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## Math teacher Lissa Avis named 2024 Helen B. Mitteer Employee of the Year award recipient

by Mary Jo David



Jr./Sr. High School Principal Jeff Trapp announces that Lissa Avis is the 2024 Employee of the Year. Photo credit Steve Keskes

Once again, the highlight of the Stockbridge Schools' Welcome Back Staff Breakfast, which was held Aug. 13, was the announcement of the 2024 winner of the Helen B. Mitteer Employee of the Year award. This year, that special award went to Lissa Avis, an extraordinary teacher who heads up the math department and coaches cross country at Stockbridge Junior/Senior High School. Avis has taught for 25 years—23 of those years have been in Stockbridge.

The Mitteer award is managed by the Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation (SAEF). As part of the award, Avis receives \$1,500 she can put toward any educational pursuit. Upon the announcement of her name, everyone in the packed school cafeteria stood and applauded in recognition

of all Avis has accomplished.

Prior to presenting the honor, Principal Jeff Trapp shared a short history of this SAEF award, which was first awarded in 2013. He then called upon Steve Allison, who teaches in the PASS program, and Susan Lockhart, who teaches physical education, to assist in presenting this year's well-deserved Mitteer Award.

Avis, surrounded by her husband and two children and holding a lovely floral bouquet, listened as Allison and Lockhart expounded on the reasons for their nominations.

Allison focused on the hometown bond he shares with Avis. They were students together in eighth grade band, where they both participated in the 24-hour Band Marathon.

See Avis on page 19.

## Students build a hoop house for a better future

by Joan Tucker



Agricultural, Construction, and FFA students installing the frame for the hoop house. Photo credit Joan Tucker

Bob Richards, a veteran teacher of 22 years, continues to inspire his Agricultural, Construction, and Future Farmers of America (FFA) students with active learning. Their latest endeavor is building a hoop house that will grow cool-weather plants. Nifty Hoops, a fabrication company in Ann Arbor, Michigan, provided the materials and instructions.

On Aug. 22, Stockbridge Community News was on hand to observe as Stockbridge High School

students began constructing the hoop house. According to John Becker, the construction lead, building a hoop house generally takes two days. Under the direction of Becker and Richards, students arranged poles in a crisscross manner to build the frame. Other students applied plastic on the sides and installed electrical boxes and black irrigation tubing on top of the metal framing.

See Hoop house on page 10.

From CADL Stockbridge

## Library ready to help with research, learning tools

by Library Assistant Kim Johnson



Students can use their library card to check out five books at a time from CADL's Stockbridge branch at 200 Wood St., Stockbridge. Photo provided by CADL Stockbridge

It's the beginning of the school year and we are here to help!

Just a reminder that every student in

Stockbridge Community Schools has a library card through the Student Success Initiative. This allows students to check out five books at a time to help keep them reading not only for class, but for fun, too! (Shhh...don't tell them that no matter what they read, they're still learning.)

In addition, in celebration of Smokey Bear's 80th birthday, from Sept. 16–Oct. 31 kids can take part in the Smokey Bear Reading Challenge. Join Smokey in learning about wildfires and the environment. Read books, take action, and have fun!

See CADL Stockbridge on page 15.



**"We want you here":** See page 3 to learn about the Stockbridge School District's 2024-2025 School Year Theme.

**Community Calendar:** See page 11.

**Stockbridge Schools recognizes staff dedication through the years:** See page 15.

**SCS Welcomes New Staff Members:** See page 17 for the new staff feature.

**Panther Sports are Back!** See page 20 for the latest fall sports coverage.

## Rural Perspectives: Sunflowers are both a garden favorite, major farm crop



Diane Gray Constable

by Diane Constable

The common sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) is a tall, bright yellow addition in our gardens and often is grown as a crop in our farm fields. It is native to North and Central America, where the indigenous people cultivated this plant more than 5,000 years ago, predating corn. Seeds were ground into flour and mush, eaten as a snack, and squeezed for cooking oil. Purple dye was made for clothing, decorating, and body paint. Dried stalks were used as building material.

Today, the seeds still are eaten as snacks, ground into flour, squeezed for cooking oil and used as dye. Seeds also are used for bird and livestock feed.

The Spanish explorers of the 1500s took the seeds back to Europe, where the plant was grown for the seed oil to be used for cooking. It eventually spread to Russia, where the Russian Church allowed the plant oil to be used during Lent. By the 1800s, farmers had nearly 2 million acres in production. They also had developed a variety with a much higher oil content, which was named the Mammoth Russian.

Immigrants brought the seeds back to the USA. The variety started showing up in seed catalogs here in the 1880s, and it remains a garden favorite today. In the 1970s, Canadian farmers hybridized the seed to boost disease resistance and increase the oil content, and it is now a



The popular common sunflower blooms in mid- to late-summer and can grow up to 12 feet tall. Photo credit Diane Constable

major crop here and in Western Europe.

The sunflower is an annual plant that blooms in mid- to late-summer and can grow from 5-12 feet. It grows best in a sunny area with loose, well-drained soil. The large flower has two parts. The outer, large petals are yellow or various shades of yellow, red or orange, depending on the variety. The inside disc is made of 1,000-2,000 tiny florets, which self-pollinate as each floret produces one seed.

The seeds grow in a spiral pattern that optimizes sun exposure and allows pollinating insects to feed from the tiny flowers. As the flower grows, it will face the direction of the sun, but once it matures, it usually faces eastward. Cut flowers will stay fresh in vases for up to 14 days.

Insects, including butterflies and bees, feed on the flower nectar. Many species of birds will flock to feeders filled with sunflower seeds. Mammals, including squirrels, chipmunks, raccoons, mice, opossum, deer and bear, also enjoy eating the seeds.

Fun Facts: 1) There are more than 70 varieties of the common sunflower. 2) Sunflowers were grown at the International Space Station and did fine in zero gravity. 3) Sunflowers are planted to absorb radioactive and other heavy metals from contaminated soil. When mature, they are harvested, burned, and the metals left behind are gathered and safely stored.

*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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# Schools promote seeing and valuing students and practicing energy-generating behaviors

by Mary Jo David

The 2024/2025 school year is kicking off with a new theme: **We want you here!**

According to Jeff Trapp, principal at the Stockbridge Jr. / Sr. High School, the district is hoping to not just reverse the recent decline in daily attendance, but rather, they'd like to see attendance skyrocket this year.

"We can only do that when students feel seen, valued, and sense that they belong," Trapp said.

Staff who attended the Welcome Back breakfast Aug. 13 took away ideas for how to encourage these senses in students districtwide.

Making eye contact with students as they pass in the hallway and greeting students by name are two of the ways to ensure students they are being seen.

Taking time to get to know students, accepting them individually, seeing them through a positive lens, and acknowledging victories—big and small—will help students feel valued. And allowing them to be themselves and accepting them for who they are, not necessarily who everyone wants them to be, can boost students' sense of belonging.



Left to right: Kristie Knieper and Carolyn Malinski demonstrate their energy-generating handshake.

Photo credits Mary Jo David

Principal Meghan Kunzelman projected similar thoughts to the staff, reminding them that Stockbridge Schools wants the staff to feel valued.

"All of you—as staff members—we want you here, and we want you to stay here," Kunzelman remarked.

Trapp introduced a magic tool, one that he referred to as a "life-sustaining tool," for fueling enthusiasm and creating energy among the staff and students. He called these "energy-generating behaviors" or "EGBs" for short; tools that are often used by coaches to inspire teams to achieve success.

EGBs can be as simple as delivering a high-five, a slap on the back, a fist bump or a floor slap—anything that conveys positivity and demonstrates energy. Student in school and those visiting should not be surprised to see staff and fellow students displaying EGBs throughout the day to reduce negativity and provide a jolt of energy that doesn't come from a can.

At the Welcome Back Staff Breakfast, Steve Keskes, director of grants and academic innovation, announced recent grants awarded to the school district in time for the 2024/25 school year.

## Putting grant money to work for the district

On Aug. 22, students and staff in the district worked together to erect a hoop house, similar to a greenhouse, for growing vegetables. The project will be overseen by the agriculture and construction programs (story on page 1).

See *Energy-Generating* on page 16.



Left to right: Eryn McDowell, Kaitlyn True, and Emma Gray show off their energy-generating floor tap.

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Woah Nellie!

## Stand back, Dad's bringing in his 'Kielbasa and Sauerkraut'!

by Mary Jo David

As many readers know, I've been keeping my eyes peeled for a Nellie Maxwell main dish recipe from 1924—one that doesn't involve cow's tongue, calves' liver, or codfish gravy. This month I still didn't have any luck when perusing the September 1924 issues of the Stockbridge Brief-Sun. I found "Braised Tongue," "Peanut Butter Potatoes," and something called "Rinktumditty of Cheese," none of which tickled my fancy.

I decided, instead, to honor my dad's legacy with this column, as he would have turned 100 years old on Aug. 9 of this year.

My dad was a hard worker, raising seven kids by often putting in extra hours and extra days in his job as a maintenance welder at the Ford Rouge Plant. Those long hours at work never dulled his patience and sense of humor. If anything, it was us kids who may have tried his patience, but he rarely let that show.

When he wasn't fixing broken appliances, making car repairs, or trying to get the lawn to grow, he spent his evenings reading the newspaper or visiting with whatever drop-in company we had on a given day, usually mixing them one of the Manhattans he was known for.

In general, household stuff was not his bag, unless it was fixing something that was broken. Another thing I recall is that he never answered the phone when it rang. Why would he when seven of us kids would dive for it any time someone called; remember, those were the days before caller ID. And it was comical to watch on those rare occasions he had to make a phone call. He'd perch his reading glasses on the end of his nose, take the pencil that he usually kept over his ear, and very slowly and methodically use the eraser end to spin the rotary dial on the phone. Even as I type this, the memory is making me chuckle.

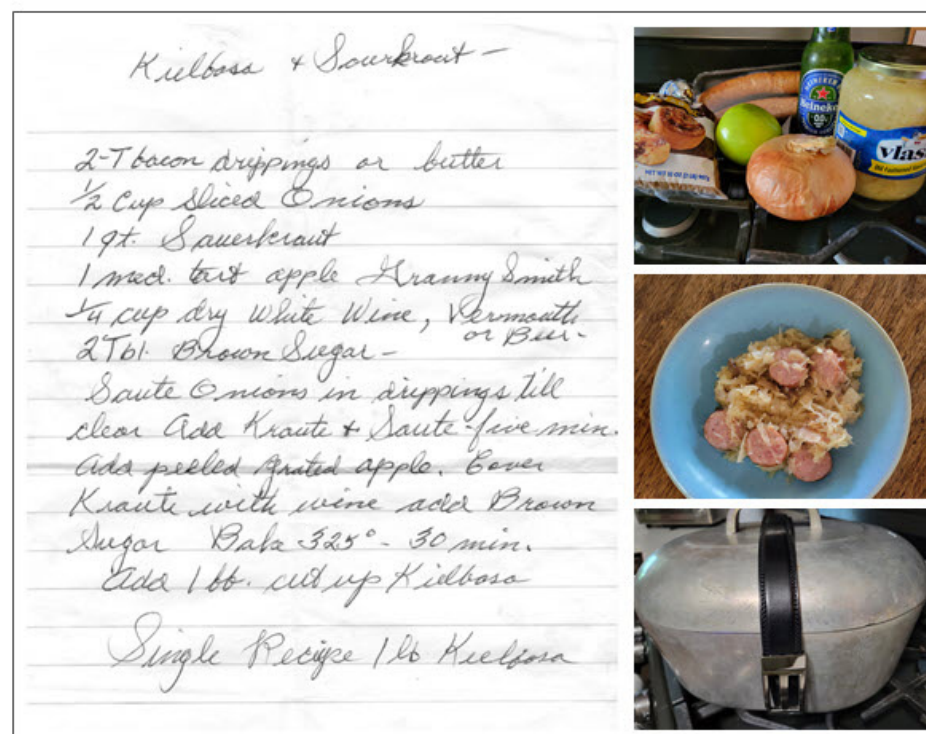
But enough with the sentimental stuff and back to the point of this column. Our dad didn't start out as much of a cook. Mom relied on him to provide the muscle when it was time to mix the giant roaster pan full of pork for the Christmas pork pies or the huge bowl of dried fruit for the plum puddings. But that was about it. Except for when it came to his "Kielbasa and Sauerkraut." Although he didn't have a German or Polish bone in his body, this was the one dish we could count on my dad to make, but only for special occasions.

Those occasions became more frequent after he retired, when he was more than happy to make his specialty for family baptisms and/or First Communion—the bigger the quantity required, the better. And he always made it a day before the party to allow the flavors to mingle.

Our memories are made even sweeter when we recall how he transported the finished dish to our homes. The giant, silver Magnalite roaster, filled almost to the top, was cinched with a belt to keep the contents from spilling in the family station wagon. (Some men loved sleek red race cars; Ed David preferred solid, wood-paneled station wagons!)

Less trusting folks would take one look at him coming through the door with that roaster and suspect he was carting a bomb into the house!

See *Woah Nellie* on page 19.



**"Kielbasa and Sauerkraut" was the one dish we could count on my dad to make for special occasions. He took extra precautions to ensure no spill-overs in his station wagon. The roaster pictured here wasn't near as big as the one Dad used, and frankly, neither is the belt!**

Photo credits: Mary Jo David

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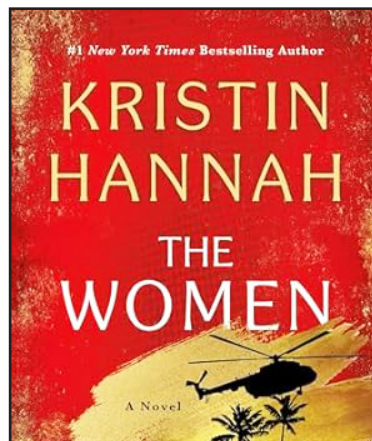


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## Reading Between the Lines In a market dominated by WWII novels, Kristin Hannah's 'The Women' focuses on female heroes of the Vietnam era

by Mary Jo David



Kristin Hannah powerfully describes the nurse-patient bonds, regardless of how fleeting, and the friendships forged in Vietnam. Photo credit Amazon.com

When I first attempted to borrow "The Women" from the library, I was No. 8 on the hold list. After a month or so, when I was No. 5 on the hold list, my sister finished the book and offered to loan me her copy. I was glad for the opportunity to borrow it because, by then, I'd been hearing so many great things about this book.

Have you ever wondered if a book could possibly live up to all the hype you were hearing? Kristin Hannah's "The Women" is one of those books. Prior to starting it myself, I heard comments like, "What a book!" "Great book," "Sad book, but a necessary read," and "Best book I've ever read."

So you can imagine my surprise when, upon starting the book, it didn't immediately grab my attention. In the first 20 pages or so, I recall thinking it seemed more like a beach read than a reflective, insightful book. But I kept going, and it didn't take long to get pulled into the story once the main character—Frankie—completes her nursing training and is shipped off to join fellow combat nurses with the Army Nurse Corps in Vietnam.

In an effort not to spoil the book for those who haven't read it yet, I won't divulge Frankie's reason for joining up. Suffice it to say, she came from a well-to-do family, living on Coronado Island in California, whose members valued service above most everything else. Although her father did not serve in the military, the wall of his study was plastered with photos and memorabilia of family members who did.

Throughout the story, the author drives home the point that Americans were told—and most believed—no American women were serving in Vietnam. While it's likely no women were serving in combat in Vietnam, plenty were serving as nurses in evac hospitals, some near Saigon and others in places like the deep jungle of Pleiku, where Frankie was eventually stationed.

I found myself envisioning Frankie in a camp much like what I'd watched on television's "M.A.S.H.," but with less humor and more carnage. Hannah powerfully describes the nurse-patient bonds, regardless of how fleeting, and the friendships forged in a war zone. Frankie's experiences, along with two intense romances, consume the reader for the first half of the book.

What I didn't expect was that only half the story takes place in Vietnam. The remainder is set back in the States after Frankie is discharged. She comes home ready to put her nursing skills to good use on the home front, only to find that Vietnam vets are being spit upon and disrespected. And female Vietnam vets, well, no one even believes they exist, including staff at her local VA hospital.

At her parents' home, where she expects to be added to the Hero Wall in her father's home office, Frankie finds her service barely acknowledged.

To Hannah's credit, she has written a very realistic story in that the main character is not a heroine. Sure, in the first part of the book, it starts to shape up that way. But upon arriving home, it's Frankie who becomes the needy one, requiring the serious support of her friends and family. Barb and Ethel, her Army nurse friends from Vietnam, come through with flying colors; family and old friends—not so much.

See *Reading Between the Lines* on page 10.

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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](http://stockbridgecommunitynews.com)

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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.

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

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## Active Aging

# A community building with a storied past provides a second home to area seniors

by Mark Taylor

According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, a building is "a usually roofed and walled structure built for permanent use (as for a dwelling)."

We all know buildings have different purposes. We live in buildings or dwellings that protect us from the elements and provide comfort from outside conditions all year



long. Other buildings protect our livestock and our valuable possessions both large and small. Some protect possessions that have little value and some protect great wealth.

Some forward thinkers suggested the old Fire Department location would be a great meeting place for Stockbridge area senior citizens—a community location they can call their second home. Photo provided by SASC

One particular building has stood for many years here in our Stockbridge community. It is not a fancy building and has not necessarily been built to withstand the challenges of time. However, this building is special, both for its past purpose and for how it is being used now.

The building I am referring to housed and protected our Fire Department in the past, including the heroes who spent many hours there. Now, that same structure provides another valuable function by providing an environment for a very important group of people—the senior citizens of Stockbridge and its surrounding communities.

The Stockbridge Area Senior Center (SASC) location was first built by the Road Commission to house some of its equipment for southern Ingham County. Stockbridge Township later purchased it, gathered the fire equipment, and converted it to the Fire Department. As the community grew and businesses came and went, an opportunity became available to move the Fire Department to a much needed and more modern, spacious building.

Some forward thinkers on the Township Board suggested this old Fire Department location would be a good home and meeting place for the senior citizens of the Stockbridge community. The Township Board eventually approved the use of this building for the Stockbridge Area Senior Center in exchange for a very limited annual fee. The Township still retains oversight of the physical building and the property around it and works closely with members of the SASC to make the property useful for the group.

Senior citizens—some of the most deserving citizens in the Stockbridge area—have worked hard for this community and sacrificed many hours and dollars toward the stability of their own homes.

*See Active Aging on page 12.*

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## Positive Parenting

**Welcome back to school; we look forward to seeing more of you**

by Cathy Payne



Cathy Payne

August 1st seems to be the unofficial launch of the Back to School season. Stores have back-to-school sales to inspire students, parents, and teachers to have an amazing school year. This time of year also informally marks the end of the summer. For many of us, the beginning of the new school year is a chance to begin with a clean slate and apply the lessons we learned the previous year. Some of us strive for a new look that will show how much we changed, while others will search for the perfect school supplies to ensure success.



**One secret to student success at every level is good attendance, which enables in-class and extracurricular participation.**  
Photo credit Taylor Flowe on unsplash.com

This year Stockbridge Community School District is taking on a new initiative—attendance. The message to students and families is simple: We Want You Here. The first step to student success is just showing up. The concept is very simple; if students are present, they can engage with their peers, their learning, and the positive experiences schools have to offer. If they are not present, they miss out on learning, developing skills, and engaging with their peers.

School is about more than the lessons taught in the classroom. At school, students are introduced to new people and a wide range of opportunities and organizations. They learn how to get along with others through participation in athletics, FFA, extracurricular activities, as well as through class participation. Learning to navigate various situations and relationships just through day-to-day interactions is a lesson in itself.

Meeting new people and participating in organizations can be difficult, but as young people get involved and take the chance to meet new people, it gets easier and helps them grow. Many people develop lifelong friendships in school, and that is something no one should miss out on.

One secret to student success at every level is good attendance. Students experience many benefits by regularly attending school. The following points make a convincing case for ramping up student attendance.

**We want you here because:**

- It helps you with your academic success. When students are in school, they engage in their learning. Not only do students learn the targeted learning standards, but they have time to practice the concepts and ask questions when they don't understand.
- It reduces gaps in learning. Learning is very often sequential, especially in the younger levels. It is difficult for a student to learn how to multiply fractions if they missed the lessons on fractions.
- It can help you connect with others. In all levels, from kindergarten through senior year, students need to work with others. They learn how to communicate and work as a team. Often this leads to learning how to speak up for oneself.

# Congratulations!



Photo by Steve Keskes

## Lissa Avis

High School Math Teacher

**S** STOCKBRIDGE  
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

2024-2025 Employee of the Year and winner  
of the Helen Mitteer Remembrance Award



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

- It helps to minimize anxiety and negative feelings about school. Feelings of anxiety and stress tend to increase when students frequently miss school. This can lead students to feel so behind that they become discouraged and stop trying.
- It helps you grow socially. Children learn quite a bit by simply being around their peers. They learn how to share, resolve problems, and navigate different challenges.
- It opens doors of opportunity. Many opportunities exist for students these days, but there is a lot of competition out there as well. Being in school and engaged in something they are passionate about can translate into opportunities after graduation. It doesn't matter what the program is, whether it is athletics, student government, the agriculture program, drama, band or choir, game club, to name a few.
- It helps you gain confidence. As students learn and grow in a variety of subjects and fields, often their confidence will soar. This confidence has the potential to follow students into adulthood.

SCS staff are eager to meet and work with students. As students begin the first semester, they and their families should know that school staff are rooting for student success and happiness.

We look forward to this new school year, and we want you here! Have a wonderful school year!

**Activity Highlight:** One suggestion that has made rounds on the internet is to begin each day with a dance. It can change how you go out into the world. Try it at home before school for one week—individually or as a family. Take turns picking the song and dance for at least two minutes. Coming out of your shell at home may make it easier to interact with others throughout the day.

*Cathy Payne has been teaching for the past 23 years. In her free time, she enjoys traveling and spending time with family and friends.*



Clyde Whitaker

## Clyde's Corner Camping makes for years of family fun

by Clyde Whitaker

We have my wife, Mary, to thank for this month's topic. She suggested writing something about our camping experiences over the years. Good idea!

Mary and I have been camping for many, many years, beginning when our kids were toddlers. We started out the usual way, with a tent and air mattresses, which were always flat by morning!

We eventually moved up to a pop-up camper—way better than sleeping on the ground, and much roomier. In 2016, we purchased a 28-foot travel trailer, which we are still using.

Pulling a 4,500-pound trailer is an experience, beginning with fighting the wind that tries to blow us into the next lane. And even though I drive 62 miles per hour, I only get a whopping eight miles per gallon!

But all of us who camp know the satisfaction we get when everything is all set up, the campfire is prepped for the evening marshmallows, and everyone is intently waiting to hear the latest Big Foot stories.

Camping destinations for us have included Bruin Lake, Portage Lake, Wilson State Park, Sleepy Hollow, Brevoort Lake in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and our favorite, Otsego Lake State Park in Gaylord.

Our four children—Aaron, Josh, Angie and Grant—always looked forward to camping, riding their bikes around the park, playing ball on the ball diamond, and swimming and playing on the white sandy beach. We had many special moments finishing up the day with a hand-scooped ice cream from the camp store while we sat on picnic tables and admired the sun setting across the lake.

Now, our kids are bringing up their kids. Henry, Tyler, Adam, June, Brooks, and Josie all look forward to riding bikes, fishing, and listening to Big Foot stories around the roaring campfire, as they eat their roasted marshmallows.

As in the past, we usually pick a day with blue skies and warm temperatures to make the drive up to Mackinaw City. It's only about a one hour drive when we're camping in Gaylord. Once there, we drive over to the rocks by the shore, sit on them, and get splashed when the waves come into shore. The Mackinac Bridge is a beautiful backdrop; it's nice to gaze upon its beauty.

Of course, the kids have to hit the shops and spend their souvenir money on something they like. For lunch, we like to go to Mama Mia's; they have awesome pizza, (almost as good as Rob's Pizza here in town ☺).

There is just something magical about standing on the shoreline in Mackinaw City, with the Mackinac Bridge in the distance. You can't help but enjoy the majesty of the deep blue water and watching the boats go back and forth to Mackinac Island off in the distance. It makes you feel very small, but very appreciative.

Camping gives us a chance to slow down, take walks down by the water, spend time together without cellphones, eat ice cream, and breathe the fresh, cool air.

If you haven't tried camping yet, the Whitakers highly recommend it. Its easy to start out with a tent at one of the area campgrounds.

In the words of the legendary bow hunter, Fred Bear, go out and into the great outdoors, "It will cleanse the soul."

See additional photos at [www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com](http://www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com). 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.



The 2024 Whitaker camping crew enjoying hand-scooped ice cream from the camp store. Photo credits Clyde Whitaker



The next generation of Whitakers getting used to the feel of Michigan sand between their toes.

## Rock 'n' Roll Trivia

### Who is the 'Steve' mentioned in the song 'Soul Man'?



John Robinson

by John Robinson

**Q: In the song "Soul Man," who is the "Steve" that someone shouts out "play it, Steve"?**

**A:** That would be guitarist Steve Cropper, who plays guitar on both versions: Sam & Dave in 1967 and the Blues Brothers in 1979. Cropper also was a member of Booker T. & The M.G.'s. "Soul Man" was written by Isaac Hayes and David (Sam & Dave) Porter. It first appeared on Sam & Dave's 1967 album "Soul Men." The song won a Grammy for Sam & Dave in '67 for Best R&B Group, Vocal or Instrumental. Ted Nugent occasionally performs "Soul Man" during his concerts.

See Rock 'n' Roll on page 17.

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~Diane Rockall



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## STOCKBRIDGE TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES

### August 19, 2024

Stockbridge Township Supervisor CG Lantis called the Regular Stockbridge Township Board Meeting to order August 19, 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

Wetherell motion to accept the Stockbridge Township Board agenda as written Muraf Second All in Favor Motion Carried

Citizen's Comment Discussion

Muraf motion to accept the Stockbridge Township meeting minutes from June 15, 2024, as printed with the amendment to correct error under citizen comment Wetherell motion to accept the Stockbridge Township Board meeting minutes from June 17, 2024, as printed Sommer Second All in Favor motion Carried Wireman Second All in Favor Motion Carried

Sommer motion to accept the Stockbridge Township Financial Report from April 1, 2024 thru August 19, 2024 as printed Wetherell Second All in Favor Motion Carried

Memorial Wall Plaque request for Robert (Bob) Wilson, Bryan Garner and Harold Eugene Garner All approved

Old Business  
None

New Business

Wireman motion to approve Clyde Whitaker bid for Derby Cemetery with an increase of pay from \$1,200 to \$1,300.00 Sommer Second Roll Call vote Wireman Yes, Sommer Yes, Muraf Yes, Wetherell Yes, Lantis Yes All in Favor Motion Carried

Wireman Motion to rehire McKenna and Foster and Swift to work with the Planning Commission on updating the wind and solar ordinance Wetherell Second All in Favor Motion Carried

Muraf motion to approve Article 4 Zoning District Regulations...Section 4.11 CSC, Community Service Commercial District...Section 4.11.2 Permitted Principal Special Uses

J. Bars or establishments principally used for the sale

of beer, wine or intoxicating liquor for consumption on the premises

K. Pawn Shops or Collateral loan and exchange establishments.

L. Secondhand Stores.

M. Specially designated merchant's establishment (SDD).

N. Specially designated merchant's establishment (SDM)

O. Tattoo and Body -Piercing.

Sommer Second All in Favor Motion Carried Muraf motion to approve the recommendation from Stockbridge Township Planning Commission as printed along with removing the following strike out lines and to comply with Michigan State Law ARTICLE 7 SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS ... Section 7.02.23 Medical and Recreational Marihuana Facilities ...

B. Marihuana Facilities shall be subject to the following standards: ...

1. Residency/Security: ~~A Marihuana Facility must be operated by the property owner of record:~~ In the AR, Agriculture Residential District, an owner of the subject facility may reside in a dwelling unit on the subject property. All Marihuana Facilities shall have a 24-hour, 7-days-a-week staffed security presence on the property with a direct phone number supplied to S.A.E.S.A. (Stockbridge Area Emergency Services Authority) and local law enforcement.

2. Buffer Zones: ~~A Marihuana Facility may not be located within five hundred (500) feet of a property line of~~ must meet the distancing requirements set by the state of Michigan laws and regulations regarding a public or private elementary, junior, senior, vocational, or secondary school; a licensed child care center or preschool; a public playground, or public or private youth activity facility; a public park, public outdoor recreation area, or public recreation facility; a public library; a church; or a religious institution.

Wireman Second All in Favor Motion Carried

Sommer motion to pay the Stockbridge Township monthly bills in the amount of \$58,664.34 Muraf Second All in Favor Motion Carried

Citizen's Comment Discussion

Lantis motion to adjourn the Stockbridge Township monthly board meeting at 7:26pm

Wireman Second All in Favor meeting adjourn

BM

## Summary of Waterloo Township Board Meeting July 23, 2024

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: 7:00 p.m.

Board members Present: Lance, Walz, Beck, McAlister, Richardson. Board members Absent: None

Quorum present

Also present: Deputy Desnoyer, County Clerk Sowle, and a few residents.

Public Comment: None

Consent Agenda: • Treasurer Walz motion, McAlister support to approve the consent as presented. Aye/all, Nay/none. Motion carried. • SAESA – discussed the rescues SAESA has been performing on the horse trails recently. May try to raise money with some of the local clubs. They are considering a new machine called a "Rokon", a two wheel drive motorized cycle which can be used to extract people from tight areas. If acquired, this Rokon would be stationed at the Waterloo Fire Station. • Police Report: Deputy Desnoyer's report for June 2024 was as follows: Deputies put in 168.5 hours, patrolled 2590 miles, answered 35 calls for service, and conducted 4 traffic stops. The Sheriff's office responded to an additional 38 calls.

Special Order – Holcim Sand & Gravel Annual Permit Renewal – Rob Hayes gave a presentation from Holcim Industries (previously Aggregate Industries), updating the township on the status of their operation on Loveland and Green Roads. Mining and sales have concluded on the site and Holcim expects to have their reclamation completed by the end of this year.

• Motion by Lance, supported by Richardson to approve the one year permit renewal.

Correspondence: None

Old Business: • Rescind zoning ordinance motion from June meeting

o Motion by Richardson, support by Lance to rescind the motion made at the June 25th board meeting to remove section 20.16 from the Township Zoning Ordinance. Aye/all, Nay/none, motion carried.

• 2024/2025 Budget Hearing – reconfirm annual budget

o Motion by Richardson, support by Beck to reconfirm the annual budget approved at the June 25th Budget Hearing. Aye/all, Nay/none, motion carried.

• Amend the budget resolution to include the correct millage rates

o Motion by Lance, support by W. Walz to adopt resolution #24-07-23-01, a resolution revising the General Appropriations Resolution (24-06-25-01) passed at the June 25th Budget Hearing.

o Aye/all, Nay/none, motion carried.

• Henrietta support for Munith Park

o McAlister reported that he spoke to the Henrietta supervisor. They are interested in supporting the efforts with the Munith Park upgrade, but they want a proposal from the Waterloo Rec Committee, describing what the total proposal would be and what Waterloo might expect from Henrietta.

New Business: • Parks & Recreation: Artisan market will be at the Township Hall on August 17th. There are 23 committed vendors, a food truck, and the girl scouts will be on-site with a lemonade stand. The swing set structure at Munith Park is safe, but will be modified w/some improvements. Also, the monkey bars have been fixed. Further improvements are estimated at \$35,000 and the township will be approaching Henrietta for some financial support.

• Planning Commission: Tuesday meeting, PC approved the used car lot special use application with some conditions. They are still reviewing the key-hole ordinance. Officers were elected for the year with no change in office positions.

• Used Car Lot SUP from Planning Commission

o A used car lot application, with recommended approval from the Planning Commission was reviewed by the board.

o Motion by Lance, support by Beck to approve the special land use for a used car lot on parcel #000-05-02-151-003-06, with conditions listed on the Special Use Permit application, screening to be provided by applicant per the provided drawing.

• Aye/all, Nay/none, motion carried.

• Griffith Land Division: Motion by Beck, support by McAlister to approve the land division of parent parcel # 000-05-16-126-001-01 to new parent parcel #000-05-16-126-001-06 (20.32 acres) and new split parcel # 000-05-16-126-001-07 (20.32 acres), with the condition that the co-owners sign their approval and the driveway easement is registered and is shared. Aye/all; no/none. Motion carried.

• Outdoor Event approvals

o Motion by Lance, support by Richardson to approve the Waterloo Farm Museum outdoor event for August 10-11 and waive the application fee.

• Aye/all, Nay/none, motion carried.

o Motion by Lance, support by Richardson to approve the Ugly Dog Triathlon on July 27th.

• Aye/all, Nay/none, motion carried.

o Motion by Lance, support by W. Walz to approve the Waterloo Horseman's outdoor events on July 25-28, August 1-4, and August 14-18.

• Aye/all, Nay/none, motion carried.

Any Other Business That Comes to the Board: • Richardson reported that tax exemption claims were filed with the remaining consumer's energy accounts in the township's name, which will save ~\$300/year.

• The Zoning Board of Appeals met last week to elect officers. There was no change in officer positions.

• The Public Accuracy Test for the August 6th election was performed without issue on July 17th as part of the Elections Commission meeting.

• Further discussion occurred regarding the Mt. Hope Road & Seymour Road intersection.

Public Comment: • Commissioner Walz –

o The Jackson County Road commission is roughly 20% understaffed, making it difficult to get tasks completed.

o There has been a lot of discussion about the size of new farm equipment, the width of roads, and the amount of trees growing in the road right of way, driving discussion about future infrastructure needs in the county.

o The county recently installed some new facilities at the Portage Lake Park location and it has already been vandalized, forcing them to close the facilities for an undetermined amount of time. o Residents near the Clear Lake Park that have concerns about questionable activity at the park or after hours activity, should either call 911, or make a report to the township that can be shared with the Sheriff's office. The paper trail will help her get more attention directed to the park. • C. Richardson – inquired about the open Zoning Enforcement Officer position. Supervisor Lance provided an update.

Adjournment: • W. Walz motioned with support from McAlister to adjourn at 8: 27 p.m. Aye/all; no/none.

Motion carried.

The next Planning Commission meeting will be Tuesday, August 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. The next regular board meeting will be on Tuesday August 27, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. Minutes will be published in the Stockbridge Community News at the end of each month, on our website [waterlootwpmi.gov](http://waterlootwpmi.gov), on the Waterloo Township Facebook page at: [waterlootownshipmichigan](https://www.facebook.com/waterlootownshipmichigan), and The Exponent.

Submitted by: Bill Richardson, Clerk

## UTPD Activity from July 1-31, 2024

**Monday 07/01** - Prisoner Transport-Webb St./Church St.

**Tuesday 07/02** - Assist another agency-Webb St./Church St.

**Thursday 07/04** - Disturbance-M 106/Main St., Assist EMS-E Trebesh Cir./Livermore Rd.

**Friday 07/05** - Suspicious Situation-M36/Gregory Rd.

**Saturday 07/06** - Assist EMS-Twin Ponds Trail. /W M36, Assist other agency-Livermore Rd./W Trebesh Cir.

**Sunday 07/07** - Subpoena Service-W M36/Kathryn Ct., Missing person/runaway-Devonshire Dr./Graves Rd., Medical Emergency-Dexter Trail/Van Syckle Rd.

**Monday 07/08** - Assist EMS-Dexter Trail/Dutton Rd.

**Tuesday 07/09** - Burglary Report-Holmes Rd./Doyle Rd., Personal Damage Accident-M36/Main St., Subpoena Service-Kathryn Ct./Livermore Rd., Subpoena Service-Dutton Rd./Deep Valley Rd.

**Wednesday 07/10** - Alarm-Main St./Dewey, Assist UTPD-Doyle Rd./Van Syckle Rd., Assist UTPD-Celestial Cir./Meadow Park Dr., Assist another agency-Hadley Rd./Barum, Assist UTPD-Doyle Rd./Worden Rd., Subpoena Service-W M36/Kathryn Ct.

**Friday 07/12** - Animal Complaint-Berkshire Dr./Gregory Rd., Gas Leak/Odor-Graves Rd./Doyle Rd.

**Saturday 07/13** - Assault Report-Main St./Dewey, Fireworks-Stockbridge St./Cass St.

**Sunday 07/14** - Assist EMS-Worden Rd./Bowdish Rd.

**Monday 07/15** - Missing Person/Runaway-Doyle Rd./Doyle Ct.

**Tuesday 07/16** - Animal Complaint Subpoena Service-W M36/Kathryn Ct.

**Wednesday 07/17** - Warrant Arrest (Ingham Co)-Cedar St./Buhl Rd.

**Thursday 07/18** - Animal complaint-Bull Run/Wasson Rd. Animal complaint-Worden Rd./Doyle Rd.

**Friday 07/19** - Assist another Agency-Webb St./M36

**Saturday 07/20** - Shots Fired-Twin Ponds Trail/ W M36, Suspicious Vehicle-Wasson Rd./Daymon Dr.

**Monday 07/22** - Electrical Hazard-Patterson Lake Rd./Point Dr.

**Tuesday 07/23** - Assist EMS-M 106/Dutton Rd., Littering/Dumping-Spears Rd./Donohue Rd., Tree Hazard-Wasson Rd./Gregory Rd.

**Wednesday 07/24** - Assist EMS-Doyle Rd./Holmes Rd., Assist EMS-Trebesh Cir./Livermore Rd.

**Thursday 07/25** - Animal Complaint-San Marino Ave./San Juan Ct., Hit and Run Accident-Tamara Dr./Kaiser Rd.

**Monday 07/29** - PPO Violation-Woodside Dr./Lake Shore Dr., Citizen Assist-Webb St./Church St.

**Tuesday 07/30** - Suspicious Situation-Channel Dr./Alberta Dr., PPO Violation-Spears Rd./Rose Hill Rd.

**Wednesday 07/31** - Noise Complaints-Kathryn Ct./ W M36

## Hoop house page 1

After upper preparation is finished, the top frame will also be covered in plastic. Then a second layer will be added covering the entire hoop house with air space in between to provide insulation. At a later date, when vegetable beds are in place, a drip-irrigation system will be installed.

During construction, journalism and English students also interviewed the crew and observed the process. Photography students recorded every step of the construction. Fifteen-year-old Jacob Broesamle, who already has his private pilot's license, was on hand to fly a drone above the area to capture pictures from above.



The top of the hoop house frame is covered in plastic. Photo provided by teacher Bob Richards

According to Bob Richards, "The hoop house is a big project. The building part is easy, but to get leafy vegetables to grow in Michigan throughout cool and cold weather without a furnace will be the challenge."

Richards also hopes students will conduct experiments with different seed types—both pelletized (coated) and unpelletized.

Rissa Petiprin, a student teacher working with Richards, is studying agricultural science at Michigan State University and is excited about this project and the teaching opportunity. She will be assisting Richards in teaching his agriculture classes and helping with the FFA program.

"Students learn best when they have autonomy and are connected to the project," Petiprin stated.

Leafy greens, lettuce, spinach, and kale grown in the hoop house will be given to the school kitchen to be used in lunches. Carrots, beets, and snow peas are other cool-weather plants students also plan to grow.

Richards learned about this hoop house grant opportunity while attending the Fall Agriculture Teacher Professional Development Institute, which was held in conjunction with Michigan FFA's Fall Leadership Conference last year. He wasted no time and went to work filling out the grant application.

The 61-S Grant of \$48,000 was awarded by the state of Michigan. To qualify, the school had to have an Ag program and an FFA group. The grant money will be used for construction materials, getting water and electricity sourced to the hoop house, extra insulation surrounding plants in the winter, seeds and gardening tools, and a small furnace if necessary.

As the excitement of the hoop house construction wears down, students, under the direction of their teachers, will begin to study the layout for bed construction to plant and grow food.

Constructing the hoop house is already turning into a rewarding project; looking forward to eating school-grown vegetables for lunch will be the icing on the cake.

## Reading Between the Lines page 5

The romance aspects are key to the story but a tad frustrating, and I found myself questioning how realistic it would have been for Barb and Ethel to—on multiple occasions—so easily cross the USA to support Frankie in person through troubling times.

But those were minor issues. What Hannah has done, with flying colors, is show us the two sides to the American perspective of the war in Vietnam. When you read "The Women," you can easily see the injustice of Vietnam veterans being disrespected when they returned home from the horrors of war, especially considering many of them were drafted and had little choice but to serve. Likewise, if readers are being entirely honest with themselves, they have to give Vietnam protesters credit for holding the government to task and likely being responsible for forcing the end to a war that was getting worse by the minute.

Unlike the World War II setting of so many of today's popular novels, I have personal recollections of the Vietnam War era as a young teenager. Even so, like all novels I read by Kristin Hannah, I came away feeling as though "The Women" taught me some things I didn't know.

Most importantly, Frankie's experiences reminded me that, yes, women can be heroes.

Mary Jo David is a retired business and technical writer who contributes occasional book reviews to Stockbridge Community News. She and her husband reside in Gregory.



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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](mailto:StockbridgeParks@vosmi.org).
  - Tuesdays** – Stockbridge Farmers Market, 5 to 7 p.m. in the S.A.E.S.A. parking lot
  - Wednesdays** – Drop-in pickleball, 9 a.m. at Veterans Park in Stockbridge. Bring paddle or borrow from Library. Questions? Email [StockbridgeParks@vosmi.org](mailto:StockbridgeParks@vosmi.org).
  - Wednesdays** – Family Storytime (Ages up to 6), 10:30 to 11 a.m. at the Stockbridge Library. Beg. Sept. 11
  - 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
  - Wednesdays** – Market Wednesdays, 4 to 7 p.m. at the Mike Levine Trailhead in Gregory
  - Thursdays** – Coffee chats, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Stockbridge Library
  - Thursdays** – Walking Club, 6:30 p.m. at Veteran's Park. Everyone is welcome!
  - Fridays** – Open Air Market, 4 to 7 p.m. on the Stockbridge Township Square
  - Occasional Fridays (Call Library for dates)** – Keep Calm and Carry Yarn, 1 to 2 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library
  - Sundays** – Youth Run Club, 6-7 p.m., starting Sept 8, Mike Levine Trailhead, Stockbridge
  - Sept. 8** - Fall Flora of Waterloo State Recreation Area, 2 to 4:30 p.m. at the Eddy Discovery Center
  - Sept. 9** - Fiber Arts with the Flock, 1 to 2 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library
  - Sept. 11 - 9/11 23rd Anniversary**
  - Sept. 14** - Wheelin' Down on the Farm Mud Bog, 9 a.m. at Runciman Farm, 3823 Heeney Road, Stockbridge
  - Sept. 15** - All Clubs Day All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast, 8 a.m. to noon at the First Presbyterian Church of Stockbridge
  - Sept. 15** - Raptor Migration, 2 to 3 p.m. at the Eddy Discovery Center
  - Sept. 16** - Smokey Bear Reading Challenge begins at Stockbridge Library. Ends in October
  - Sept. 17** - Third Tuesdays Book Discussion Group, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library
  - Sept. 18** - Talk Like a Pirate Day, noon to 5 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library
  - Sept. 18** - Family movie/craft night, 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library
  - Sept. 19** - After-Hours Book Discussion, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library
  - Sept. 21** - Unadilla and Stockbridge Fall Clean Up Day, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Unadilla Township Hall. See ad page 3.
  - Sept. 23** - Fiber Arts with the Flock, 1 to 2 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library
  - Sept. 28** - Union 4 Life Breast Cancer Charity Golf Outing, 9 a.m. at Pierce Lake Golf Course
  - Sept. 28** - Stockbridge Harvest Fest Tractor Show, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the American Legion Hall
  - Sept. 28** - Stockbridge Harvest Fest, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Stockbridge Township Square. See ad below
- For more community events visit: [www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com](http://www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com). To add your community events to our free community calendar, email submissions to [stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com](mailto:stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com).**



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## Stockbridge Harvest Fest

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**Saturday, September 28**

### Township Square

- Vendors on the Square: 10–6 pm
- Bounce Houses: 12–6 pm
- Video Game Truck: 12–4 pm
- Petting Zoo: 1–5 pm
- Photo Booth: 2–6 pm
- Axe Throwing: 1–5 pm
- Face Painting: 12–8 pm
- Cirque Surya Kindred Sisters: 2 pm
- Dance Party: 6:30–8:30 pm (With Batman, Lusia, Merida & Spider-Man)
- Drone Show: 8:45 pm

### American Legion Hall

- Memorial Service: 9 am
- Antique Tractor Show & Farm Toy Show: 9–5 pm (Call 517-803-8572 to reserve a table)
- Vendors: 9–2 pm
- Tractor Parade: 12 pm
- Bounce Houses: 12–6 pm
- Pedal Pull: 2 pm (Registration: 1 pm)
- Breakfast & Concessions (Available to purchase from the Ladies' Auxiliary)
- Live Music: 5 pm

### Vendors at the Township Hall

- HORSEFEATHERS AND FUR:** alpaca roving, yarn, socks, hats, gloves, mittens, scarves
- MARY KAY:** skin care, makeup, fragrances, body care
- BEVERLY ANDERSON & MARY MILLER:** woodworks, planters, wood pumpkins
- BELLAIR'S FAMILY FIBER FARM:** hand spun yarns, spinning fibers, goat milk soap, crocheted critters
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- **SHAKE THAT GLASS:** fresh squeezed lemonade, elephant ears



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## Bridge to Wellness

# Opioid Overdose Awareness: Don't be a statistic. Learn about Naloxone, a lifesaving medication

by Jennifer Matthews



Jennifer Matthews

August 31 was International Opioid Overdose Awareness Day. Overdose is the leading injury-related cause of death in the United States where, in 2022, almost 108,000 people died from a drug overdose. That's 296 deaths per day. Among these overdose deaths, 76% involved opioids.

In 2022, an estimated 54.6 million Americans needed substance use disorder treatment, but only 13.1 million people received treatment.

Without treatment, overdose is highly likely, and these numbers continue to rise. While many of us will, hopefully, never feel the sting of losing a loved one to overdose, these statistics show that, unfortunately, many of us already have or will.

### The more we know as a community, the more we can prevent

Opioid use disorder, also called opioid dependence or opioid addiction, is defined as "a problematic pattern of opioid use that causes significant impairment or distress." This is a medical condition that can affect anyone. Often an unnecessary stigma exists that prevents people from getting treatment.

Opioid dependence can occur regardless of gender, race, income level, or social status. We should never treat someone struggling with this disorder as less than or unreachable. Rather, we should encourage and help connect these people to treatment and support them as they are managing their addiction. Most communities, including our own, have addiction programs and resources available. Anyone can get addiction assistance by contacting the National Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (call 1-800-662-HELP or visit its website at [findtreatment.gov](http://findtreatment.gov)).

Did you know that any one of us can be a first responder to an opioid overdose and potentially save a life? Naloxone is a lifesaving medication that can reverse an overdose from opioids such as heroin, fentanyl, and morphine. As the opioid crisis continues, many communities are making Naloxone available to anyone at no cost. Naloxone is not difficult to administer, and training videos are readily available. That means you could be a prepared bystander capable of saving a life.

If you or someone you know takes opioids on a regular basis, whether prescribed or illegally, you should have Naloxone on hand and know how to use it. If your physician prescribes an opioid medication, you can also request a prescription for Naloxone to have on hand.

If opioids are being taken without a prescription there are several ways to gain access to Naloxone through community programs. The state of Michigan has put into place a Naloxone standing order for pharmacies. This means that anyone can gain access to Naloxone and training. You can search for a standing order pharmacy that has Naloxone available at [naloxoneforall.org](http://naloxoneforall.org). All local health departments can also provide you with resources for Naloxone training and medication to have on hand.

### Naloxone is coming to Stockbridge

The community of Stockbridge is currently working with 5 Healthy Towns and SRSly to install a Naloxone dispenser in the village. The location is yet to be determined but will be shared with the public once available. Stockbridge Community Schools now has a board policy to have Naloxone available for use. Many of the school staff have been trained to recognize an opioid overdose and provide Naloxone treatment if necessary.

I am proud to work in a community that recognizes the importance of prevention and emergency preparedness. This is just one more way we can be prepared to help others.

Sources:

- "National Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Day Toolkit" at [cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/php/toolkits/fentanyl-prevention-awareness-day.html](http://cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/php/toolkits/fentanyl-prevention-awareness-day.html)
- "Reverse Opioid Overdose to Prevent Death" at [cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/reversing-overdose/](http://cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/reversing-overdose/)
- NEXT Distro at [naloxoneforall.org](http://naloxoneforall.org)



*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.*



**Naloxone is a lifesaving medication that can reverse an overdose from opioids such as heroin, fentanyl, and morphine.** Photo credit NEXT Distro on Unsplash.com

## Active Aging page 6

Now, they have a community location that they can call their second home.

Community members of all ages put a great amount of effort and time to make the old Fire House work as the Senior Center. And the seniors themselves have committed their time, talents, and finances to make the SASC a reality.

The SASC is growing. With this growth comes many different challenges. The Township has done a great job in helping address the changes that need to be made to accommodate the growth.

A building like this home for the SASC provides a great foundation for development and growth. It's not a fancy building. It is not even built of bricks and mortar. Nor does it have marble floors. But, it has walls and a structured roof and it protects a very valuable segment of this community, our senior citizens.

To the Township Board and others who saw the vision and sacrificed to make it real, we the community, and especially its senior citizens, say, "Thank you!"

*Mark Taylor is a member of the board of directors of the Stockbridge Area Senior Center (SASC)—a great place to spend time. Visit [stockbridgeareaseniors.org](http://stockbridgeareaseniors.org) or call 517-480-0353 for information.*



A recent Social Hour, hosted by Outreach, focused on not falling into "thinking traps," and instead, tuning up thought patterns and your outlook. Photo credit Shaylyn on unsplash.com

## Outreach in Action

# Don't let 'thinking traps' sabotage your mental health

by Jo Mayer and Paul Crandall

July's Social Hour at Outreach started with a discussion of "thinking traps," and how we sometimes sabotage our mental health by falling into them. Thinking traps? They're common—they refer to negative actions like focusing more on our perceived failures rather than acknowledging the good; blowing things out of proportion; assuming the worst; and other damaging self-talk.

The July session presented an opportunity to tune up thought patterns and outlook but also had us dusting off a copy of Norman Vincent Peale's "The Power of Positive Thinking"—a book first published in 1952 and still popular today. We gleaned some pearls, shared below, that still resonate at Stockbridge Community Outreach so many years later.

"Thoughts are the food of our souls. Just as we feed our bodies nutritious and healthy foods, we must feed our souls and mind positive and healthy thoughts."

**Feeling overwhelmed?** Many of our clients feel overwhelmed by their circumstances, so it helps to keep in mind Peale's advice:

"Things are not as difficult as you make them out to be, and you are not as incompetent as you think."

**Made some bad choices?** Some clients find their way through our doors after making bad choices

or bad decisions. Peale has this to say about dealing with past errors:

"You must also deal with your guilt and shame. They could be the source out of which all your negative and turbulent thoughts are born. You could be trying to punish yourself. Forgive yourself and stop hurting yourself further."

**Focusing too much on the negative?** Old habits and attitudes may be difficult to change, but not impossible. Peale's book is all about improving your life through concentrated effort and focusing on the positive:

"You can make a habit of being happy by always choosing positive thoughts to let into your mind. Whenever you experience yourself

thinking of a negative thought, put a stop to it, release it and replace it with a positive and loving one... Start the day with positive affirmations. Tell yourself that the day will be good...

What people usually consider a realistic outlook is usually a negative outlook which has become the norm with time. Reality is not negative. It might not be positive, but it is not grim either... Make friends with hopeful people rather than people who are always complaining, and seek to complain less yourself... by choosing to think positively, you'll be happier."

At Stockbridge Community Outreach, we strive to provide help and hope for a better life for our clients. Being positive and encouraging is vital to our efforts.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** There is no September Outreach Social Hour, as the first Monday falls on Labor Day. Our next free and open Social Hour will be Monday, Oct. 7, at 3 p.m. in the Outreach meeting room at the Stockbridge Activity Center. Come in the back door (Door No. 20) off of Elm and Cherry streets. Light refreshments will be served. October's topic will be grief.

*This column is sponsored by Stockbridge Community Outreach, our local food pantry, crisis, and referral center located in the Stockbridge Activity Center (old middle school) near Cherry and Elm streets in Stockbridge. Office hours are 1-3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday and by appointment. Outreach49285@gmail.com, 517-851-7285, or find us on Facebook.*

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Cindy Anderson, DVM

## Paws and Claws

# Keeping pets safe and healthy during a new back-to-school schedule

by Cindy Anderson, DVM

After spending an entire summer with the whole family together, your dog or cat may be affected by the abrupt change in routine once your kids go back to school. Not only will they have to deal with a new schedule, but there are safety concerns to take into consideration for pets at home alone.

### Tips for making a smooth back-to-school transition.

Help ease your pet into changing their routine by practicing separation early. Leave your pet home alone for short periods of time and gradually increase the time you're away over several weeks. Make sure to stay calm and not make a big fuss when leaving home as this can increase your pet's anxiety.

Consider what changes there will be to your pet's routine. Will mealtimes be changing? Will you need to take your dog on a walk earlier in the morning? Will there be longer periods of time in between your dog's bathroom breaks? Try to mimic the same routine you will have once your children return to school. For instances where your pet cannot wait long between bathroom breaks, you may want to consider hiring a dog walker or a pet sitter.

Continue to make sure your pet is getting enough exercise throughout the day. Physical activity is incredibly important for a pet's physical and mental health, so aim to get up a bit earlier in order to allow time for a long walk or play session with your pet.

Give your pet a treat or toy when you leave. This will create a positive association with your departure and help curb the boredom for when you are away. You can give your pet an interactive activity, such as hiding bits of food around the home, filling a Kong with small treats, or sprinkling a toy with catnip.

As your pet may not be used to the silence of an empty home, it also can be helpful to have background noise or music playing while you are away.

### Tips on keeping your pet safe as the kids go back to school.

For many, a new school year means the return of the long-standing lunchtime debate: pack or buy? Many of the healthy foods or convenience items we use to pack lunches are great for kids, but not for pets.

Pay attention to what you're packing. Some school lunch favorites are grapes and raisins, which are toxic to pets. Other dangerous items for pets that often find their way to lunchboxes include macadamia nuts, chocolate, and items that contain xylitol (found often in chewing gum or sugar-free candies).

Use caution with cold packs. They are great to keep your child's sandwich cool for lunch, but the contents in a cold pack can be toxic to your pet. Some ice packs contain ethylene glycol or ammonium nitrate, which are extremely dangerous if ingested.

Beware of bags. Chip bags and other plastic snack bags can present a suffocation risk for your pet. When a pet explores the leftovers, their head can become stuck and when they breathe in, the bag closes in around their mouth and nose. According to the AVMA, pets can suffocate in less than five minutes. ([www.avma.org/javma-news/2018-05-15/snack-bags-pose-suffocation-risk-pets](http://www.avma.org/javma-news/2018-05-15/snack-bags-pose-suffocation-risk-pets)) You can cut or tear bags before putting them in the trash in case your pet finds a way to the trash can.

Watch what's left after lunch. Banana and orange peels, apple cores, milk or cheese products, or other food remnants that didn't make it to the garbage at school can create dangerous blockages if ingested. Foods that transition into science experiments also can present a problem. Moldy foods can contain fungal neurotoxins that can make your pet very ill.

Make sure lunchboxes are emptied at school or that they make it to a safe location when your child returns home. Dispose of any garbage or leftovers right away in trash bins that are not accessible to pets.

Backpacks can contain hidden dangers. Back-to-school time also can lead to the return of backpacks on the floor or by the door. Our pets can be curious and persistent.

Mind the medications. ADHD medications, albuterol inhalers, and even over-the-counter pain relief medications (NSAIDs and acetaminophen) can be dangerous for pets. These items may be in a backpack for easy access during the school day, but human medications should not be shared with pets.

Guard your gum. As mentioned earlier, sugar-free gum often contains xylitol, which is dangerous for pets. Xylitol can cause low blood sugar, seizures, liver failure, or even death. This caution extends to any sugar-free mints or candies that might be lurking in your child's backpack.

Set aside school supplies. Pencils, pens, erasers, and other bite-sized school supplies can be tempting if you have a pet who likes to chew. Broken, sharp pieces of pencils, pens, and other items can damage your pet's gastrointestinal tract or cause an obstruction if swallowed. In general, ink from pens or markers is not toxic unless ingested in very large amounts. However, it could create quite a mess to clean up.

Use caution with cords. Computer electrical cords can present a danger if your pet chews on a cord while it's plugged in, or pets could get themselves caught in the cord.

Your pet's health and safety are our top priorities, and we hope these tips help you avoid a back-to-school pet emergency. We know that despite our best efforts, accidents can happen. If your pet is experiencing an emergency—or you just want more back-to-school safety tips—contact our staff and myself, Dr. Cindy Anderson, at Lakelands Trail Veterinary Clinic.

*Cindy Anderson, DVM, is a graduate of MSU Veterinary College (1992) and has practiced veterinary medicine for over 28 years. Lakelands Trail Veterinary Clinic, 4525 S. M-52, Stockbridge, MI 49285, 517-655-5551.*

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# Obituary Elsie Bailey



**Elsie Bailey**  
Oct. 6, 1926 to Aug. 10, 2024

**Elsie Bailey**, age 97, peacefully passed away on August 10, 2024, at Safe Haven Assisted Living of Mason. Born on October 6, 1926, in Waldo, Kentucky, she was the beloved daughter of Elliott and Martha Wireman.

Elsie was preceded in death by her husband, Mort Bailey; her parents; and her siblings, Roberta, Victor, Stella, Henry, and Elliott Jr. She leaves behind her

children, Gary (Kathy) Bailey and Sherry (Joel) Powell; grandchildren, Angela (Bob) Stolarz, Laurie (Brandon) Khozouie, Ryan (Katie) Powell, Scott Powell, Christian (Stephanie) Powell, and Zachary Powell; great-grandchildren, Bailey, Ashley, Courtney, Emily, Paige, Jackson, Madelyn, and Ilee; and great-great-grandson, Owen.

Elsie lived a simple life and found joy in tending to her garden, the rhythm of square dancing, and the companionship of her dear friend, Gabriele Mikelonis, with whom she often enjoyed shopping and going out to dinner.

In accordance with her wishes, cremation has taken place. A private graveside service will be held at Fitchburg Cemetery in Stockbridge, Michigan.

## Stockbridge Schools recognizes staff dedication based on years of service to the district

by Mary Jo David

On Aug. 13, the Stockbridge School District took time out of busy start-of-the-year preparations to recognize staff members who have reached milestone years of service in the district. As Superintendent Brian Friddle announced the names of these staff members, Carrie Graham, president of the SCS Board of Education, presented each with a pin celebrating their years of service.

*All photos by Steve Keskes, director of Grants and Academic Innovation*



**5 Years of Service**

Pictured left to right: Superintendent Brian Friddle, Judy Esper, Amber Robidou, Dena Sommer, Rebecca Barghini, Rita Stricklin, Ben Kruse, and SCS Board of Education President Carrie Graham.

## CADL Stockbridge page 1

Learn about all of this at [cadl.org](http://cadl.org).

We're always here to help you in person, but did you know that your library card can get you access to tons of sites, from ABC mouse to World Book, where kids can learn new skills, get tutoring help, find a good book, get the information they need to complete an assignment, or just find out more about a topic they love with engaging reference sites geared to their grade level. We'll be happy to help you find the right research/learning tool for your child.

At the branch, we will be continuing with two new drop-in STEAM projects every month. On school half days, we'll also have a special STEAM project available from noon-5 p.m. For the first one, on Sept. 18, we'll be celebrating Talk Like a Pirate Day with some pirate-themed activities!

For the littles, Family Story Time will resume on Wednesdays from 10:30 – 11 a.m. starting Sept. 11. We're beginning a monthly family movie/craft night on Sept. 18 from 5:30–6:45 p.m.

We wish everyone a great school year!

Capital Area District Libraries' Stockbridge branch is located at 200 Wood St. For more information, call 517-851-7810 or visit [cadl.org](http://cadl.org).

# Thank You

FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The Stockbridge Community News team would like to thank those in the community who continue to send donations in response to our article in the February edition about rising costs. Special thanks to those listed here whose donations were received between July 26 - Aug. 21, 2024. We truly appreciate the support of our community, and we look forward to continuing to provide a quality, local paper. Donations can be sent to Stockbridge Community News at P.O. Box 83, Gregory, MI 48137

- Denise and Larry Allen
- Gabriele Mikelonis
- John and Nancy Ocwieja



**25 Years of Service**

Pictured left to right: Friddle, Terri Grant, Nichole Whitt, Angie Nichols, Nichole Borowy and Patty Pniewski.



**30 Years of Service**

Pictured left to right: Friddle, Angie Filice, Cheryl Walsh, and Graham. (Not pictured: Brenda Clear.)



**55 Years of Service**

Pictured left to right: Friddle, Mike DeMint, and Graham.



**10 Years of Service**

Pictured left to right: Friddle, Sherri Cole, Brian Smith, and Graham.



**15 Years of Service**

Pictured left to right: Friddle, Bonnie Rattai, Lori Zemke, and Graham.



**20 Years of Service**

Pictured left to right: Steve Allison, Josh Nichols, Christina Villegas, Alexis Dyer, and Lynn Balkus.



John and Theresa  
Kightlinger

## Ask an Expert How to handle collision insurance

by John and Theresa Kightlinger

In the United States, there are nearly 14,000 vehicle accidents every day, according to data from the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. With the real possibility of a crash, it's important to know what to do following an accident, especially for collision insurance.

Let's explore collision insurance and learn how this coverage is instrumental in the collision repair process.

**What is collision insurance?** Collision insurance is a type of coverage designed to repair your vehicle or replace it after you've been in an accident, including:

- You have a vehicle accident with another vehicle.
- You have an accident that involves another object, such as a pole, fence, or guardrail.
- You are in an accident and another vehicle crashes into yours, such as a hit-and-run accident.
- Your vehicle rolls over.

In most instances, collision insurance is an optional coverage, which means you often will need to pay additional money to add this protection to your insurance coverage.

However, if you have a car loan or are leasing your vehicle, most lenders will require you to have collision insurance.

**What does collision insurance not cover?** While collision insurance can cover an array of situations, there are specific instances where your collision insurance would not pay benefits. These include:

- Injuries.
- Damage to another individual's car.
- Any damage sustained because of hail, flood, or other weather-related incidents.
- Stolen vehicle.
- Repairs to an object you crash into (such as a pole or fence).

If you want coverage for damage caused by fire, hail, flood, theft, or animal collision, you'll need comprehensive insurance.

**How does collision insurance work for collision repair?** If you have been in an accident with another vehicle, your collision insurance may pay for your car repair bills after you've paid the deductible. For example, if your car repair bills totaled \$4,500 and you have a deductible of \$500, your collision insurance would offer up to \$4,000 for your car repair bills.

After you file a claim with your insurance company, an adjuster will estimate the amount it will cost to repair your vehicle. Then, they will offer you a settlement amount.

**Can you negotiate the collision insurance amount?** Yes. After you've been in an accident, you and your car insurance company must agree on a fair payout for your vehicle's damage. Although the insurance company may enter negotiations with the upper hand, you can negotiate the amount. If the insurer's initial offer isn't sufficient, you can ask them to explain the offer.

Make sure you have a clear understanding of the factors they used to determine the amount. Afterward, you can make a counter proposal based on the repair estimates you have received. Oftentimes, the insurance company will offer your payout amount based on the cheapest possible scenario.

However, as the insurance policy holder, you deserve to have the auto accident repair performed at any shop you choose. Besides, you don't want the work performed by inexperienced auto body repair technicians. Instead, it's best to have the job done by a quality collision repair center.

*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.*

## Energy-Generating page 3

The school district is slated to be the recipient of four new electric buses, thanks to combined grants awarded by the federal government, state of Michigan, and Consumers Energy. These buses should reduce operating costs from 90 cents per mile to 40 cents per mile and will be much quieter than older gas-powered buses.

The district leveraged resources in areas where they were saving money and applied those funds to purchase a new, 10-passenger van for the district. The intent is for the van to be used for transporting smaller teams and groups to their competitions and events.

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# Welcome aboard to new staff at Stockbridge Community Schools

by Mary Jo David

On August 13, the cafeteria at the Stockbridge Jr./Sr. High School was abuzz with excitement and activity as returning and new staff assembled for a Welcome Back Breakfast. Near the top of the morning's agenda was time spent introducing—and welcoming—new staff members.

All photos by Steve Keskes, director of Grants and Academic Innovation



**Heritage School**  
Principal Meghan Kunzelman (right) welcomes new Heritage staff, left to right, Andrea Maples (4th grade) and Geoffrey Gauthier (6th grade).



**Stockbridge Jr./Sr. High School**  
Left to right: Jr./Sr. High School principal, Jeff Trapp, welcomes new staff, including Heather McNaughton (special education), Bonnie Davis (English), and Sara Steinkraus (paraprofessional).



**Smith Elementary**  
New Smith Elementary staff, left to right, Emily Hoard (1st grade), Hannah Gutting (student teacher, 2nd grade), and Kyle Lilley (kindergarten), are welcomed by Smith principal Brad Edwards (right). Not pictured: New 1st grade teacher Sheila Queener.



**Transportation Department**  
Transportation supervisor Nikki Clear welcomes new bus driver Niki Heiman (right). Not pictured: New driver Kaycee Hurt.



**Technology Team**  
Aidan Scott (left) is welcomed to the Technology team by Michael Partridge (right), ISD director of information technology.

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## Rock 'n' Roll page 8

Q: I feel stupid for asking, but what do the initials in LL Cool J stand for?

A: LL Cool J stands for "Ladies Love Cool James," the stage name for singer/rapper/vocalist James Todd Smith III. Smith was born on Jan. 14, 1968, in Queens, New York. As a child, he sang in the church choir, was a Boy Scout and a paperboy. James has grown into a fine actor and currently lives with his wife, Simone, and four kids.

John Robinson grew up in Stockbridge and graduated from Stockbridge High School in 1969. He's been an author, TV host, columnist, actor, producer, emcee and radio broadcaster. Robinson's favorite music of all time includes surf, psychedelia, garage bands, Motown and just plain ol' good-time rock 'n' roll. To read more rock 'n' roll trivia, "Paranormal Michigan" stories, and lots more, check out Robinson's books on his author page at [facebook.com/johnrobinsonauthor](https://facebook.com/johnrobinsonauthor).

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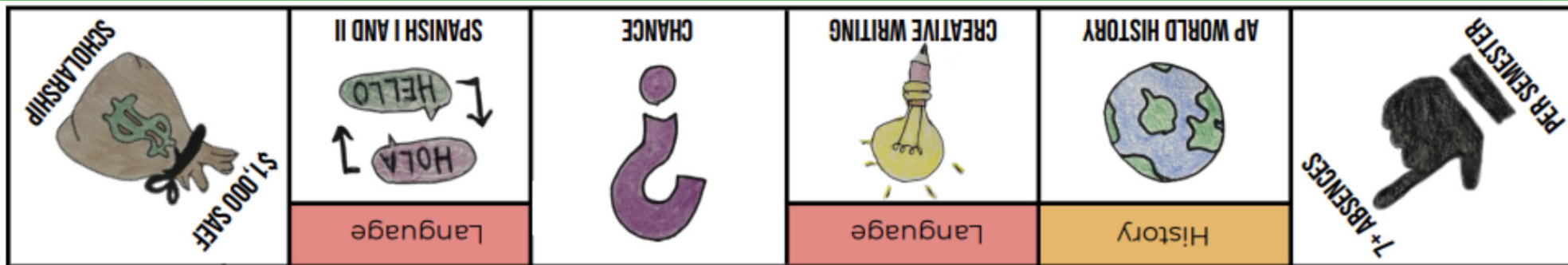
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Published in Uncaged, May 2024

Photo from uncagednews.com

## A GAME OF MONOPOLY: Landing on the right opportunities in school

by Grace Burg, *Uncaged* Reporter

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

The access to a well-rounded education is something all parents want for their children.

"I decided to enroll my children in Stockbridge because at the time there were a few very strong academic classes in the school which showed me it was the right school for my kids," Spanish teacher Christina Villegas said.

Villegas isn't the only staff member that enrolls their children in the school district. When it comes to picking a school for your children many things are considered such as the courses they will be enrolled in, the activities they offer and the school's assistance programs for some low-income families.

### Education

Although education is viewed as the most important part of adolescent development, many studies show that education in the United States has significantly dropped in the past 20 years. According to American Progress, only two states align with the coursework required to receive a high school diploma that is up to public university standards, and Michigan isn't one of them. With this statistic, the education system would seem concerning for most parents. However, the school's spending and budget information is located on its website as a way of allowing complete transparency within the community as well as individuals such as these concerned parents.

Another thing that our school has done recently was switching from the four blocks to the six blocks schedule. This changed the core classes to be taken for the entire year instead of for just a semester. This allows more in-depth "learning" with more class time. This also allows both the Junior and Senior High to be on the same schedule which allows teachers to sub for others when they are on their planning. This keeps both sections of the school combined and more like a community. Along with this, there has been a change in the class options since the block structure has changed. So, although the school lose classes such as wildlife biology, astronomy and debate, others will take their place including two new languages, French and German, and a personal finance class that is now state mandatory. The school has also purchased a whole new math curriculum for kindergarten through grade 12.

"I have talked with teachers like Mrs. Stricklin and Ms. Doering about what would best for the students in the following year," Curriculum Director Amy Hodgson said.

*See Uncaged on page 19.*



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Mon, September 23 (2-4pm)



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## Avis page 1

For as long as he's known her, academics have always been important to Avis. When Allison joined the staff at Stockbridge, he was thrilled to see his old friend was also on the staff.

"Her consistency and persistence are why her students and the staff who work with Lissa do so well," Allison explained.

As a case in point, he mentioned how well prepared his algebra students have always been when they finish their time in Avis' class. When working with others, Allison regularly asks the question "What is your why?" but he says that after years of experience working with Avis—he never questions her "why," he just knows she's doing the right thing.

Lockhart shared selections about Avis from her nomination letter to the SAEF Board. She pointed out that Avis teaches the most advanced math course at the high school—AP Calculus—and although she does so with a very high success rate, she is extremely humble about this accomplishment.

On a personal level, Lockhart recalled seeking out Avis' advice when Lockhart was a new teacher faced with struggling students who were acting out. Avis patiently brainstormed with Lockhart and shared proven resources Avis used in her own classroom to help Lockhart get over the hump.

"I implemented those resources and it made all the difference in my teaching and my students' learning for years to come," Lockhart recalled.

Lockhart sees Avis as an "expert at curriculum design and delivery" who works hard to come up with ideas for challenging her students "to think at their highest level and achieve their best."

As Avis' family looked on, Lockhart praised Avis for being so willing to give her time—even after regular school hours and during summer tutoring sessions—to provide students with extra help when they needed it.

All of the Avis "extras" pay off in the long run for her students. Lockhart cited a past student of Avis' who has gone on to a very successful career. According to this past student, "I love Mrs. Avis! ... Everything I do in supply-chain management is just solving a complex mathematical story

problem, and she prepared me for that."

During her own college years, Avis was placed in the doctoral math program at Michigan State University and was basically told she was too smart for public school teaching. Avis' response: "Isn't that the exact person you'd want teaching your kid?"

All of Stockbridge can be thankful for that kind of wisdom from Lissa Avis, who continues to dedicate her time and efforts in making SCS students successful.

*Helen Bullis Mitteer was born in Pinckney, Michigan, in 1910. In the fall of 1929, she started teaching in a rural, one-room schoolhouse between Pinckney and Gregory. For over 40 years, Mrs. Mitteer was a committed, caring, and patient teacher to thousands of students in the Stockbridge community. Her dedication to Stockbridge Schools is now perpetuated through the financial support provided to those employees who reflect her unselfish commitment to the students of Stockbridge Schools.*

## Woah Nellie page 4

Admittedly, I never made my dad's recipe for "Kielbasa and Sauerkraut" until now.

I think I preferred to keep the memory tucked away where I couldn't spoil it by messing up the recipe. I wish I'd had him here this time to coach me on whether to buy regular or smoked kielbasa (I bought smoked); whether to bake the sauerkraut mixture covered or uncovered (I covered it); and what to do after adding the cut-up kielbasa. (I put the covered roaster back in the oven for another hour.)

But as I share his special recipe with all of you, I know, without a doubt, that he'd be just as happy as we were with the result. And if he could, he'd be calling me from heaven (on a rotary-dial phone, of course), to tell me to be sure to save him some!

### All You Can Eat Country Breakfast



**18<sup>th</sup> Annual ALL CLUBS DAY**

**First Presbyterian Church  
of Stockbridge**  
Sun., Sept. 15 ~ 8 to Noon

**homemade biscuits &  
gravy, eggs, waffles,  
French toast sticks,  
hashbrowns, bacon and  
sausage patties**

— CASH ONLY —

Adults.....	\$15
Children 5-10 yrs .....	\$8
Under 5 yrs .....	Free

All proceeds support local missions  
and outreach programs.

## Uncaged page 18

"Things will just naturally continue to get better and better because you've got good people here."  
**Community betterment**

Once a month, the students have a half day. This allows the teachers to partake in the Professional Learning Community run by Principal Jeff Trapp and Assistant Principal Derek Douglas, who take time each half day to help the teachers learn more about improving their class content along with what will better benefit the students.

"My main focus right now is assessment and the assessment process. Our professional development days allow for me to help teachers understand what is needed to grow the students' knowledge," Trapp said. The building isn't the only place where students can expand their knowledge and interests. They are also able to participate in the Wilson Talent Center and dual enrollment provided by LCC which gives students a head start on pursuing their passions after high school. This also allows them to receive free college credit while still in high school.

Senior Taylor Lockhart is one of the many students who took the opportunities offered with dual enrollment. She decided to first enroll in college classes her junior year and followed her senior year. "Dual enrollment has greatly benefited me as a student and my education as a whole because it has allowed me to not only earn high school credit but also college credit as well. I will already be receiving my associates degree from Lansing Community College when I graduate high school," Lockhart said. Lockhart's willingness to follow her dreams and passions has led her to an early head start in the career she wants to pursue which is what the school wants for all its students.

"All of these opportunities are what we would love for students to have and feel that there's an option that allows them to get a head start on what they want to do after they graduate," Hodgson 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.panthern.net/our-district](http://www.panthern.net/our-district).



# STOCKBRIDGE SPORTS

## Soccer team battling as season kicks off

by Mike Williamson

A short-handed Stockbridge soccer team has battled hard over the first week of the season and lost some close matches.

The Panthers opened the season by traveling to Dansville with just 10 players and came up short against the rival Aggies 4-2.

Dansville took a 2-0 lead in the first half and pushed the lead to 3-0 early in the second when the Panthers finally found the net.

Koen Griffith got the Panthers back within one with a pair of goals, but the Aggies sealed the win with a late goal for the 4-2 win.

With the warm summer day, the Panthers were forced to play with just eight players at times, but still took the Aggies to the very end.

The Panthers then dropped a tough 3-2 decision to Quincy.

Mateo Ortiz-Martinez scored the goals for the Panthers.

The Panthers took part in the Perry Invite Aug. 24 and went 1-2 on the day. They dropped tough matches to Leslie 2-0 and Charlotte 1-0 but bounced back to beat Perry in a shootout 6-5.

The Panthers and Perry were tied 2-2 after regulation with goals by Finn Coffman and Griffith and the game went into a shootout.

Stockbridge got hot in the shootout with Ethan Bradley, Griffith, Spencer Steinkraus, and Bradley Rowe scoring penalty kicks to help the Panthers pull out the win for their first victory of the season.

## Cross country teams open at Webberville

by Mike Williamson

The Stockbridge cross country teams opened their season Aug. 24 at Webberville's Happy Acres Invite.

The boys came home with a sixth-place finish.

William Gancer led the Panthers with a sixth-place finish overall with a time of 18:02.1.

Grant Howlett was 29th in 22:10.4 and Alex Avis 34th in 22:25.4. Steven Karowich was 47th in 25:05.4, Owen Cipta 60th in 33:32.6 and Wyatt Okoney 62nd in 36:11.6.

The girls had just four runners and did not place in the team standings.

Ava Vacarro led Stockbridge with a 23rd-place finish in 24:46.1.

Emily Satkowiak was 37th in 28:27.3, Ella Hardesty 62nd in 36:07.8, and Kaylee McClellan 63rd in 36:10.5.

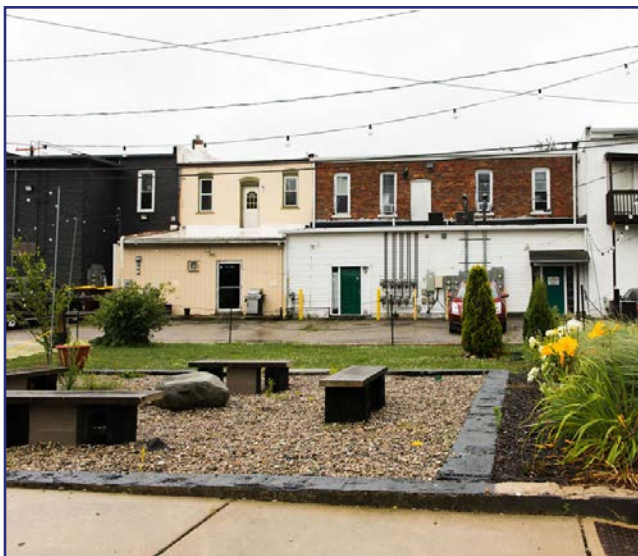


Ethan Bradley tries to move toward the Dansville net. Photos provided by Mike Williamson



Bradley Rowe battles a Dansville player in front of the net.

## Village of Stockbridge revamps outdoor patio at new office with LEAP grant



The Village of Stockbridge updated its outdoor patio space recently. Utilizing grant funding from the LEAP award it received, the patio now boasts multiple outdoor seating options in town. Photos provided by the Village of Stockbridge