schools in the district and the district's administrative office for 27 years. She is recognized by everyone who ever had to step foot in these offices, as she made it her business to warmly greet and welcome staff, students, and visitors. A great problem-solver, Kruger has shouldered many project responsibilities over the years. She is a hometown girl who was born in France and, at a very young age, moved back with her parents and grew up in Gregory. As the mom of four grown children and two grandchildren (with another on the way), Kruger has retired to spend more time with family. She is quite formidable behind the wheel of her motor home, and she looks forward to plans for traveling with her parents, children, and friends.

Kathy Pierce also retired at the end of the 2023/24 school year. She has been with Stockbridge Schools since 1996. She came to the district as a sixth grade teacher and ended her career as a fourth grade teacher. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, she has taken on the yearbook and other tasks. Those who have worked with her over the years appreciate her calming presence in whatever grade she is a part of. To put her influence into perspective, the first class Pierce taught graduated in 2003 and the last class she taught will graduate in 2032!

Jodie Jacobs retired at the end of the 2023/24 school year from the Stockbridge Community Schools food service team. She was the lead cook at Heritage School. Her fun reputation at the school lives on. She loves to paint rocks, and over the years, painted a number of them. Staff at Heritage would hide the rocks Jacobs painted for students to have to find.

Some of these staff members have been highlighted in Staff Spotlights over the years. For stories, search on the StockbridgeCommunityNews.com website.

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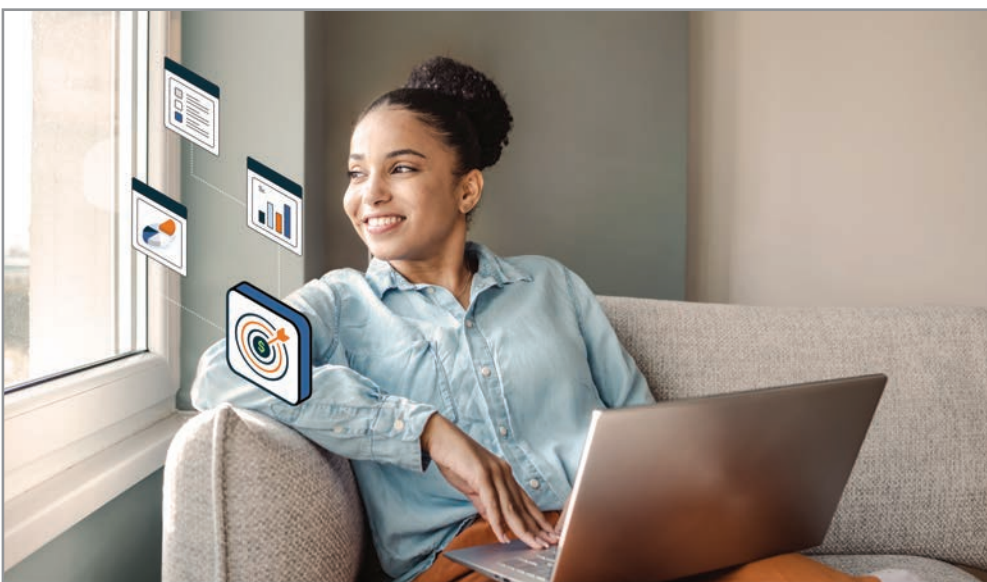
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at the Market on the square in Stockbridge

- Share/hear Suzi stories
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Rain Site: Stockbridge Presbyterian Church Community Building



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Bridge to Wellness page 14

Some risk factors include obesity, fever, dehydration, prescription drug use, heart disease, mental illness, poor circulation, sunburn, alcohol use, and high levels of humidity.

The elderly, the very young, and those dealing with mental illness or chronic disease are at the highest risk for heat-related illness. When heat advisories are in effect, it is important to keep a close eye on friends, neighbors, and loved ones who are at high risk.

So what can you do to prevent heat-related illness? Here are some great tips:

- Choose clothing wisely. Wear lightweight, loose-fitting clothes.
- Stay indoors with air conditioning whenever possible.
- Use the stove and oven less to keep your home cooler.
- Take a cool bath or shower to cool off when feeling overheated.
- Try to limit outdoor activities to cooler times of the day, like morning or evening hours.
- Take rest periods in the shade when spending time outdoors.
- Pace yourself. Don't take on more activity than you can handle in the heat.
- Wear sunscreen to prevent sunburn.
- Stay hydrated. Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink. Ensure that you are drinking fluids continuously throughout the day.
- Ensure you replace salts and minerals your body loses when you sweat. Sports drinks can be helpful.
- Check your local news for heat alerts and updates.

If you find yourself in a situation where you are struggling to stay cool or are concerned for your health, know that most communities have cooling centers available during heat advisories. Your local health department, local libraries and churches are good places to start if you are looking for a cooling center. Local news stations typically keep an ongoing list of cooling centers as well.

The summer is such a beautiful time of year! Let's enjoy it with wellness in mind!



This column is sponsored by the Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition. Jennifer Matthews, RN, is a registered nurse in the Stockbridge School System. She has worked as a community nurse for the last eight years and is an active volunteer within the Jackson County foster care system. Jen has a passion for helping individuals advocate for their health and learn to navigate the health care system.

BEAT THE HEAT: Extreme Heat
Heat-related deaths are preventable

WHAT: Extreme heat or heat waves occur when the temperature reaches extremely high levels or when the combination of heat and humidity causes the air to become oppressive.

WHO: Children, Older adults, More males than females are affected, Outside workers, People with disabilities.

WHERE: Houses with little to no AC, Construction worksites, Cars.

HOW to AVOID: Stay hydrated with water, avoid sugary beverages, Stay cool in an air conditioned area, Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothes.

Outside Temperature 80°

During extreme heat the temperature in your car could be deadly!

Inside 109° Time Elapsed: 20 minutes	Inside 118° Time Elapsed: 40 minutes	Inside 123° Time Elapsed: 60 minutes
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Extreme heat and heat advisories occur when temperatures outside are much hotter and/or humid than average. Image credit: [cdc.gov/extreme-heat/about](https://www.cdc.gov/extreme-heat/about)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 2024

GREGORY'S 49TH ANNUAL 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION!

<p>10:00 am Parade line up begins (M106 closed to general traffic.) You MUST be in place by 11:30 for card collection. All horse/animal groups must include a 'scooper.'</p> <p>11:30 am Decorated bike contest for kids 3-12 at 11:30 at the kids' gathering spot M106 & Stonehouse Rd.</p> <p>Noon Parade begins. Gordie Kunzelman as emcee.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Josie & Clare Beutler singing the National Anthem.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Grand Marshals: Geri and Toni Rasizzi</p> <p>1:00 pm. "Cathy's Famous Baked Goods" 4th of July Committee Bake Sale at the Township Hall</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Face Painting in the playground or park by Clare & Josie Beutler</p>	<p>1:00 pm Unadilla Firefighters Hamburger, Hot Dogs, and Brats lunch sale on Webb Street and the fire station during the parade.</p> <p>Assorted vendors & activities in the park, playground, and Webb St. throughout the afternoon, Blacksmith demonstration, vintage camper trailers display.</p> <p>Jeff Boyer the Magic Guy roaming the grounds with balloon twisting activities.</p> <p>1:30 pm Pie-Eating Contest on Webb Street (3 age groups) 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes.</p> <p>2:00 PM Michigan Pedal Pushers Tractor Pull for all ages 3 through teen (until 4 pm) On Webb Street in front of the Unadilla Township hall. Ribbon prizes.</p> <p>6:00 pm Music by Billy Mack & the Juke Joint Johnnies Band under the park tent</p>
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Obituaries

Doreen E. Grosshans



Doreen E. Grosshans
Jan. 29, 1948 to June 8, 2024

Doreen E. Grosshans, age 76, of Unadilla Township, MI, passed away Saturday morning, June 8, 2024 at her home surrounded by her family.

She was born on January 29, 1948 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, the daughter of Dorr and Leona (Mault) Titus. She had lived in the area since the age of 19. She enjoyed reading, writing notes, texting, quilting, traveling, and attending steam shows. She loved birds of all kinds, especially watching the chickens. Her favorite pastime was visiting with her family and friends. She was an active member of Crossroads Community Church.

On June 12, 1976, she married Keith A. Grosshans in Gregory, and he survives. Also surviving are two children, Beth (Eric) Kunzelman and Brian (Cheri) Grosshans, both of Gregory; two brothers, Doug (Deaon) Titus of Carlisle, Iowa, and Barry (Kim) Titus of Grass Lake, and one

sister, Mary (Keith) Cronkhite of Rives Junction; six grandchildren, Austyn (MaKenna), Samantha, Brooke, Kayden, KC (Skye), and Christopher (Ciara); as well as several nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Visitation was held at the Crossroads Community Church on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m., as well as on Wednesday from 10-11 a.m. Funeral Services were held at Crossroads Community Church on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. Burial followed at Plainfield Cemetery.

Contributions can be made to Crossroads Community Church or ALS of Michigan.

Mayrene Howlett



Mayrene Howlett
Oct. 17, 1928 to June 13, 2024

Born on October 17, 1928, to Roy and Alma (Anderson) McCloud, **Mayrene** was a lifelong resident of Stockbridge, Michigan, until she moved to Spring Lake in 2018 to be near her daughter. She graduated from Stockbridge High School in 1946 and married Richard Howlett in 1947. They remained devoted to each other for 66 years until his death in 2013.

May lived a full life. She was an active member of the Stockbridge Methodist Church, serving on multiple committees over the years. She loved everything Stockbridge and was a proud supporter of the Panthers. May was an exceptional athlete, excelling in multiple sports. She is one of the few who recorded three holes-in-one on the golf course. No one was more excited for her than her husband Dick. May was an avid bridge player and was a member of a group of very special ladies who played together for well over 40 years. She had a strong creative side as well. She was an accomplished photographer and took various art classes over the years. Much of her work is displayed in the homes of her children.

May loved her family. She and Dick always put family first, but enjoyed many activities together, including couples bridge, golfing, cross-country skiing and watching sports. May was a quiet but strong advocate for her children and was always willing to play. It was not uncommon for her to drop the dish towel when the neighborhood needed a pitcher. May instilled a strong social conscience in her kids by always modeling empathy and kindness.

Having her four kids in five years, she was notably easygoing and had a ready laugh. Not surprisingly, not much riled her. She delighted in the antics of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and found great joy in their accomplishments. She and Dick attended as many of their activities as they could.

May was predeceased by her husband, her son-in-law Pete Schmidt, her brothers Roy, Don, Henry, and James and her sister Eleanor. May is survived by her children Tim (Suzy) of Harrison Township; Becky Schmidt of Spring Lake; Chris (Patty) of Bloomfield Hills; and Dan (Melanie) of Lander, Wyoming. In addition she had eight grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Mayrene lived her best life and will be deeply missed by those who loved her. The family would like to especially thank the wonderful ladies of American House Timberbrook and Gentiva Hospice for their exceptional care.

A funeral service was held at the Stockbridge United Methodist Church on Friday, June 21, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. The family received friends at the Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home on Thursday, June 20, 2024 from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m., and Friday at the church from 11:00 a.m. to the hour of the service.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to the Richard C. Howlett Education Fund c/o Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation or the Stockbridge United Methodist Church.

Kason Andrew Watters



Kason Andrew Watters
Dec. 21, 2018 to June 17, 2024

Kason Andrew Watters, of Stockbridge, Michigan, age five, passed away on June 17, 2024 in Williamston, Michigan. He was born the son of Andrew James and Holly (Duncan) Watters on December 21, 2018.

Kason was a fun loving and wild little boy with the bluest eyes. He enjoyed playing outside with his brother and friends, as well as camping every summer. Kason was always trying to make others laugh and had a silly sense of humor. He also loved singing and riding his four wheeler. He loved all his family, especially his little brother, Connor.

In addition to his brother, Connor Jon Watters, he is survived by Grandpa Jim (Lori) Watters, Grandma Tami Watters, Cici Cindy Duncan.

Kason is also survived by his aunts: Madyson, Laken (Terry), Devae (Scott), along with many other aunts, uncles, and cousins. Kason was preceded in death by his grandfather, Dennis Duncan.

A gathering of friends and family took place at the Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home on Friday, June 21, 2024 from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. and again Saturday, June 22, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. A private burial will take place at a later date.

Keith A. Grosshans



Keith A. Grosshans
Nov. 9, 1941 to June 19, 2024

Keith A. Grosshans, age 82 of Unadilla Township, Michigan passed away Wednesday evening, June 19, 2024 at Trinity Health-Ann Arbor.

Keith was born November 9, 1941 in Stockbridge Michigan, the son of John and Thelma (Bullis) Grosshans.

He had lived in the area his entire life. Early jobs included farming with Glen Hanson and delivering milk for the dairy. His career was spent as a Security Supervisor at Warner-Lambert/Parke-Davis/Pfizer in Ann Arbor.

He loved farming and tractors, especially the Little Russell. He also enjoyed camping, missionary work, attending steam shows, hunting, McDonald's Diet Coke, and he was an active member of Crossroads Community Church, where he served as an elder.

On June 12, 1976, he married Doreen (Titus) Grosshans, and she preceded him in death.

Surviving are two children, Beth (Eric) Kunzelman and Brian (Cheri) Grosshans, both of Gregory; six grandchildren, Austyn (Makenna), Samantha, Brooke, Kayden, KC (Skye), and Christopher (Ciara); as well as several nieces, nephews, and cousins. In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by Patricia (Gregory) Grosshans in 1975, and his parents.

Funeral Services were held on Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at the Highest Praise Worship Center in Stockbridge.

The family received friends at the Highest Praise Worship Center on Monday, June 24, 2024, from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m.

The family would like to thank the Highest Praise Worship Center family for the use of their church for Keith's funeral and visitation since his beloved Crossroads Community Church was in the midst of preparing for Vacation Bible School. He would not have wanted to disrupt one of his favorite events of the year.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Michigan Steam Engine and Threshers Club or the Crossroads Community Church.



John and Theresa
Kightlinger

Ask an Expert Be aware of the problems in total loss insurance settlement practices

by John and Theresa Kightlinger

People are asking what is going on with the insurance industry.

It seems like every day I am hearing about less-than-ethical behavior as well as downright egregious activities by some insurance companies.

Claims people are constantly trying to mitigate and reduce claims expenses, and when feasible, they should. After all, we all pay for insurance and we all want the premiums to be kept as low as possible. Higher claims costs result in higher premiums, and as far as I'm concerned, they're already too high. However, containing claims costs at the expense of others just ain't right!

One prime example is a bad situation that's gotten worse regarding total loss settlement practices.

Here's one scenario: The consumer gets into a collision and the insurer inspects it and writes a lowball estimate in the hopes that: 1) The vehicle owner takes the settlement and doesn't get the vehicle repaired, or 2) The vehicle owner goes to a low-quality repairer who will try to repair it for the insurer's lowball estimate (rather than lose the job due to it being totaled).

However, when a vehicle owner wants his vehicle repaired and he goes to a quality-conscious repairer who prepares his own assessment, the insurer is faced with the option to either provide for a quality repair or to deem the vehicle to be a total loss.

Of course the most economic choice is the one that is often taken. In most instances, the insurer abides by state laws and regulations regarding economic thresholds whereas a vehicle must be deemed a total loss.

Once determined to be a total loss, some insurers attempt to have the vehicle removed from the repairer to stop storage charges and have it moved to a storage-free holding area, such as a salvage yard or auto auction facility. This is, of course, prudent and I support it. But what about making a total loss settlement offer to the vehicle owner for the replacement of the vehicle? Shouldn't that take place first?

The conversation between the claims representative and the vehicle owner often goes something like this:

"Mr./Ms. vehicle owner, after reviewing your damages and the cost to repair, we have determined your vehicle, to be a total loss. We need to have you release the vehicle from the shop so we can move it for safekeeping and to stop the ongoing storage charges.

"Once you do, please call me so I can arrange a service to pick it up and move it. This will avoid you having to pay for further storage charges out of pocket (but you do not pay the storage charges, they do), and by the way, we'll need you to sign over your vehicle's title so we can initiate the required paperwork and steps for settlement.

"Once we get it moved and secure the title, we'll evaluate the vehicle's value and be able to make you an offer for the pre-loss replacement value of your vehicle."

At this point a wary consumer should be thinking...wait a minute here...if someone came to me and said: "Hey, I'd like to buy your car...would you consider selling it to me?" and I say: "Well... yeah, I would consider selling it." And the buyer then states: "Great, give me the keys and sign over your title, and I'm going to take it...and in a week or two I'll let you know how much I'm willing to pay you for your car."

Who in their right mind would agree to such an idea?

Well, it happens far more often than one would think, simply because consumers have a belief that the insurers have to do things properly or they will get into trouble. After all, someone has to be overseeing insurers to make sure they do things properly...right?

Let's continue on. So, the customer trusts the insurer and authorizes the release of the vehicle from the body shop to stop storage charges. After all, what could possibly go wrong?

See Ask an Expert on page 23.

Tractor Supply page 1

"Tractor Supply is happy to be part of the Stockbridge community," District Manager Rick Giltrop said. "Our team is mostly made up of Stockbridge residents. We have had great community support and look forward to a long-term relationship."

Stockbridge Township Clerk Becky Muraf, who was at the ceremony on behalf of the township, said "It was nice to visit last weekend to purchase our dog food and not have to run to Jackson for it."

Proximity is a large factor for the locals who were traveling to neighboring TSC locations for work or to shop at the store.

"Not only is it a shorter drive for work than the Howell store, but also for farm needs and supplies for my own animals and farm," said Susan Hill, who is now a team member at the Stockbridge TSC location.

Many area residents expressed their delight at having the store in town, stating it's not only convenient, but also a cost saver since they no longer have to travel to Jackson, Howell, Okemos or Ann Arbor.

"I'd have to pass here to get to the hardware, so if I can get it here closer I like that," local resident Robert Fineman said.

The Stockbridge Tractor Supply, located at 4569 S. M-52 in Stockbridge, is open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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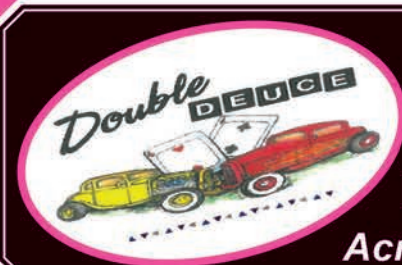
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Ask an Expert page 22

The insurer then makes a payment to the shop for their billing for services rendered (tow payout, labor, storage, gate fee, administrative activities, retrieval of customer's license plate(s) and personal belongings, etc.) and have the vehicle picked up and relocated to a storage-free facility for "safe keeping," where they may move it around the yard with a forklift!

Sometime later, the insurer provides the consumer with an offer for the pre-loss replacement value of the vehicle, which the vehicle owner finds to be considerably lower than anticipated. The vehicle owner raises concerns and the insurer sends him a multipage valuation report supporting the offer with quotes and comparables. The insurer then advises the customer he has until the next day to accept the settlement offer or he will no longer have a rental car! This leaves the vehicle owner no time to check out the comparables provided in the insurer's valuation to see if they exist, have been sold, or if they are even similar to owner's vehicle, let alone the time to shop around for a replacement.

So, the vehicle owner, feeling he has no choice as he needs to purchase a vehicle to get his life back in order, begrudgingly accepts the insurer's lowball settlement and then pleads to keep the rental car for a few more days to secure a replacement vehicle.

The insurer reluctantly allows him three more days of rental and then issues the "full and final settlement" payment to the vehicle owner. The only problem is, the vehicle owner finds the amount far less than he had agreed to accept. He is told that the insurer has deducted the amount that was paid to the body shop for charges the insurer didn't believe they should pay for!

So now the consumer is left with a lower settlement and has only a couple days left of a rental vehicle. When complaining to the insurer, the insurer responds with: "Unfortunately for you, your chosen body shop overcharged you for their services. No other shops charge for these types of things or charge such high rates as they do. We only owe for what is reasonable and customary in the market area. This shop is known for overcharging and if you had asked us early on, we could have referred a dozen shops who wouldn't charge you for such charges. You need to go see someone at your shop to try and get your money back!"

Lesson Learned: You should never release the vehicle until you have settled with the insurance company. At that time, they will pay the body shop charges to pick up your vehicle.

Why are insurers often successful in such activities that harm consumers and repairers? Because consumers are not being made aware of such issues and concerns or being educated as to how to protect themselves. Who other than the collision repairers know what is going on and who is in a better position to help them? The insurers surely won't help and their insurance agent won't help. Most consumers will not seek legal counsel, and quite frankly, most attorneys are unaware of such activities taking place, and as such, are of little help and quite often provide poor advice in such matters.

Quality-oriented repairers will instruct their customers in their time of need so they can know the facts and are in a position to protect themselves and their family's personal safety and economic well being by receiving proper repairs with proper procedures, parts and materials and restoring their vehicle to its pre-loss condition to the very best of reasonable human ability.

Insurers are banking (literally) on the fact that many repairers don't wish to expose the ugly side of the collision repair industry to their customers. After all, the customer comes to a body shop to fix problems, not cause more, right? Yes, they come to the repairer to put their lives back together and to do it properly and thoroughly. Believe it or not, customers expect the expert repairer to protect them just as they expect the best from their doctor, surgeon, dentist, pharmacist, banker, accountant,

attorney and other professionals who have a profound fiduciary responsibility to their patients and clients. To do less and to not help them in their time of need is simply unacceptable.

Community members deserve the very best from an expert repairer. If repairers are not being totally honest and transparent with customers regarding the repair of their vehicle and sharing knowledge regarding the less-than-ethical practices of some insurers, they are failing their customers, the profession and the collision repair industry at large.

What if every quality-oriented collision repairer in the country started to inform their customers whenever insurers fail to act in their best interest. Can you imagine how fast positive change would come and how quickly the industry would change for the better?

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.

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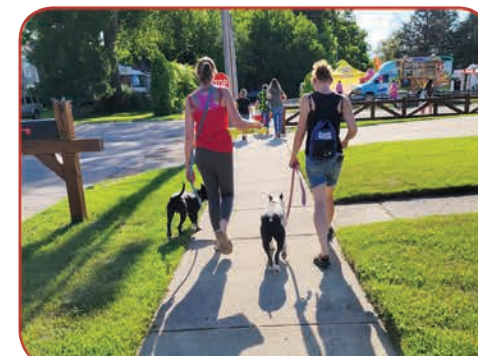
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A Day in the Village



Photos by Mary Jo David, Joan Tucker & Andrea Stickney





Published in *Uncaged*, May 2024

A JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME

Zach Fletcher wins trip to Atlanta to compete in Skills USA national championship

by Taiyler Stanfield, *Uncaged* Editor-in-Chief

This article is being reprinted, with minimal edits, from the Uncaged Student News May 2024 edition.

On April 11, senior Zach Fletcher attended the 2024 State Leadership and Skills Conference hosted by Skills USA where he won gold (first place) in Plumbing. The annual event which has been going on for over 50 years is an educational conference whose goal is to prepare students around the country (and over 1,500 students in Michigan) to be champions in their trade through hands-on contests and workplace skills.

As a result of Fletcher's win, he will advance to Nationals in Atlanta, Georgia from June 24-28 to compete against 6,000 other state champions throughout the country to have the chance to win national gold, silver and bronze medallions, scholarships, tools and other prizes and awards.

For coming in first place for Plumbing in the state conference, Fletcher won a plaque, Milwaukee drill and compact tool.

"It was fun to hear my name called," Fletcher said. "It felt like such a relief because last year I had gotten second place and now this year I got first."

For winning second place in Plumbing last year, Fletcher won a 25 dollar gift card, plaque and goodie bag.

Some improvements he made to win first place this year included perfecting minor details like the amount of glue he used on piping and measuring perfectly.

Fletcher currently attends the Wilson Talent Center (WTC) for construction taught by construction trades instructor, Gerald Johnson, who Fletcher expressed was one of the main reasons he decided to participate in the competition.

"My instructor told me I was good at plumbing, so I decided to do it," Fletcher said.

It appears that Johnson was right in encouraging Zach to do the competition, as his win now puts him on the path to potentially winning more awards when in Atlanta.

"I was really happy for Zach," Johnson said. "He's done well in class and he worked hard to earn it. I'm glad to see that he is going to nationals."

As Zach prepares for the journey ahead of him, he also prepares for the excitement and adventure it will bring him.

"In the future, I'm most excited about Nationals in Georgia for about a week. I mean, half of it's basically a vacation," Fletcher said.

For more information about Stockbridge's award-winning student newspaper, go to <https://uncagednews.com>.

Uncaged articles are sponsored by The Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation. For more information on SAEF, visit www.panthernet.net/our-district.



Senior Zach Fletcher holds his first place plaque in Plumbing won from the State Leadership and Skills Conference. Photo provided by Wilson Talent Center Facebook page

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE VILLAGE'S 2024 TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLAN

Take notice: A public hearing will be held on the 5th day of August 2024, commencing at 7:00 p.m., in the Stockbridge Village Hall, located at 118 N. Center Street, Stockbridge, Michigan, before the Stockbridge Village Council. The purpose of this hearing is to hear from interested persons concerning proposed additions and amendments to the 2022 TIFD Plan Amendment that will result in creating a new 2024 TIFD Plan Amendment. This is your opportunity to voice your opinions and concerns.

Please note that implementing the proposed additions and amendments to the Stockbridge Downtown Development Authority District and Tax Increment Financing Plan Development Plan does not increase property taxes.

Take notice: The boundaries of the Plan's Tax Increment Finance District (Development District) are outlined in the map contained on Page IV of the July 3, 1995, and legal description contained on pages 24-26 of the July 3, 1995 (both documents are also included as exhibit: A- Map and exhibit: H- Legal Description in the proposed 2024 Plan Amendment) and are not altered by this Amendment.

Take notice: The Tax increment financing district has two state highways in the development area, M-52 and M-106. Both enter the village from the south; M-52 exits the village to the west, and M-106 exits to the south and east. All major streets in the development area are paved.

Take notice: The Stockbridge Downtown Development Authority Tax Increment Financing District Plan can be reviewed on the Village of Stockbridge internet site vosmi.org. The home page provides a link to Public Notices and a copy of the proposed 2024 Plan amendment. The plan amendment is also available for public inspection from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Wednesday from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Village Office at 118 N. Center Street Stockbridge, Michigan. Interested parties are invited to send a letter and/or email stating their opinions, position, or questions to the Village of Stockbridge, P.O. Box 155, Stockbridge, MI 49285, or via clerk@vosmi.org up to the meeting time.

Take notice: At the public hearing, all aspects of the amendments to the Downtown Development Authority Tax Increment Financing and Development Plan will be discussed. The public hearing will provide an opportunity for interested persons to be heard who may submit written communications at or in advance of the hearing – The hearing shall provide the fullest opportunity for expression of opinion, argument on the merits, and introduction of documentary evidence under the revised Stockbridge Downtown Development Authority Tax Increment Financing Plan and Development Plan.

S.A.E.S.A Open House and Stockbridge Farmers Market combine for fun, food, and learning

by James Clark-Swalla

On Tuesday, June 18, S.A.E.S.A. held an open house during the Stockbridge Farmers Market. The event featured loads of activities during the market hours, with many of S.A.E.S.A.'s emergency vehicles on display for visitors to see and investigate.

Children received firefighter hats and stickers and participated in a simple training that enabled them to experience using a fire hose to spray a



S.A.E.S.A representatives were on hand for the open house. Photos by DigitalCrumbs Photography



Eloise (left) and Jack enjoy their hot dogs and chips at the firehouse.

cardboard image of a house in flames. Free water, chips, and hot dogs were provided for everyone's enjoyment.

A few days before the event, sponsors ensured the water bill was paid to promote smiling faces at the Open House as water sprayed down on the kids who were busy splashing and having a great time.

Special thanks go out to the following dedicated sponsors for helping the new Tuesday Farmers Market to grow: Stockbridge DDA; Geri Uihlein and The G.U. Crew; Sales Associates with Howard Hanna; DigitalCrumbs: Photography, Media, Art & Design; the Stockbridge Area Emergency Services Authority (S.A.E.S.A.); and Plane Food Market.

Contact Joey Lentine for a vendor application or for more information about future events at the Tuesday Farmers Market. Joey.lentine@yahoo.com.

All photos by DigitalCrumbs Photography.

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*See our Facebook page for complete schedule.

Free Magic Show, featuring John Dudley at 4:30 PM



Woah Nellie!

Nellie's 'Pound Cake'—weighing in at 1 pound 9 ounces—is a keeper

by Mary Jo David

After last month, I'm happy to report that my desk drawer is unjammed and I can, once again, access my thumb drive containing the old issues of the Stockbridge Brief-Sun. While I was happy for the opportunity to veer off-script last month, I'll admit it was good to get back to perusing 100-year-old recipes from Nellie Maxwell again.

I missed seeing her recommendations that, by today's standards, are considered unusual. For example, 100 years ago, the meat grinder appeared to be the tool of the month and jellies seemed to be the rage. I scrolled past "Jellied Chicken," which called for putting a veal knuckle through a meat grinder (gross!), and "Popcorn Wafers" that required you to put—you guessed it—popcorn through a meat grinder! I also skipped past a molded "Coffee Jelly," as well as "Chicken Pudding," "Dinner Cheese," and "Raspberry and Pie Plant." NOTE: After a quick online search, I discovered "pie plant" was what people called rhubarb back in the day.

After much thought, I decided to veer away from molded jellies and the meat grinder because I had on hand some freshly picked strawberries that were just begging for a good accompaniment. Some believe there's no summer dessert more delicious than strawberry shortcake, but I've always preferred strawberries on pound cake. So, when I came upon Nellie's "Pound Cake" in the July 17, 1924, edition of the Stockbridge Brief-Sun, the decision was made for me.

For years I searched for a great pound cake recipe. Up to this point, the two I've used most frequently are Paula Deen's "Mama's Pound Cake" and "Easy Pound Cake" from beyondfrosting.com. I decided to see how Nellie's recipe stacked up to my current favorites.

Three things I noticed about Nellie's recipe when I compared it to the other two:

- She uses way less milk.
- The recipe doesn't call for salt.
- She separates the eggs and whips the egg white.

I took care to make sure I creamed the butter and sugar until the mixture was quite light—probably about five minutes. Since I was using butter right out of the fridge, I made sure to soften it slightly first. My favorite method for doing this is to use the power controls on my microwave. I generally put the butter in a microwave-safe dish and warm it for a minute at a time on power level 1 or 2 until the butter reaches the consistency I need.

I measured the flour before I sifted it. I have two sifters—one has a single screen and one has a triple screen. Out of laziness (it's easier to reach in the cupboard), I used the single-screen sifter for this recipe, but I sifted the flour and baking powder twice to make up for using this more basic sifter.

Most of this recipe was mixed using my KitchenAid stand mixer. But when it came to beating the egg whites, I pulled out my Dualit hand mixer—a powerful gem I purchased at a garage sale on Mason Road. To this day, I wonder why the person was selling the mixer. It appears to be the same as hand mixers I've seen used on "The Great British Bake Off," and in my experience, it makes short work of whipping egg whites, whipping cream, and making my mom's special buttercream frosting.

Once I had all the ingredients mixed together, I eyeballed the amount and decided to use my largest loaf pan, which is 8.25 by 4.25 inches (bottom measurements) by 3 inches. Per Nellie's instruction, I lined the pan with waxed paper. She didn't mention greasing the pan, so I reluctantly used just the waxed paper.

The one place where I veered from Nellie's instructions was baking time. I've never made a pound cake that baked in 40 minutes. Since Nellie did not specify an oven temperature, I Googled a number of vintage pound cake recipes and decided to start the baking process in a 325-degree oven. After 20 minutes, I turned the oven up to 350 degrees and baked for another 30 minutes. When a toothpick inserted in the center of the cake came out clean, I removed the pound cake from the oven.

After cooling the cake for 10 minutes, I flipped the pan over—and voilà!—the cake came right out of the pan. I removed the waxed paper and cooled it for another 20 minutes. Then, I served it, still warm and topped with freshly mashed strawberries, to my resident taste tester.

Pound for pound, Nellie's "Pound Cake" recipe resulted in a bigger smile than any previous Nellie recipe tested! I guess that means it's a keeper.



Pound for pound, Nellie's "Pound Cake" recipe resulted in a bigger smile than any previous Nellie recipe we've tested.



Outreach in Action At Stockbridge Community Outreach, Christmas begins long before cold weather sets in

by Jo Mayer and Paul Crandall

"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future." —Scrooge, in Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol"

Sure, it may be a hot day in July, but Christmastime is never far from our thoughts at Stockbridge Community Outreach. Things get very busy for us in November and December as we ramp up for our holiday programs.

To those who qualify, we offer bags of special holiday food for Thanksgiving and Christmas, along with a turkey for Thanksgiving and a ham or pork loin for Christmas. Last year we served over 200 families with these special meals.

Another big Christmastime effort: our Adopt-a-family program, where families who need a bit of help are "adopted" by area individuals or groups. Those adoptees receive gifts along with their Christmas food. Last year, this program served over 100 families.

These, and other Outreach efforts like year-round assistance with utility bills and rent support, are major undertakings that help a lot of people in our community. Funding for them is not something that can wait until the snow flies.

Enter, "Christmas in July"—a focused on funding effort that helps keep the sleigh bells ringing all year long.

For the second year, The State Bank is offering to match every donation we receive in July, up to a total of \$5,000. This means, if a person donates \$50 in July, The State Bank will donate \$50 to match that, bringing the total to \$100. It is a nifty way to give twice as much!

"This is our major fundraiser," Outreach Director Gwen Reid said. "Last year, we raised over \$13,000 from the Christmas in July fundraising drive and we hope to do even better this year!" She added that most of the money went toward helping clients with their utility bills.

Another major Outreach benefactor over the past few years has been Chelsea Hospital's Community Benefit Fund. Vital contributions from this fund help with operating costs, allowing Outreach to allocate whatever money is raised from the community directly to helping clients.

In 2023, Outreach spent the following, all from used donated funds or grants to provide the following assistance:

- Sent home over 3,500 Tide-Me-Over bags to kids from preschool through high school.
- Handed out over 4,500 bags of food at our weekly Wednesday "Pop Up" curbside distribution.
- Registered 44 new clients.
- Spent over \$30,000 on utility assistance.
- Served nearly 1,000 families using our free clothing room.
- Offered two free mobile health clinics in 2023.

We are honored to offer such services "all the year" and so grateful for the vast community support we receive, making our work possible.

Anyone wishing to contribute to Christmas in July may send checks to Stockbridge Community Outreach, PO Box 682, Stockbridge, MI 49285 or through PayPal at www.stockbridgecommunityoutreach.org. Please note in the memo that it is for Christmas in July.

It may be hot in July, but Christmas Outreach is never far from our thoughts. Donate to Stockbridge Community Outreach in July, and The State Bank will match every donation received, up to \$5,000.

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Outreach's Christmas in July 2024 is Sponsored by The State Bank!



DOUBLE YOUR DONATION BY HELPING US MATCH OUR "NOT-SO-SECRET SANTA'S" GIFT DURING THE MONTH OF JULY!

Mail donations to Outreach, P.O. Box 682, Stockbridge, MI 49285 or pay using the donate button on our Website www.stockbridgecommunityoutreach.org or our Facebook page.

Donate in person at the Open Air Market on Friday, July 26 from 4-7 or at our office in the old middle school, door #20, off Elm St. & Cherry St. Questions? Call 517-851-7285.



STOCKBRIDGE SPORTS

Softball season ends in District Semifinals

by Mike Williamson

The very young Stockbridge varsity girls softball team members saw their season end in the D3 District Semifinals with a 9-3 loss to Napoleon, Saturday, June 1.

The young Panthers had just one senior and one junior on this year's squad and have high hopes for the future with so many underclassmen on the team.

Napoleon. Stockbridge's season ended with a 10-19-1 overall record with the district loss to Napoleon.

The Panthers jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first with a run-scoring single by Jessica Sparks and Lilly Ramalia stealing home for the early lead.

Napoleon answered with five runs in the second and two in the third for a 7-2 lead.

The Panthers got one back in the sixth when Madison Rusnock singled. Emily Satkowiak, who had pinch run, stole home to cut the lead to 7-3, but that is as close as Stockbridge would get.

Senior Melanie Satkowiak had two hits, including a double in her final game as a Panther.

Arianna Smith had two hits, while Zoey Horstman and Rusnock had one hit each.

Sparks had a hit and RBI and struck out 11 in the circle for the Panthers.

Vandercook Lake. The Panthers wrapped up regular season play in a big way with Sparks tossing a three-inning perfect game in a 15-0 win over Vandercook Lake.

Sparks struck out six and did not allow a base runner in the three-inning win.

Laura Humrich led the offense with two hits and three RBIs, while Alecia Smith had two hits and one RBI.

Melanie Satkowiak had a triple and three RBIs, Anya Harden a hit and two RBIs, and Arianna Smith a hit and two runs scored.

Webberville. The Panthers then split a doubleheader with Webberville winning 8-7 and falling 11-10.

Sparks led the offense with two hits and two RBIs, and struck out 10 for the win in the circle for Stockbridge.

Harden had two hits, while Rusnock had a hit and RBI. Melanie Satkowiak had a hit and three runs scored, Humrich a hit and run scored, Arianna and Alicia Smith a hit each.

Webberville scored four runs in the seventh to rally past the Panthers in the second game.

Sparks and Horstman each had three hits and an RBI for the Panthers.

Rusnock had a big game with three hits and three RBIs and Arianna Smith had two hits and a run scored. Humrich also added two hits and an RBI for Stockbridge.

Emily Satkowiak took the loss in the circle with five strikeouts.

Manchester. The Panthers went 0-1-1 against Manchester to wrap up the season.

Sparks had the only two hits for the Panthers in a 13-1 loss to the Dutchmen in the opener. She also struck out 10 in the circle for the loss.

The Panthers scored 10 runs in the first inning of the second game, but Manchester battled back, and the game ended in a 14-14 tie.

Arianna Smith's bat was booming with three hits and four RBIs to lead the Panthers.

Horstman and McKenna Mezo had two hits and an RBI each.

Jailynn Nelson picked up a hit and RBI, while Humrich added a hit and RBI for Stockbridge.



Jessica Sparks tossed a perfect game for the Panthers against Vandercook Lake. Photo credit Mike Williamson

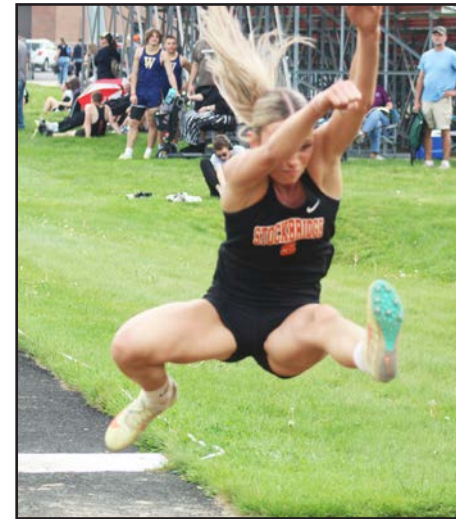
Track and field athletes have strong showing at State Finals at Kent City

by Mike Williamson

The Stockbridge track and field teams were well represented with 10 athletes at the D3 State Track and Field Finals in Kent City on June 1.

Megan Mackinder and Gracee Robidou earned All-State honors for the Panthers.

Mackinder finished sixth in the discus to earn All-State honors



Gracee Robidou earned D3 All-State honors with a seventh-place finish in the long jump. Photo credit Mike Williamson

and was 20th in the shot put.

Robidou was seventh in the long jump to earn All-State honors. She also placed 11th in the 300 hurdles with a personal record (PR). She set another PR in the 100 hurdles but did not move on to the finals.

Ava Vaccaro finished 20th in the 3200 and Jaylee Chapman 22nd in the 1600 for the Panthers.

See Track and Field on page 31.

Panther varsity golfers tie for 10th at Regionals

by Mike Williamson

The varsity golf team had a strong finish to the season by tying for 10th at the D3 Regional at the Washtenaw Country Club in Ypsilanti on May 28.

Stockbridge shot a team score of 373 to tie with Richmond for the 10th spot. Lansing Catholic won the title with a score of 333.

Wyatt Loso led the Panthers with a 15th-place finish with a round of 86.

Kegan Collins and Evan Sandecki each shot rounds of 93, while Drew Robinson shot 101 and Chase Kunzelman 127.

Lansing Christian Invite. The Panthers finished 12th out of 20 teams at the Lansing Christian Invite at Hawk Hollow Golf Course in Lansing May 23.

Stockbridge shot a score of 370 in the event won by Grand Rapids Christian with 301.

Loso and Collins each shot rounds of 89 to lead the Panthers.

Robinson shot 92, Sandecki 100, and Lucas Hoard 105.

STOCKBRIDGE SPORTS

Baseball team comes up short in District Finals



Noah Sandecki waits for a pitch for the Panthers.
Photo credit Mike Williamson

by **Mike Williamson**

The Stockbridge baseball season came to an end in the D3 District Finals with a 10-0 loss to Napoleon June 1.

The Panthers ended the season with a 7-28 overall record with the loss.

Stockbridge could muster just one hit in the title game with Zach Fletcher collecting the only hit for the Panthers. Fletcher also stole two bases in the game and struck out two in four innings of work on the mound.

Michigan Center. The Panthers reached the finals on June 1 by rallying from five runs down to beat Michigan Center 7-6 in the semifinals.

Stockbridge trailed 6-2 in the fifth, but an RBI triple by Noah Sandecki drove in Fletcher to cut the lead to 6-3.

Two walks and a single by Aidan Bradley loaded the bases with one out in the sixth. Collin Trost ripped a shot to third, which was thrown away to score all three runners to tie the game at 6-6. Jayden Pilch drove in Trost with a ground out and put the Panthers on top 7-6.

The Cardinals got a runner on with a one-out single, but catcher Jason Porzio gunned the runner out at second with a steal attempt. The next batter bounced out to Cruz Medina at first and the Panthers were on their way to the District Finals.

Litchfield. The Panthers wrapped up the regular season May 24 by splitting a doubleheader with Litchfield.

Stockbridge took the opener 4-3 behind the strong pitching of Trost, who allowed just five hits and struck out eight for the win. He also had a hit and run scored at the plate for the Panthers.

Fletcher had a hit and two RBIs, Pilch a hit and two runs scored, and Bryton Breese one hit for the Panthers.

Stockbridge dropped the second game 7-3.

Fletcher had the only two hits for the Panthers and scored two runs. Johnny Sayler had an RBI and Sandecki walked three times for the Panthers.

Dansville. Stockbridge dropped a tough 2-1 decision to Dansville May 28.

Sandecki had the lone hit for the Panthers with an RBI to lead the offense.

Trost took the tough loss, striking out three and allowing four hits.

Track and Field page 30

Brock Rochow led the boys with a 20th-place finish in the 800. He also was part of the 4x800 relay with Ethan Wright, Finn Coffman and William Gancer that finished 29th. Rochow was part of the 4x400 relay that finished in 34th place with Foster Pybus, Ethan Monaghan and Gancer.

Wright finished 21st and Gancer 22nd in the 1600.

Pybus was 25th in the high jump and Wright 33rd in the 3200.

Art Show adds culture to A Day in the Village festivities

by **Andrea Stickney**

Each year the Stockbridge Area Arts Council (SAAC) provides a touch of culture to A Day in the Village festivities with the addition of its SAAC Art Show. Five members of the SAAC work hard to ensure that area artists have a showcase for their work, which they conveniently display in the Stockbridge Township Hall amidst the ADIV activities happening in the Square and around town.

Awards and cash prizes are presented to first, second, and third place winners in both fine arts and photography. Another cash prize goes to the People's Choice winner each year.

According to Andrea Stickney, one of the SAAC organizers, "This year's show was significantly larger than last year, and things look promising for 2025." Stickney encourages those interested in the arts to consider volunteering with the SAAC to help with the planning and rollout of next year's show.

See page 24 for photos of this year's winners, along with the 2024 featured artist and honorable mentions.

School Safety Training at Stockbridge Community Schools

by **Brian Friddle, Superintendent of SCS**

Stockbridge Community Schools, in collaboration with the Stockbridge Police Department and the Ingham County Sheriff's Office, will be hosting a school safety training exercise. This event will also involve various departments from around the region, ensuring a comprehensive and coordinated training experience.

- Date: July 26
- Time: 9 a.m. - noon
- Location: Stockbridge Jr./Sr. High School and the area north of town.

During this time, there will be a significant presence of emergency response vehicles and personnel in the vicinity. To ensure the safety and effectiveness of the training, community members not participating in the exercise are encouraged to avoid this area during the specified three-hour period.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we work together to enhance the safety and preparedness of our community.

Class of 2024

TOP TEN SENIORS



Abigail Roberts graduated with a Top 10 GPA and honors in Algebra C and Pre-Calculus. Roberts plans to attend college and is undecided on a major.



Maggie Jones graduated with a Top 10 GPA and honors in Creative Writing, Government, Pre-Calculus, AP Language and World History. Jones hopes to get a Master's in occupational therapy from Saginaw Valley State University.



Isabelle Queen graduated with a Top 10 GPA and honors in AP Language and Composition and Algebra C. Queen plans to attend either MSU or Eckerd and then get a Master's in marine biology.



Jaylynn Ellsworth graduated with a Top 10 GPA and honors in Physics, Algebra A & B and Geometry. Ellsworth plans to attend Eastern Michigan to study psychology.



Clarissa Hill graduated with a Top 10 GPA and honors in Algebra B, Pre-Calculus and English 11. Hill plans to attend MSU's Institute of Agriculture Technology for Dairy Management.



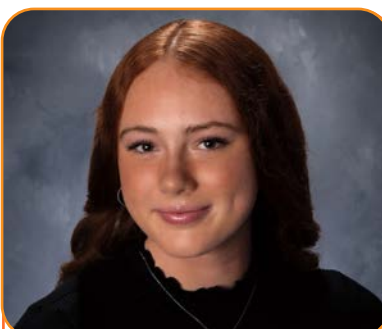
Jason Gruber graduated with a Top 10 GPA and honors in Pre-Calculus and Earth/Space Science and Physics. Gruber plans to attend the University of Michigan to study mechanical engineering.



Melanie Satkowiak graduated with a Top 10 GPA and honors in Pre-Calculus and Physics. Satkowiak plans to attend Marian University to pursue a psychology degree with a pre-med track.



Nicole Wadkins graduated with a Top 10 GPA and multiple honors including: AP Language and Composition, Pre-Calculus and AP US History. Wadkins plans to attend LCC before transferring to MSU to get a Bachelor's Degree in graphic design.



Taylor Lockhart graduated with a Top 10 GPA and honors in English, Algebra and Geometry. Lockhart plans to attend Eastern Michigan University for Supply Chain Management before attending graduate school at MSU.



Madelynn Dalton graduated with a Top 10 GPA and honors in Algebra, English and Physics. Dalton plans to take classes in business and floral design in hopes to one day own her own flower shop.

