



# STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY NEWS

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## Stockbridge Community School Board celebrates Judy Heeney's 44-year legacy



Left to right: Carrie Graham, SCS board president, honors Judy Heeney on Dec. 9 for her 44 years of dedicated service to the school district. Photo provided by Jessica Lane

by Jessica Lane

On Dec. 9, a remarkable milestone was celebrated as Judy Heeney was honored for her 44 years of dedicated service to the Stockbridge Community School District's school board. A reception, held before the final board of education meeting of the year, brought together family, friends, colleagues, and community members to recognize Judy's enduring contributions to the district. The event, marked by cake, punch, and cookies, was a heartwarming gathering filled with gratitude and admiration for a woman whose impact on the school district spans over four decades.

Judy's journey with the district began in 1980 when she was first elected to the school board.

Since then, she has been an unwavering advocate for students, educators, and the community. Her service is not just a story of tenure; it is a reflection of her

commitment to ensuring that the students of Stockbridge had access to the best education and opportunities. From the beginning, Judy's involvement has gone beyond meetings and decisions; it has been about building a legacy of care and support for generations of learners. Throughout her service, Judy witnessed the educational journey of her children, her grandchildren, and now even her great-grandchildren, as they all attended and thrived in the district she helped shape.

The evening's festivities culminated in the final board meeting of 2024, where Judy was formally recognized for her extraordinary service. Carrie Graham, board president, took the floor to present Judy with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Michigan School Board Association, acknowledging her significant contributions to education.

See Judy Heeney on page 9.

## Longtime Stockbridge Community Schools employee retires after 35 years



by Judy Williams

Karen Bradford has retired after 35 years of working for the Stockbridge Community School District. Bradford started out as a crossing guard, then a paraprofessional for numerous classrooms, and ended her career as a secretary. Bradford, who dressed for the school's holiday spirit day, bid farewell during an open house in honor of her service to the district.

## Volunteers remember and honor local deceased veterans



Commander Jim Grime (American Legion Post 510) addresses veterans who will place the service branch wreaths at the base of the cemetery's memorial flagpole. Photo credit Mary Jo David

by Mary Jo David

It was sunny but cold on Saturday, Dec. 14, as volunteers, bundled for the weather, gathered to distribute wreaths on veterans' graves at Oaklawn Cemetery in Stockbridge. Oaklawn was one of 4,600 participating locations in Wreaths Across America Day, a national event for remembering the legacy of America's deceased veterans.

See Veterans on page 3.

**2024 Award of Excellence and Readership Awards:** See page 4 to read about 2024's winners.

**Varsity Cheer wins first-ever invitational title:** See page 16.

**School Bus Safety Tips:** Winter break is coming to an end. Brush up on your school bus safety knowledge on page 19.

**SCN's 2024 Top Stories:** See page 20 for a recap of the most popular articles from 2024.

## Rural Perspectives: House finch likely to be found near buildings and homes



Diane Gray Constable

by Diane Constable

The non-native house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) is seen frequently at our bird feeders year-round. They have naturalized without competing or displacing our native birds and are often seen with our native goldfinches.

The first word of the scientific name, *Haemorhous*, means blood red for the male's color and the second word, *mexicanus*, is for their native habitat of Mexico and Southwest North America.



The male house finch is easily identified by its red-colored body and the brownish and white streaks on its wings and belly. Photo credit Diane Constable or more.

This colorful house finch lives up to its name because it is more likely to be seen around buildings and homes than in the open fields and woods. The male is easily identified by its reddish head, breast, and rump and the brownish and white streaks on its wings and belly. Eating red fruits and berries enhances the redness of the male bird. The female is a duller brown and white-streaked bird, although sometimes it can have a bit of a yellow cast.

They can form large flocks of 50-100

House finches mate for life and the female does the nest building. She makes a small cupped-type nest made of small leaves, grass, and feathers that is about 3-6 inches across. It can be in trees, shrubs, or building ledges. The male's job is to feed her while she does all the egg-sitting.

The house finch will lay up to six eggs and have two to three clutches per year. Once the eggs hatch in about 13 days, the male and female both feed the chicks, which will fledge about 14 days later. They grow to be about 5.5 inches long, will weigh about two-thirds of an ounce, and live up to 10 years.

The house finch is a true vegetarian—eating mostly a variety of fruits, berries and seeds such as dandelion, thistle, wild mustard and sunflower seeds. They also are easily attracted to bird feeders and birdbaths. They need more water than many birds, up to one-half their body weight. They successfully chase off other birds from their food and nesting sites, particularly the house sparrow, a non-native bird that competes and destroys nests of our native birds.

**Fun Fact:** In the 1930s and 1940s this Southwestern bird was being illegally captured in California. They were shipped to New York City, renamed and sold in pet stores as caged birds called "Hollywood Finches." That is, until there was a crackdown on capturing, selling and owning these wild birds, because it is a serious violation of the Migratory Bird Act of 1918. Merchants and pet owners alike set them free to avoid prosecution. The birds thrived and the populations expanded westward and now can be found throughout the country.

*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. She serves on the board of the Ann Arbor Dog Training Club and is editor of the club's newsletter.*

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# Stockbridge Community News reconnects long-ago neighbors across the miles

by Joan Tucker

Mindy Kerr of Waterloo Recreation Area has read multiple articles written by Don Porter in the Stockbridge Community News and, more recently, she read about Porter in SCN's "Celebrating Men of the Hour" article published in November.

Kerr asked herself, "Could it be that this Don Porter was the big brother of Janey Porter, her childhood friend?" That would be the same Don Porter whose parents were good friends with her parents when they lived in Ypsilanti.

Kerr's father, Thomas Moore, pressed his daughter to find out, so she emailed me and asked to be put in contact with Porter. After doing some investigating, lo and behold, it was the same Porter family! So upon getting permission from Porter, SCN put Kerr in contact with him so she and her



After many years, Thomas Moore (left), of Ypsilanti, and Don Porter (right), of Stockbridge, rekindle a friendship with the help of Moore's daughter. Photo credit Tammy Porter

father could reach out. A date was made for Porter and his wife, Tammy, to visit Kerr and Moore, who is a retired and renowned entomologist from the University of Michigan. Father and daughter share the same home. When Moore, Kerr, and the Porters got together, they spent quality time reminiscing about earlier years living in Ypsilanti, catching up on life in general, and sharing their amazement at how small this world is.

Porter recounted his visit. "I had no idea that Tom was in the area, and I hadn't seen him in years. I remembered going on 'bug hunts' with him and one of my childhood friends in the area. As a young kid, I was really impressed with how much he knew about insects. He was a good teacher and terrific neighbor. What a special treat to be able to reconnect with him and his daughter!"

Considering Thomas Moore's accomplishments in the field of entomology, it was no surprise that one of Porter's standout memories is Moore's lessons on bugs all those years ago.

To learn "more about Moore," see "Longtime U-M entomologist thrilled by arrival of 17-year cicadas in Ann Arbor area" in University of Michigan News [news.umich.edu/longtime-u-m-entomologist-thrilled-by-arrival-of-17-year-cicadas-in-ann-arbor-area/](https://news.umich.edu/longtime-u-m-entomologist-thrilled-by-arrival-of-17-year-cicadas-in-ann-arbor-area/).

To read "Celebrating Men of the Hour" featuring Don Porter, go to [stockbridgecommunitynews.com/donald-porter-opened-doors-to-education/](https://stockbridgecommunitynews.com/donald-porter-opened-doors-to-education/).

## Veterans page 1



Veteran salutes after placing a service branch wreath at the Oaklawn Cemetery's memorial flagpole. Photos by Mary Jo David

In a short opening ceremony, Jim Grime, commander of American Legion Post 510 in Stockbridge, announced each of the service branches represented, with a wreath placed at the base of the memorial flagpole in the cemetery.

The following veterans were in attendance to place these symbolic wreaths.

- Army: AC Allen.
- Marine Corps: Jerry Kunzelman.
- Navy: Marty Bliss.
- Air Force: Chris Carr.

In addition, Jeral Whitaker laid a wreath at the flagpole to represent American prisoners of war and those missing in action (POW/MIA).

Following the ceremony, volunteers distributed a trailer full of wreaths, placing one at the gravestone or marker for each veteran interred in the cemetery.



Volunteers treat each veteran's grave with dignity and respect.

Before setting out to distribute the wreaths, Grimes reminded the volunteers they were not there to "decorate the gravesites," but rather to acknowledge and honor the commitment and sacrifice of each veteran in the cemetery. He encouraged volunteers to remember to speak the name of each veteran when placing a wreath.

All photos by Mary Jo David. See additional photos at [www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com](http://www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com).

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# 2024 Award of Excellence and Readership Award winners

## Congratulations Rachel Sweet and Kelsey Rasmussen

by Agnes Geiger, Patrice Johnson and Mary Jo David

In 2020, the Stockbridge Community News introduced two annual awards—the Award of Excellence and the Readership Award. Both awards honor dedicated people who make essential contributions to our newspaper and its mission to promote the common good of residents through publication of local news and useful community information.

### Award of Excellence Winner: Rachel Sweet

As an acknowledgment of her fine work and dedication, Rachel Sweet has been recognized with the Stockbridge Community News annual Award of Excellence for 2024.

The award was created in 2020 to recognize SCN's unsung heroes. These are the people who may work in the background with little recognition, but they play a critical role in making SCN a quality publication for the community.

Sweet began her involvement with SCN after kindly listening to her mother-in-law, SCN Treasurer Judy Williams, explain about how much time it was taking to do the invoicing.

"Being a sweet daughter-in-law, Rachel offered to help out, even though, living in Lake Orion, she knew little about the community," Williams recalls.

This moment of weakness was seven years ago. Sweet has been on the job ever since. She is a member of SCN's Support Team, working in billing.

Each month, Sweet receives a list of advertisers who need to be billed for ads in the previous month's edition of SCN. Based on that list, she creates and distributes each invoice to the appropriate business or individual. She's also responsible for sending out late notices. The work is time-consuming and demands accuracy and attention to detail.

Joan Tucker, president of the SCN board of directors, knows Sweet is a valued member of the newspaper's team.

"Rachel is solid," Tucker said. "She has done her job well for the past seven years and we can always count on her month after month."

Sweet grew up in Monroe and attended Monroe High School. She later earned a bachelor's in mathematics education from the University of Toledo. Recently, she earned an associate degree in business from Oakland Community College.

Sweet currently is employed as the administrative assistant to the vice rector of Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. She's also active in her parish.

She has been married for 23 years to Williams' oldest son, John Sweet. They have two sons, Gregory and Jake, both college students.

Williams finds it remarkable that Sweet has continued to find time for her SCN duties throughout the years, considering family and other work responsibilities. She also feels very fortunate to have a great assistant in such a crucial role.

"Rachel has been my lifeline," Williams said. "She is always willing to make any last-minute adjustments and changes. I don't know what I would do without her help."

### Readership Award Winner: Kelsey Rasmussen

Just over one year ago, Kelsey Rasmussen, along with fellow teacher Amanda Mathews, recognized a need and approached the editors at Stockbridge Community News with a proposal for a new Positive Parenting column. Since launching the column in December 2023, Rasmussen has held primary responsibility for overseeing the column, including identifying guest columnists, managing submissions, and regularly submitting her own column entries.

For her professionalism, management and strong writing skills, Rasmussen is being recognized as SCN's 2024 Readership Award winner.

For over a year, Rasmussen has ensured SCN's Positive Parenting content fills what had previously been a void in subjects directed at younger adults, and specifically parents in the community.

Guided by the goals outlined in the original proposal, she has sought out guest contributors who can write on topics for educating parents of local children—from toddlers through school age—improving the enjoyment they derive from parenting, and helping to increase youngsters' socio-emotional and cognitive development.

As an educator, Rasmussen, who is a native of Michigan, is nationally certified to teach chemistry and holds two masters degrees: an M.S. in Geo Sciences from the University of Michigan and an M.A. in Education from the University of Pennsylvania.

In her time spent in Pennsylvania, Colorado, and in Stockbridge, she has taught high school science, math, physics, chemistry and advanced placement computer science.

While at UM, Rasmussen received a prestigious Knowles Science Teaching Foundation (KSTF) grant, awarded each year to about 30 math and science university students across the nation. KSTF fosters the professional development of "teachers who are collaborative, innovative leaders," and focuses on making positive educational change.

Today, she is a fellow with KSTF, and educational journals have published her research.

During her time teaching in Longmont, Colorado, Rasmussen's robotics team won national recognition, and she led the development of the school's STEM program, helping to found the successful Girls Who Code group to attract young women to the computer sciences.

Kelsey and husband Eric are residents of Stockbridge and full-time parents of preschool-aged twins.

"Through the effort she puts into finding knowledgeable contributors for the Positive Parenting column and the topics they write about, it's clear to me Kelsey has found a way to apply her extensive science and research skills to the art of parenting," said Mary Jo David, SCN's editor-in-chief.

Considering most parents have had little-to-no parenting training when their first child comes along, the content presented by Rasmussen and her fellow Positive Parenting columnists has been a welcome addition to readers of the Stockbridge Community News.

### Rachel Sweet, Award of Excellence 2024



*Sweet, a valued, long-time member of SCN's Support Team, handles the invoicing of our advertisers. She is dedicated to this crucial job that demands accuracy and attention to detail, and she plays a critical role in keeping SCN sustainable.*

### Kelsey Rasmussen, Readership Award 2024



*Rasmussen manages the Positive Parenting column to promote the art of parenting. She writes content and invites guest columnists to broaden the column's perspective. Her professionalism, management and strong writing skills are highly valued at SCN.*

## Outreach in Action

# Collaboration between Outreach and South Michigan Food Bank still going strong



by Jo Mayer and Paul Crandall

Nearly 10 years after its inception, a collaboration between Stockbridge Community Outreach and the South Michigan Food Bank is still going strong, according to coordinator Dianna Carpenter.

Offering a monthly food distribution for low-income families in Jackson County, the partnership has grown over the years. It's blossomed from an initial, summer-only distribution of 3-5 pounds per recipient to a year-round distribution of about 20 pounds per recipient being distributed to about 150 households.

Now funded by Outreach, the collaboration was launched in the summer of 2015 by local residents and Outreach volunteers Craig and Laurie Goodlock, with Jeruel Baptist Church serving as the drop-off spot.

Once the boxes arrive at Jeruel, Carpenter positions her team of 10-15 volunteers into two groups that place the boxes, and sometimes supplemental baked goods, into cars queued up to receive. Distribution takes place between 4 and 5 p.m. on the second Monday of the month.

To round out the picture, we initiated a quick conversation with Brittney Fletcher, chief operating officer of the South Michigan Food Bank, who answered the following questions.

**What is usually included in the food boxes?** In each box there is a combination of fruits, vegetables, dairy and dry items. We try to keep the boxes as fresh as we can, but being in Michigan during the winter months, we are limited to what is available and sometimes have to add shelf-stable items like nuts, dried fruit or beans.

**What sources do you use to fill the boxes?** We use a combination of USDA, donated, and purchased food, and products from the Michigan Agricultural Surplus System.

**Has it been harder to get food since the pandemic?** For the most part, our food supply chain is back to normal, but there has been an increase in the need. We have more people needing food now due to inflation. There are so many people now that are just struggling to make ends meet and need the extra help.

Some additional information gleaned from the website ([smfoodbank.org](http://smfoodbank.org)): In 2023, South Michigan Food Bank agency partners grew to include over 360 locations across the food bank's eight-county service area. The food bank is one of 200 across the nation, and coordinates with 100 sites receiving fresh food distributions.

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

*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.*



Towers of boxed food on pallets dropped off by South Michigan Food Bank in the parking lot of Jeruel Baptist Church.

Photos by Jo Mayer

## From CADL Stockbridge

# Want to fight clutter or read more in 2025? The Stockbridge Library can help



Join CADL Stockbridge for its Winter Reading Challenge from Jan. 13 to Feb. 28. Graphic provided by CADL Stockbridge

of course, the library can help with that. Just type "clutter" into CADL's catalog search box at [cadl.org/catalog](http://cadl.org/catalog), and many titles pop up: "Clutter Free," by Kathi Lipp; "Clutter Busting," by Brooks Palmer; "Clutter Solutions-201 Genius Hacks, 5 Days to a Clutter-Free House," by Sandra Felton and many more.

Explora's Home Improvement database is another source for clutter-busting ideas. Provided by the Library of Michigan and found on the CADL website at [cadl.org/research-learn/research-tools-guides/hobbies-diy](http://cadl.org/research-learn/research-tools-guides/hobbies-diy), this database is a good place to start for online accessible books and articles for home improvement projects.

See CADL Stockbridge on page 8.

by Sherri McConnell  
CADL Stockbridge  
Head Librarian

Now that the big-box stores have replaced winter and holiday decorations with storage bins, many people attempt to fulfill that common New Year's resolution, eliminating clutter.

It always helps to start with a plan and ideas and,



Dianna Carpenter (front, clipboard in hand) and her team prepare to distribute food in early December.



### 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)

### Our Mission

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

### Our Board of Directors

Joan Tucker	President
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Rachel Sweet	Billing Support
Chuck Wisman	Subscription Coordinator

### Our Writers

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

### Editor-in-Chief Emeritus

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

### We would love to hear from you!

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

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## Active Aging

# Welcome to a new year of good intentions, living in the moment

by Stacey Mason



Stacey Mason

Chances are, many members of the Stockbridge Area Senior Center, not to mention staff, and board members, made resolutions for the new year. The usuals are eating healthy meals, exercising more, being more active, etc. These are always great ideas, yet many drop them within the first month.

I'd like to propose a different way of looking at the new year and the clean slate we each get on Jan. 1.

Let's shift our focus from resolve to intention.

To resolve means to set and take action. Setting an intention is to look at your values, what has meaning for you, and how you choose to move through the world and then intently move in that direction. An intention feels less harsh or judgmental than a resolution. I've never had anyone ask me if I'm still working on my intention; whereas, many people question how one's resolution is progressing.

An intention also feels much more personal. It's about one's value system. For example, I may set an intention of being more present and living in the moment. That requires me to listen more intently, recognize when I'm daydreaming, and focus more intently on the current activity.

This is one example based on my value of relationship-building and connection.

**A life built on living intentionally requires introspection and questioning, being more present and living in the moment.** Image credit Nicola Abrescia on unsplash.com



relationship-building and connection.

A life built on living intentionally requires introspection and questioning: Have you developed a set of values? What kind of world do you want to live in? What qualities do you want to embody?

As you practice answering these questions and setting intentions, your practice will evolve and change based on your current state of being and aspirations. This is why I prefer to set an intention versus a resolution. My intention can change daily based on my mental state and what I can accomplish on any given day. Setting an intention is more fluid and flexible than a resolution. It provides individual freedom from all the weight loss, eating right, get active ads that start yelling at us on Dec. 26.

One of my intentions this year is to write thoughtful, educational, and occasionally witty Active Aging columns. I'll let the readers evaluate my progress as the year progresses. I hope you will move gently into 2025 with the intention of being compassionate with yourself and those around you.

I wish you a very Happy New Year!

*Stacey Mason is the director 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.*



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## Staff Spotlight: High school teacher Alexandra Doering inspires passion and purpose, two qualities that make students unstoppable



Mary Jo David

by Mary Jo David

In 2021, Alexandra "Alex" Doering had some pretty big shoes to fill when she began teaching first English 11, and then AP Language and Composition, in Stockbridge following the departure of veteran teacher Elizabeth Cyr.

But Stockbridge wasn't Doering's first rodeo; she had previously taught middle school in Chelsea and Adrian and high school in Chelsea and Manchester. In addition to the experience she brought with her, Doering was glad for the opportunity to mentor under Cyr for several weeks when first arriving in Stockbridge.

Besides observing Cyr in the classroom, Doering recalls, "the time with Elizabeth Cyr allowed me to learn the 'ins and outs' of advising a school newspaper that is small, but mighty."

Journalism is only one of the classes she teaches, but along with that comes the responsibility of being the faculty advisor for "Uncaged," the school newspaper.

"Being an advisor is challenging in ways that teaching is not. One of the biggest challenges is holding students to a standard that is expected of an adult in a workplace."

She cites examples like double-checking story facts, quoting people exactly, capturing eye-catching photos and producing unique page designs that adhere to Michigan Interscholastic Press Association's strict standards. All this while students learn that deadlines in the newspaper world are non-negotiable and communications requires timeliness.

"These tasks sound daunting for teenagers," Doering said, "But each year, every student always rises to the occasion and throughout the year, each staff member settles into his/her/their place to become an integral part of the team."

Though journalism at Stockbridge usually has fewer than 20 students, the district's school paper is still able to compete with much larger school districts, some with staffs of 50 or more.

"Last year, the students were awarded a gold medal from MIPA and were just 12 points shy of a Spartan—the most prestigious award in the state," Doering said.

That same level of commitment and maturity is something Doering experienced in her own high school years, where she played volleyball and softball; was a member of National Honor Society, Key Club, and Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA); wrote for the school newspaper; and was vice president of her class.

But her love for reading and writing began even earlier—when she had the opportunity to write a play for drama class in middle school. Students voted on the plays they liked best, and hers was one selected to perform for an audience.

"I felt excited to see my work come to life. When that class ended, it left me dreaming about a career in Hollywood, since I loved writing and starring in my own play ... I was awarded best actress by the teacher."

Growing up with a brother who was 10 years younger, Doering would often help him with his homework or suggest books she thought he'd enjoy. The feeling of fulfillment she experienced when her brother succeeded or had an "aha" moment led her to set her sights on teaching.

Now, as an experienced teacher, Doering says, "I work tirelessly to instill in my own students two necessary traits that they are going to need to be successful in every aspect of their life—critical thinking and empathy."

Every day she experiences moments that keep her teaching:

- That student whose opinion changes after reading a play and realizing "integrity can be more important than survival" when other people's lives are at stake.

- A former student approaching her at a local basketball game to tell her he was taking varsity sports photos at college thanks to skills he learned in high school.

- Students who give her cards at Christmas with thoughtful messages like, "You saved my mind by helping me find a love for reading."

Doering's own two children are many years apart in age: Westley is in seventh grade and Wreyn is a preschooler, both in Chelsea schools.

*See Staff Spotlight on page 14.*



Alexandra "Alex" Doering teaches Journalism, English 11, AP Language and Composition at Stockbridge High School. Photos provided by Alex Doering

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In 2023, some of Doering's students traveled with Stockbridge seventh graders to the Zekelman Holocaust Center in Farmington Hills, Michigan. Four of Doering's students are pictured with the icebreaker materials they brought for the trip.

## Stockbridge Jr. / Sr. High School students visit Capitol and 'wow' policymakers at AT&T / MACUL Student Technology Showcase



Left to Right: Front row: Eliana Johnson and Klayre Smith. Back row: Owen House, Lillian Topping, Lucy Chapman, Makenna Porter, Jayde Talbot, Elyse Makushik, William Gancer, Alayna Adkins. Photo provided by Resch Strategies

Information provided by Resch Strategies

Local students from Stockbridge Junior/Senior High School were among the few in Michigan selected to bring cutting-edge and innovative technology demonstrations from their classroom to lawmakers at the Michigan Capitol.

The 23rd annual AT&T/MACUL Student Technology Showcase took place Wednesday, Dec. 4, in the state Capitol at the new Heritage Hall visitor center.

Presented by the Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning (MACUL), and underwritten by AT&T, the 2024 Student Technology Showcase featured demonstrations from students representing 25 different teams.

"The 23rd annual Student Technology Showcase celebrated the remarkable creativity and innovation of Michigan students," said Tammy Maginity, MACUL executive director. "It was impressive to see students incorporate technology into their learning experiences and everyday lessons."

Students displayed a wide variety of technology projects that blended science, mathematics, social studies and language arts with the latest digital tools. Their work featured app development, artificial intelligence demonstrations, coding, robotics, web design, and many other technology demonstrations.

State Sen. Darrien Camilleri and Rep. Phil Green were recognized with "Excellence in Education" awards at the showcase for their commitment to connecting students with innovative technologies, and their dedication to improving the Michigan educational system.

## Terri Grant bids farewell to Stockbridge as she begins her retirement



Terri Grant retired from Stockbridge Community Schools after 28 years of teaching. Photo from SCN media archives

by Amy Haggerty and Mary Jo David

After almost 29 years of teaching, including a stint as an educator in Lahore, Pakistan, Terri Grant, Stockbridge teacher extraordinaire retired in November 2024. Initially planning to retire at the end of the 2023-24 school year, Grant, who taught first grade at Smith Elementary, agreed to stay on for an additional few months into the 2024-25 school year. After her many years in Stockbridge, she will be remembered by students, parents, and fellow teachers as an exceptional educator whose goal was to give her students a solid foundation to carry them through their school years.

Grant was featured in the Staff Spotlight in SCN's November 2023 edition. Go to [stockbridgecommunitynews.com](http://stockbridgecommunitynews.com) and type "terri grant" into the Search box on the website.

## CADL Stockbridge page 5

Another popular New Year's resolution is catching up on that TBR (to-be-read) pile. How would you like to read and win a reward for it? CADL's Winter Reading Challenge, "Yeti to Read," runs from Jan. 13 to Feb. 28. Combine reading points with a few, fun winter activities and win a small but delightful prize. You can register online at [cadl.org/YetiToRead](http://cadl.org/YetiToRead) or pick up a reading log bookmark at any CADL branch, including Stockbridge.

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).

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## Judy Heeney page 1

In addition, Judy was awarded a beautiful Crystal Apple, a symbolic gift to honor her decades of hard work, dedication, and the positive impact she has made on the community. The thoughtful presentation was rounded off with a card and a gift card, a small token of gratitude for her tireless efforts over the years.

As a trustee and later as board secretary, Judy played an instrumental role in the growth and evolution of the Stockbridge Community School District. She helped navigate the district through challenging issues, such as the passage of multiple bond issues, the completion of several construction projects, and the consolidation of the district into its current configuration. Through all of these changes, Judy remained steadfast in her belief that the focus should always be on the students. Her leadership kept the district's mission of fostering a learning environment that prioritizes educational excellence, student opportunity, and community involvement at the forefront of every decision.

Beyond her role on the school board, Judy also worked to support local initiatives. She worked to support their farm, demonstrating her deep connection to the area and its values. Additionally, her involvement with the staff at SAESA highlighted her dedication to service within the broader community.

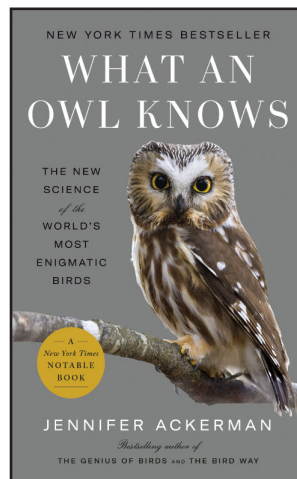
As Judy concludes her final term at the end of 2024, her legacy as a school board member will be felt for many years to come. Her commitment to the Stockbridge Community School District has shaped not only the educational opportunities for thousands of students but also the culture of care, responsibility, and involvement that makes the district a cornerstone of the community.

Judy Heeney's service has had a positive impact on the Stockbridge community, and her dedication and commitment over the years is greatly appreciated. Thank you, Judy, for 44 years of service.

## Reading Between the Lines

# From cave paintings to the Muggles, 'What an Owl Knows' explains infatuation with these birds of prey

by Chuck Wisman



In "What an Owl Knows," Ackerman immediately draws the reader into her world of owls and all they embody. Image by Penguin Random House

"What an Owl Knows: The New Science of the World's Most Enigmatic Birds" is a delightful and thoroughly engaging book by Jennifer Ackerman, a New York Times bestselling author. Ackerman travels the world observing owls in a number of locations while interviewing those working with them, including researchers, scientists, rehabilitators, and everyday people with an interest in owls.

"What an Owl Knows" is definitely not a dry, scientific tome. Ackerman immediately draws the reader into her world of owls and all they embody. The book's opening explains the fascination with owls from ancient times up to and including today's young readers.

"What is it about owls that so enralls us? They appear in the Chauvet Cave Paintings of France dating to 30,000 years ago ... in Greek mythology ... in the prints and etchings of Picasso and as couriers in the Harry Potter stories, shuttling between the realm of matter-of-fact Muggles and the magical. They inhabit our

languages and are embedded in our sayings. If we're aged and sage, we're 'wise old owls.'"

According to Ackerman, approximately 260 species of owls exist today. They vary dramatically from species to species including one of the largest, Michigan's Great Horned Owl, with a wingspan of 4 feet 6 inches and weighing a little over 3 pounds. At the other end of the scale is the Elf owl, the smallest owl, weighing less than 1 and 1/2 ounces—about the size of a sparrow—and Michigan's resident Saw-whet owl, which weighs less than 2 ounces.

Experts count 11 species of owls residing in Michigan. Occasionally, our state has recorded the presence of non-resident owls, such as the Burrowing Owl that nests in the ground and is native to the Western U.S.

Ackerman includes numerous photographs of owls throughout her book, including several pages of color plates. The photos are fascinating in their own right since owls vary dramatically in their appearance. Ackerman poses an interesting question: "Why do an owl's eyes, alone in the bird world, face the same way as ours?" Think about the birds you've observed; usually, their eyes are located toward the sides of their head, not facing forward, like human eyes.

Drawn to owls since childhood, I would watch them on our family farm—where we still reside—as they silently flew through dense woods, appearing almost as apparitions. Many years ago, while slowly driving around a sharp corner in the fall, I hit an owl with my car. The owl was knocked unconscious in the middle of the road. My first reaction was to rescue the owl in a not-well-thought-out plan. I brought the owl into my car, placing its talons between the fingers of my right hand. The owl was approximately 8 inches tall. What species? I had no idea. At the time, it was "just an owl."

My rescue plan quickly took a turn when the owl revived in the car, which was a small compact car with a manual transmission. Apparently, the owl was none too happy with its rescue. First, it began flapping its wings, causing my 4-year-old son to cower against the car door. Next, it began biting my hand with its beak as I tried to shift gears with my left hand. Not knowing whether it was fully recovered or not, I continued driving to the farm. I immediately released the owl, and it successfully flew across our fields to a nearby woods. Upon its release, area birds came out from all directions, shrieking and chasing that owl. Apparently, this "wolf of the sky" was not popular with the resident birds.

See Reading Between the Lines on page 10.

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Clyde Whitaker

## Clyde's Corner

### Old 'Sarge'—thanks for the memories

by Clyde Whitaker

I think most of us growing up had a dog or two. In my case, we had a beagle, which was our hunting dog. "Sarge" was his name, a beautiful small beagle that had a great hunting nose. He could smell

those ring-necked pheasants all day long; he was an awesome hunting dog.

He did have his quirks, though. On one hunting trip on the Pine Croft farm near Munith, Sarge flushed a ring-necked pheasant by a stream running through the field. My dad, with his Browning automatic 12-gauge shotgun, pointed it just right, downing the pheasant on the other side of that stream.

Well, at the sound of the gun blast, Sarge took off across that stream, and with the ring-necked pheasant in his mouth, he laid down across from us on the opposite bank edge and proceeded to munch on the pheasant!

My dad was furious, to put it lightly! He called and called for Sarge to come back but that beagle didn't listen; he just looked up with feathers all over his face. Let me just say, my dad and Sarge had a discussion when he did come back, minus the pheasant.

On another occasion, it was just Sarge and me out on a hunting excursion down the road from my house, on the Dorr farm. The corn was plentiful at the time, and as Sarge and I worked the rows of corn, he was going back and forth, his nose touching the ground, hoping to catch the pheasant scent.

I eventually lost sight of him, and I stopped to listen, hoping to hear him nearby. All of a sudden, Sarge gave a quick bark, and a ring-necked pheasant came busting out of the corn, about 50 feet ahead of me, crowing that distinctive sound that's like no other.

I pointed my Savage 12-gauge, single-shot shotgun just ahead of the pheasant, pulled the trigger and watched as the bird dropped up ahead of me. I went to where I thought he dropped, but no pheasant. Stumped, I looked around the rows nearby, nothing.

As I was standing there, it occurred to me that I had no bird—and no dog! Glancing down the rows I eventually saw Sarge coming back to me, with the pheasant in his mouth, intact! I hugged him, told him "good boy," and put the pheasant in my back pouch to eat for dinner later that night.

This was the only time Sarge ever retrieved a pheasant, but he jumped many for us, flushing them out of dense brush for us to take over the years.

Of course, Sarge is gone now, but the memories we have of him are priceless. While I can't locate any old photos of Sarge, I can see him now, in my mind's eye. I'm sure he's in his glory, on the other side of that rainbow bridge, chasing those pheasants!

*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.*



**While Clyde Whitaker was growing up, his family had a beautiful small beagle—Sarge—similar to the one shown above. While Sarge had a great hunting nose, he was not so good at retrieving.** Photo credit Lesya Tyutrina Andrey Biyanov on unsplash.com

## Reading Between the Lines page 9

Each chapter of "What an Owl Knows" explores a different aspect of owls. Ackerman notes that only recently have scientists begun understanding the complex nature of owls. Although everyone knows what an owl looks like, they're very difficult to research given their reclusiveness, camouflage, and their active life restricted primarily to nighttime. Surprisingly, Ackerman found that much of our information has come from captive owls—owls that were injured or abandoned as owlets and subsequently rehabilitated.

One such owl is a Great Horned Owl, Papa G'Ho, who now acts as a surrogate parent to orphaned owlets. As Ackerman describes him, he's cranky with people but he's an awesome role model for Great Horned Owlets, helping raise them for eventual release into the wild. Papa G'Ho has successfully raised more than 50 owlets and never rejected one. He even won the "Coolest Dad" award from Virginia Living magazine.

"What an Owl Knows" also explores the vocalizations of different species and how owls are unique in that each has its own signature hoot. Researchers have discovered that owlets actually begin vocalizing while still in the egg. As Ackerman explains, "...mostly active at night or at dawn or dusk...[owl] vocalizations are essential to their communication. They don't hoot for the hell of it. They vocalize for a reason, and they convey meaning in their calls."

This book is filled with informative interviews with owl researchers and enthusiasts from around the world. Researchers are still learning the secrets of an owl's silent flight and their ability to camouflage based on their coloration. The book also contains fascinating facts Ackerman discovered through her many interviews and travels, such as learning the Australian Powerful Owl eats nearly 250-350 possums a year.

Notably, Ackerman devotes a chapter to the current threats facing owls, such as lead poisoning, poisoning from rodenticides in mice, loss of habitat, and other threats.

From my own perch on the family farm, it's not unusual to see Great Horned Owls during a full moon roosting in the trees of our yard, on the old barn or even the old windmill—declaring their territory by hooting away.

"What an Owl Knows" is highly recommended to anyone interested in owls, birds, or the world around us. It is available on order from the Stockbridge District Library.

*Chuck Wisman still resides locally on the family farm and is retired from state government after almost 40 years of service.*

## Obituaries

### Tammy Sue Wright-Young



Tammy Sue Wright-Young  
Nov. 8, 1966 to Dec. 8, 2024

#### Tammy Sue Wright-Young.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved Tammy Wright-Young, who moved on from this life on Sunday December 8th, 2024 at the age of 58. She was surrounded by all her loved ones.

Tammy Wright-Young was born on November 8th in Stockbridge, Michigan to Lena and Howard Wright. She grew up in Stockbridge and later went on to live in Jackson, Michigan, then Poquoson, Virginia, before returning home.

Tammy was known for her huge heart. She would take in all the stray animals and children that found their way to her always welcoming doorstep. She spent her working life taking care of others as a home health aide. It was not uncommon for Tammy to show up at your door with a little something that she had bought or crafted for you. It is only fitting that someone so warm and giving would have Christmas as their favorite holiday. We will think of her when we decorate our holiday tree, when we see a snowman, and enjoy her famous chicken and dumpling soup.

She is survived by her husband, LeRoy Young; sons Jeremy Wright (Salida San Miguel) and Charles Jr. (Chelsea) Gauthier, Lorenzo Young; grandchildren Carter, Colton, Connor, and Colby Hurley, Bella Langley, Bringleigh and Georgia Gauthier; and her sisters, Charlene (Todd) Myers, Barbara Schwer, Sharon Shinn; and sister-in-law Roxanne Wright. She was also loved by her many nieces and nephews. Tammy was preceded in death by her mother Lena, her father Howard, her brother Howard Jr, her daughter Chelsea Hurley, and her son LaRoy Martine Young Jr.

The family also extends their heartfelt gratitude to Julie and RaChae at Henry Ford Hospital Jackson for their support and care during her final days.

A public celebration of life will be scheduled for February of 2025, hopefully amidst the beautiful snow which she loved so much.

Memorial contributions may be made to the family. Checks can be written to Charlene Myers. Arrangements by Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home.

### Levi Howard



Levi Howard  
May 13, 1935 to Dec. 13, 2024

Levi Howard, of Rives Junction, Michigan, passed away at the Henry Ford Jackson Hospital on December 13, 2024.

He was born the son of John and Judy (Joseph) Howard in Salyersville, Kentucky on May 13, 1935. Levi married Ethel Ann Joseph, and she preceded him in death. He found love again with Alma Salyers, and she also preceded him in death. Levi enjoyed the outdoors, hunting, fishing, and mushroom hunting.

He is survived by his children, Deborah (Paul Jr.) Guary, Vickie Lynn Howard, Joseph Howard, Danny Howard, and Donald Howard. He is also survived by a sister-in-law, Pat Howard, many grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. In addition to his wives, he was preceded in death by his son, Jerry Lee Howard; five brothers: Paul, John, Don, Woodrow, and James. He was also preceded in death by four sisters: Lucille, Clara, Nora, and Christine, and a half-sister, Helen.

Visitation was held at the Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home on Thursday, December 19, 2024 from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Funeral services were held at the funeral home on Friday, December 20, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. Burial took place at Oaklawn Cemetery in Stockbridge.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to the American Cancer Society.

### STOCKBRIDGE TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES December 16, 2024

Stockbridge Township Supervisor CG Lantis called the Stockbridge Township Board Meeting to order December 16, 2024, at 7:00PM at the Stockbridge Township Hall. Members present at the Stockbridge Township Board Meeting; Supervisor CG Lantis, Clerk Becky Muraf, Treasurer James Wireman, Trustee Ed Wetherell, Trustee Terry Sommer, Member absent None  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Moment of Silence  
Wetherell motion to accept the Stockbridge Township Board agenda as printed  
Wireman Second All in favor Motion Carried  
Citizen's Comments Discussion  
Sommer motion to accept the Stockbridge Township Board meeting minutes from November 18, 2024, as printed Wetherell Second All in Favor Motion Carried  
Sommer motion to accept the Stockbridge Township Board Special meeting minutes as printed from November 27, 2024, Wetherell Second All in Favor Motion Carried

Wireman Motion to approve the Stockbridge Township Board Financial report as printed Sommer second All in Favor Motion Carried  
Old Business: None  
New Business  
Wireman motion to spend up to \$804.65 on Spartan irrigation for the Stockbridge Township lawn after Lantis Calls them to see why such a high price Sommer Second All in Favor Motion Carried  
Muraf motion to accept the Stockbridge Township insurance quote of \$27,033.00 from 1/1/2025 thru 12/31/2025 Wireman Second Roll call Vote Muraf Yes, Wetherell Yes, Wireman Yes, Sommer Yes, Lantis Yes All in Favor Motion Carried  
Muraf motion to keep pension plan as is for Stockbridge Township Custodial Sommer Second All in Favor Motion Carried  
Muraf motion to table Next 4 Year Vision until January 20, 2025, Wireman Second All in Favor Motion Carried  
Sommer Motion to pay the Stockbridge Township Monthly bills in the amount of \$29,098.85 wireman Second All in Favor Motion Carried  
Lantis motion to adjourn the Stockbridge Township Meeting at 7:30pm on December 16, 2024 Muraf Second meeting adjourn  
BM

## Superintendent's Desk: Happy New Year! Time for a fresh start, renewed focus



Brian Friddle

Dear Stockbridge Families,

As we enter into 2025, we are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. The start of a new year is always a time for reflection, renewal, and setting our sights on the future. It's an opportunity for a fresh start, embracing challenges, and making meaningful progress toward our goals. I want to take this opportunity to encourage all of you to dedicate yourselves to a renewed focus on learning, growth, and community engagement as we begin the second semester together.

As a school district, we remain committed to fostering an environment where every student thrives. I challenge each student to set a personal academic goal, whether it's achieving a specific grade, mastering a new skill, or simply showing up every day with a positive attitude and readiness to learn. New Year's resolutions can provide a powerful jump-start, and as we begin 2025, I encourage all of our students to embrace this opportunity to not just aim for success, but also to make an active commitment to reach their full potential.

Our teachers are focused on key goals to improve student outcomes. Our primary emphasis is on literacy, aiming for K-12 proficiency in reading and writing through enhanced MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support) frameworks, research-based interventions, and targeted professional development. In mathematics, our teams are implementing SpringMath, identifying the priority standards in the curriculum, and engaging families in the learning process. For mental health and safety, the focus is on re-establishing PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports), improving student engagement, and addressing attendance and behavioral issues. Lastly, assessment practices are being refined to ensure proficiency in all content areas, with an emphasis on formative assessments and continuing to learn about best grading practices. Together, these efforts support academic and personal growth for ALL students.

This year, our district's theme is "We Want You Here." And we truly mean it... We want you here every day, fully engaged in the opportunities provided for you. Whether it's in the classroom, during extracurricular activities, or participating in other school events, your presence matters. Engaging with your education goes beyond attendance; it's about actively participating, remaining curious, asking questions, and seeking out ways to challenge yourself.

We have so many opportunities throughout our district for you to grow as students, leaders, and individuals. From clubs and sports teams to special events and projects, we hope you will choose to take part in something that will, in turn, help shape your future. Remember, the more you show up and participate, the more you will grow, not only academically but as a part of our school community.

Please know: We Want You Here. We are counting on your dedication, your energy, and your passion to make this year extraordinary. Let's make 2025 a year of growth and success.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy, and successful new year!

Sincerely,

Brian Friddle

Superintendent, Stockbridge Community Schools

## Who doesn't love a farm—especially at the holidays?

by Joan Tucker

Christmas on the Farm is always a favorite time to explore the Waterloo Farm Museum. The first weekend of December, I made my annual trip to see the historical buildings decked out in holiday greens and Christmas spirit. Thanks go out to Emily Lindstrom, who spent Saturday volunteering as a docent in the farmhouse and Sunday walking around and capturing photos of many of the other volunteers.


Stepping into the warm Hannewald barn brings scents of spiced cider and coffee. This barn has been updated and allows for food prep and sale. Admissions and memberships are handled here, but the barn always beckons to me for a stop at the end of my visit for coffee and pie.

Tours of the icehouse, granary (gift shop), and Realy barn call to me; I step in and gaze around at all the well-crafted items. Entering on the wooded ramp to the Realy barn always seems like stepping back in time. The structure of this barn is ideal for selling handmade wares, but my imagination wonders what it would feel like in 1855 to bring a load of hay in for winter storage.

The Farm Museum has multiple buildings to explore such as the old log cabin, working windmill, bakehouse, and a very nice farmhouse with a formal parlor. I highly recommend stopping in for a quiet stroll around the grounds or attending one of Waterloo Area Historical Society's yearly events. They never disappoint.

*Photos by Emily Lindstrom, James Clark-Swalla (DigitalCrumbs Photography), and Joan Tucker. See additional photos at [www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com](http://www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com).*





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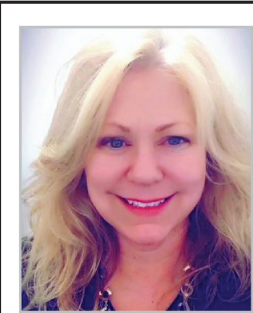
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# Community Calendar

**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

**Wednesdays**

– Family Storytime (Ages up to 6), 10:30 to 11 a.m. at the Stockbridge Library

– Wednesday Wonders (All Ages), 10:30 to 11 a.m. at the Stockbridge Library

– Pop-up food distribution for anyone in need, 1 to 3 p.m. at Stockbridge Community Outreach

**Thursdays**

– Coffee chats, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Stockbridge Library

– Diabetes Path, 11 a.m. to noon at Tri-County Office on Aging. Call 517-887-1465 or email Christine at [histedc@tcoa.org](mailto:histedc@tcoa.org) to register

**Fridays**

– Family Storytime (Ages up to 6), 10:30 to 11 a.m. at the Stockbridge Library

**Occasional Fridays (Call Library for dates)** – Keep Calm and Carry Yarn, 1 to 2 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library

**Jan. 13** - CADL's Winter Reading Challenge begins. Register online at [cadl.org/YetiToRead](http://cadl.org/YetiToRead) or at library.

**Jan. 19** - Winter Orienteering, 2 to 4 p.m. at the Eddy Discovery Center. \$2/person, \$5/family. To register, email [waterloonha@gmail.com](mailto:waterloonha@gmail.com). NOTE: Building is closed; program will be outdoors.

**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).**

**For other library-hosted events, go to [www.cadl.org/](http://www.cadl.org/) and click the "Events" menu.**

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- Denise and Larry Allen
- Clair and Linda Risner

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 2024 edition about rising costs. Special thanks to those listed here whose donations were received between Nov. 31 - Dec. 26. 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

## Woah Nellie! 'Oh Fudge!' Never try to follow in the steps of a perfectionist

by **Mary Jo David**

The new year is bringing a change to Woah Nellie! While the column name will remain the same, this year's focus will be on special recipes—the older the better—submitted by folks in our community. I will continue to try my hand at making these recipes and share the results with all of you.

As if changing focus isn't enough, I've added more pressure this month by selecting a recipe from Judy Williams, our Stockbridge Community News treasurer. If you know Judy—and many of you do—she is a perfectionist. If you know me, you know I'm not!

A few years back, Judy created a cookbook of family recipes for her (adult) children and grandkids. She even went the extra mile and named some of the recipes after the family member who had dubbed the recipe a "favorite."

For this month's column, Judy submitted her recipe for "Sarah's Have-Another Peanut Butter Fudge." The recipe has been handed down from Judy's grandmother, Elva Anderson, and as you've probably guessed, it is a favorite of Judy's daughter-in-law Sarah.

Here's something I learned the hard way when making this peanut butter fudge recipe (but don't tell Judy!): If you don't have mini marshmallows, find a store that is open all night. That will be easier than trying to cut large marshmallows into minis, especially if you're the kind of person who hates sticky fingers!

Other notes about my experience with this recipe:

- I cut this recipe amount in half and spread the finished mixture into a 10-by-7-inch pan.
- I used the cold water "soft ball test" AND a candy thermometer. Still, my fudge turned out slightly more crumbly than Judy's, an indication that I may have heated the sugar/milk mixture a bit too much.
- I followed the step for putting the pan in cold water to cool down and thicken the mixture, but my mixture was really already thick enough. Judy later told me she skips this step.

I must say, I'm going to like this new Nellie column format. When I have a recipe question, instead of having to pull out my Ouija board to channel a syndicated columnist who has long since passed away, I can simply "phone a friend." For example, I phoned Judy to ask what to do after I poured the fudge into the buttered dish. Judy told me to just leave it overnight at room temperature and cut the fudge in the morning using a sharp knife.

I also lucked out because in addition to providing the recipe, Judy "gifted" me with some of her own peanut butter fudge (see photo). While the flavor of my batch was pretty tasty, my fudge did not hold a candle to Judy's when it came to texture, but then, it's tough to mess with perfection.

As Mark Twain once said, "Continuous improvement is better than delayed perfection." (Toss that thought into cold water and see if it takes shape. ☺)

*All photos by Mary Jo David.*

## Staff Spotlight page 7

No surprise, then, that some of Doering's fondest teaching moments result from the buddy program that matches her juniors with much younger third graders from Heritage School.

She loves to watch her students grow in confidence and use their leadership skills as they interview the younger students and create stories about those students that they then take back and read to them. She's deeply touched by the effects of the program on the students who participate.

Third graders have been overheard saying wonderful things about the personalized stories created by Doering's students, from the one proudly displaying his book to others and asking, "Did you see me in my book?" to another who is overheard saying, "I'm gonna read it every night."

Doering provided numerous other examples of standout moments from all of her classes.

Even so, she also admits that fighting apathy is a big teaching challenge. She encourages parents to read to their kids beginning when they're young and help build their confidence when they're struggling.

She reminds parents, "When [kids] fail at something, as we all do, it doesn't mean that they can't try again; failing allows us to reflect amidst the chaos, untangle what went wrong, and create meaning from that experience to help us grow as humans."

Doering admits the proudest moment of all is when a student tells her they're going to study education in college so they, too, can be a positive role model. But she also recognizes, "It is equally as beautiful to watch them discover their own passion and purpose because when they do, they become unstoppable."

*All photos provided by Alexandra Doering. See additional photos at [www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com](http://www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com).*

### GRANDMA ELVA ANDERSON'S RECIPE

#### SARAH'S HAVE-ANOTHER PEANUT BUTTER FUDGE

The carnival glass dish in the photo was my Grandma Anderson's. It was given out at the store to customers who paid their bills on time.



- 4C sugar
- 1C evaporated milk (I use Carnation)
- 1 ¼ C mini-marshmallow
- 1 ¼ C peanut butter (I like smooth, but it's ok to use chunky)
- ½ C butter
- 1 ½ tsp vanilla
- 1 C walnuts (if you want)

Butter a 13x9 inch cake pan with the stick of butter. Use the same stick to butter the sides of a heavy 3-4 quart saucepan. (It's important to butter the sides of the pan from top to bottom. This keeps grains of sugar from clinging to the sides, which can cause your fudge to crystallize.) Set the stick of butter aside for use in the fudge.

Cook the sugar & milk over medium heat. Keep stirring the mix until it comes to a boil and all sugar is dissolved. One sugar crystal can start a chain reaction and you may well end up with a sugary mess. To soft ball stage. (Soft ball stage means that you bring it to a boil. Then keep cooking until when you drip the syrup from a spoon into a bowl of cold water, you can push the syrup together into a ball that can flatten when you pour out the water.) A candy thermometer would read around 235°F, BUT I don't trust thermometers.

Take the syrup mix off the burner and add. Be sure each item is mixed in well before adding the next: Mini-marshmallows—I add a little at a time so they don't glob up, Butter, Peanut Butter, Vanilla, & Nuts (if you want).

Next, I put the pan in the sink with a little cold water to help the cooling start. (My mom always did it that way, but I have never found a cook book that says to do that.) Keep stirring until the fudge starts to thicken. Now, pour the fudge into the buttered pan.

Bridge to Wellness

# Dry January promotes a month of sobriety and wellness



by Alexandra Duranczyk

Dry January is an annual tradition. Those who participate choose to abstain from alcohol for the entire month of January. This January, the One Big Thing Action Team addressing alcohol awareness is promoting this movement to help community residents start the new year on a healthy note.

What are some of the benefits of participating?

- **Improved physical well-being:** A month away from alcohol can lead to improved liver function and a reduction in overall caloric intake, potentially leading to weight loss.
- **Better mental clarity:** Taking a break can help you experience increased mental clarity, improved focus, and better decision-making.
- **Increased financial savings:** Alcohol can be expensive, whether purchasing it for home or at a restaurant. With the savings you realize, you can contribute to other goals or activities.

During Dry January, try exploring the many nonalcoholic beverages available that can still provide a sense of enjoyment during gatherings. Image credit Conor Brown on unsplash.com

• **A needed break from a habit:** Sometimes alcohol consumption becomes a habitual behavior rather than a conscious choice. Dry January offers the opportunity to reevaluate your relationship with alcohol and reset your habits.

We invite you to join us in January 2025 and participate in Dry January. It's a chance to develop strategies for socializing without relying on alcohol.

If you miss the social aspect of drinking, try exploring nonalcoholic beverages. Many alternatives are available that can still provide a sense of enjoyment during gatherings.

Dry January is more than just a detox—it's a chance to evaluate your relationship with alcohol and discover the benefits of sobriety. Taking part is a personal choice, and the positive impacts can extend beyond the month itself. Whether you're looking to

make a lasting change or simply pressing the reset button, Dry January offers an opportunity to prioritize your well-being and start the year off with a fresh perspective.

*This column is sponsored by the Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition. Alexandra Duranczyk is the SRSly Manchester Coalition director and behavioral health navigator at Chelsea Hospital.*



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# STOCKBRIDGE SPORTS

## Cheer team wins Concord Invitational



The varsity competitive cheer team won the Concord Invitational, beating out 10 other teams for the top spot. Photo from Stockbridge Cheer

by Mike Williamson

The Stockbridge varsity competitive cheer team picked up its first-ever invitational title after winning the Concord Invitational Dec. 14.

The Panthers are off to the best start in school history, already posting all-time highs for a round and total score in just two events.

Stockbridge ran away with the Concord title with a total score of 619.8 for the highest score in all divisions. They beat out second-place Reading by 65 points.

The Panthers also had a strong showing at the Leslie Invitational to start the season Dec. 7.

*See Cheerleading on page 17.*

## Lady Panthers basketball team gets season underway with split of first two games

by Mike Williamson

A young Stockbridge girls basketball team opened its season by splitting a pair of games.

Stockbridge has no seniors on the team that consists of six sophomores and three juniors.

The Panthers used a dominating first half and a stifling defense on its way to a 46-11 win over Dansville Dec. 5.

The Panthers held the Aggies scoreless in the first quarter and took a 9-0 lead after one.

Emily Satkowiak scored the first four points of the second quarter and the Panthers' lead continued to grow with a 20-4 halftime score.

Zoe Buddenborg scored five in the third, including making all three free throws after being fouled on a three-point attempt. The Panthers pushed the lead to 31-8 and cruised to the win in the fourth.

Buddenborg led the Panthers with 14 points, six rebounds, and five steals.

Bella Pybus came off the bench and finished with seven points and four rebounds, while Madeline Topping added six points.

Melina Sayre chipped in with five points, while Satkowiak, Emma Monaghan, and Madisyn Atkins scored four each, and Tayla Trapp two.

*See Girls basketball on page 17.*



Melina Sayre drives to the basket for two against Dansville. Photo by Mike Williamson

## Wrestlers open the season with win over Dansville



Landon Allen gets a pin for the Panthers. Photo credit Mike Williamson

by Mike Williamson

The Stockbridge wrestling team opened its season Dec. 5 with a 48-18 win over Dansville.

Landon Allen picked up a pin for the Panthers at 106 pounds.

Also picking up wins were Colin Stacey, Brennan McCalla, Mateo Ortiz-Martinez, Klara Hays, Kameryn Gross, Carter Smiatacz, and Jayson Conant.

**JAWS Invitational.** Stockbridge took part in the JAWS Invitational in Jackson Dec. 7 and finished 12th out of 15 schools.

Allen finished fourth at 106 with one pin.

Jayson Conant went 3-2 on the day at 126 and finished in fourth place.

Also picking up wins but not placing were Stacey going 2-2 at 138, Marcus Pikur 2-2 at 157, and Ortiz-Martinez 1-2 at 165.

**East Jackson Tri-Meet.** The Panthers swept a pair of matches at a tri-meet at East Jackson Dec. 11, defeating the Trojans 48-36 and Homer 52-22.

Jayson Conant picked up a pair of wins to lead the Panthers.

Also picking up single wins were Chris Conant, Pikur, Ortiz-Martinez, McCalla, and Gross.

**Pinckney Tournament.** The Panthers went 2-3 at the Pinckney tournament Dec. 14.

They defeated St. Clair Shores Lakeview 48-30 and Michigan Center 42-35, but fell to Pinckney 49-24, Madison Heights Lamphere 71-6, and Parma Western 64-18.

*See Wrestling on page 17.*



# STOCKBRIDGE SPORTS

## Panthers boys basketball wins 2 of 3



Shannon Henderson goes for a dunk against Quincy. Photo by Mike Williamson

by Mike Williamson

The Stockbridge boys basketball team is off to a good start to the 2024/25 season after winning two of its first three games.

The Panthers opened the season Dec. 2 by pounding Dansville 67-27.

A big 24-4 run put the Panthers on top after one quarter and they never looked back as they cruised by the Aggies.

Shannon Henderson with eight and Foster Pybus with seven sparked the big first quarter for Stockbridge.

Henderson finished with a team-high 18 points and Pybus added 14.

Brock Rochow chipped in with 11 points and Noah Sandecki eight.

Zac Rogozinski finished with six points, Jacob Dalton five, Brendan Cordero three, and Terrence Cordero two.

**Onsted.** On Dec. 4, a tough Onsted team took down the Panthers 63-48.

Stockbridge led 24-20 at the half, but the Wildcats outscored the Panthers 26-5 in the third to pull away for the win.

Rochow led Stockbridge with 13 points.

Henderson finished with eight points, while Pybus and Dalton scored seven each. Rogozinski added six points, Sandecki four, and Brendan Cordero three.

**Quincy.** Stockbridge bounced back with a 57-39 win over Quincy in the Big 8 opener Dec. 6.

The Panthers trailed 23-21 at halftime, but a big second half that saw them outscore the Orioles 36-16 allowed Stockbridge to pull away for the win.

Henderson had a monster night with 29 points, including five big dunks that ignited the home crowd.

Rochow added 11 points and Pybus six.

Sandecki and Dalton scored five each, and Rogozinski one.

**Maple Valley.** The Panthers cruised to a 75-40 Big 8 win over former GLAC rival Maple Valley Dec. 10.

Stockbridge had a huge first half, taking a 50-22 lead at the break and never looked back in the win over the Lions.

Henderson had another big night with a team-high 30 points, including 19 in the first half.

Pybus added 17 points, while Rochow had 10.

Rogozinski chipped in with six points, Dalton seven points, Sandecki three, and Xavier Zimmerman two.

**Springport.** The Panthers fell to 2-1 in the Big 8 with a tough, hard-fought 49-47 loss to Springport Dec. 13.

Pybus led Stockbridge with 18 points.

Rochow finished with nine points and Henderson eight.

Rogozinski and Dalton scored four each and Sandecki two.

## Girls basketball page 16



Madeline Topping puts up a shot for the Panthers. Photo by Mike Williamson

Atkins and Jaylee Chapman grabbed five rebounds each, and Satkowiak dished out four assists.

**Michigan Center.** The Panthers ran into a buzzsaw on opening night Dec. 2 by falling to a strong Michigan Center team 62-33.

Topping and Sayre scored nine points each to lead

Stockbridge.

Buddenborg added seven points and grabbed seven boards, while Pybus had five points and six rebounds.

Chapman chipped in with two points, while Monaghan had one point and four steals.

**Quincy.** After a slow start, the Panthers used a big second quarter and held off Quincy 40-32 in the Big 8 opener Dec. 13.

The Panthers outscored the Orioles 16-8 in the second to take a 20-13 halftime lead and held them off in the second half.

Sayre had a big night with a team-high 16 points.

Buddenborg added 14 points, including four triples. Chapman chipped in with five points, Monaghan three, and Topping two.

## Wrestling page 16

Chris Conant, Pikur, and Aiden Flores picked up two wins each to lead Stockbridge.

Stacey, Gross, Allen, Ortiz-Martinez, and Jayson Conant had one win each.

## Cheerleading page 16

They finished third at the event with an all-time high score of 649.3. They were fifth after two rounds but posted the second-highest score in round three to move up to third overall.

You can see the improved Panthers competitive cheer team in its only home competition of the season at 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 13.

Published in *Uncaged*, October 2024

## AGAINST THE ODDS

### Stockbridge marching band shows that skill overpowers numbers

by Daniel Villegas, *Uncaged* Reporter

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

On September 25th, the Stockbridge marching band played at the Chelsea Marching Band Exhibition. During the expo, the band's goal was to make sure they did their halftime routine correctly to show that just because their band is small they can still make good music.

"I would say my main goals were doing the correct moves on time and playing all my music correctly," junior trombone player Bradley Rowe said.

The whole band worked together encouraging each other to make the right moves to show all the other bands what the Stockbridge marching band is about.

"My goal was to show all the bands who were there that we are just as good as them, even if we're a small band," said senior Grace Lackey.

The band pulled through and showed the other schools with bigger bands how well they can perform.

"I think that we had great chemistry, not just sections or certain people. That really makes us be able to play truly as a band and as a family," said Lackey.

The head marching band director of the University of Michigan said to the band that they were very confident and together, not just together in playing music but as a community.

The band has come a long way since years ago. Everyone has shown lots of improvement as a musician, which makes the band better as a whole.

"I am happy with my growth from my freshman year and most everyone, if not everyone in the band, had extreme growth from the last time I saw them perform," said Rowe.

The band will be hosting their annual concert on October 29th.

*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.panethernet.net/our-district](http://www.panethernet.net/our-district).*



The Stockbridge marching band performs their halftime routine at the Chelsea Marching Band Exhibition. Photo credit Rebeca Lackey via [Uncagednews.com](http://Uncagednews.com)

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If you or a loved one has been married half a century or more, send your sweetheart photos and background info to:

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Please include names (with maiden name), year and place of marriage, township or village of residence, and advice for sustaining a long, happy relationship. How you met? Obstacles overcome? No doubt, you have a story or pearl of wisdom to share. *Sweethearts with less longevity are invited to purchase business-card-sized announcements for \$50, to appear online and in print.*

## Positive Parenting

## With creative thinking, recycled materials can spell F-U-N for youngsters and boost their imagination

by Nicole Ryder

As the holidays are wrapping up, you can find lots of useful material collecting rapidly in your garage or recycling bin. Specifically, look for empty boxes; empty egg cartons; and tubes from wrapping paper, paper towel, and toilet tissue.

Instead of taking these materials to the trash or the recycling center, think creatively to come up with ways you can turn these materials into fun toys for your kids to play with.

According to Australian parenting website RaisingChildren.net.au, creating homemade toys "can boost curiosity, creativity and imagination."

The website explains there are "plenty of everyday things around your home that you can use for toys, games, activities and open-ended play." Some of the examples provided on the site are as simple as making containers available for little ones who love putting container lids on and taking them off again. For kids who are a little older, providing old sheets and towels leads to good times playing make-believe.

The site reminds parents to make sure the things you give your children to play with are safe to use. Specifically, they recommend making sure the

items are "nontoxic, unbreakable, and too big to be choking hazards. Also, they shouldn't have sharp edges."

**Recycle paper tubes:** Do you have a collection of paper tubes from wrapping paper or toilet tissue? If so, consider making them into musical shakers by cutting them down, if necessary, and adding beans inside. Seal them closed to avoid a choking hazard, and cover them with colorful designs on the outside.

Toilet tissue tubes can also be made into stacking blocks. Or, make binoculars by rubber banding two tubes together. Think outside the box by making a DIY "kerplunk" game with unsharpened pencils, tissue tubes, and a hole punch.

**Reuse egg cartons:** If you have egg cartons, make them into a color-sorting activity by painting each section of the carton a different color and providing colorful pom-poms or popsicle sticks for matching. Egg cartons can also be cut apart and made into stacking blocks. Or use them for counting activities by putting one Cheerio in each egg cup and have your child learn to count the Cheerios.

**Reimagine with boxes:** Boxes of all sizes can be made into many different activities. For instance, set up a make-believe road and town for your children, and let them take

turns "driving" a cardboard box in the town. This can be a super fun activity for little learners. Meanwhile, large appliance-sized boxes can be made into indoor playhouses.

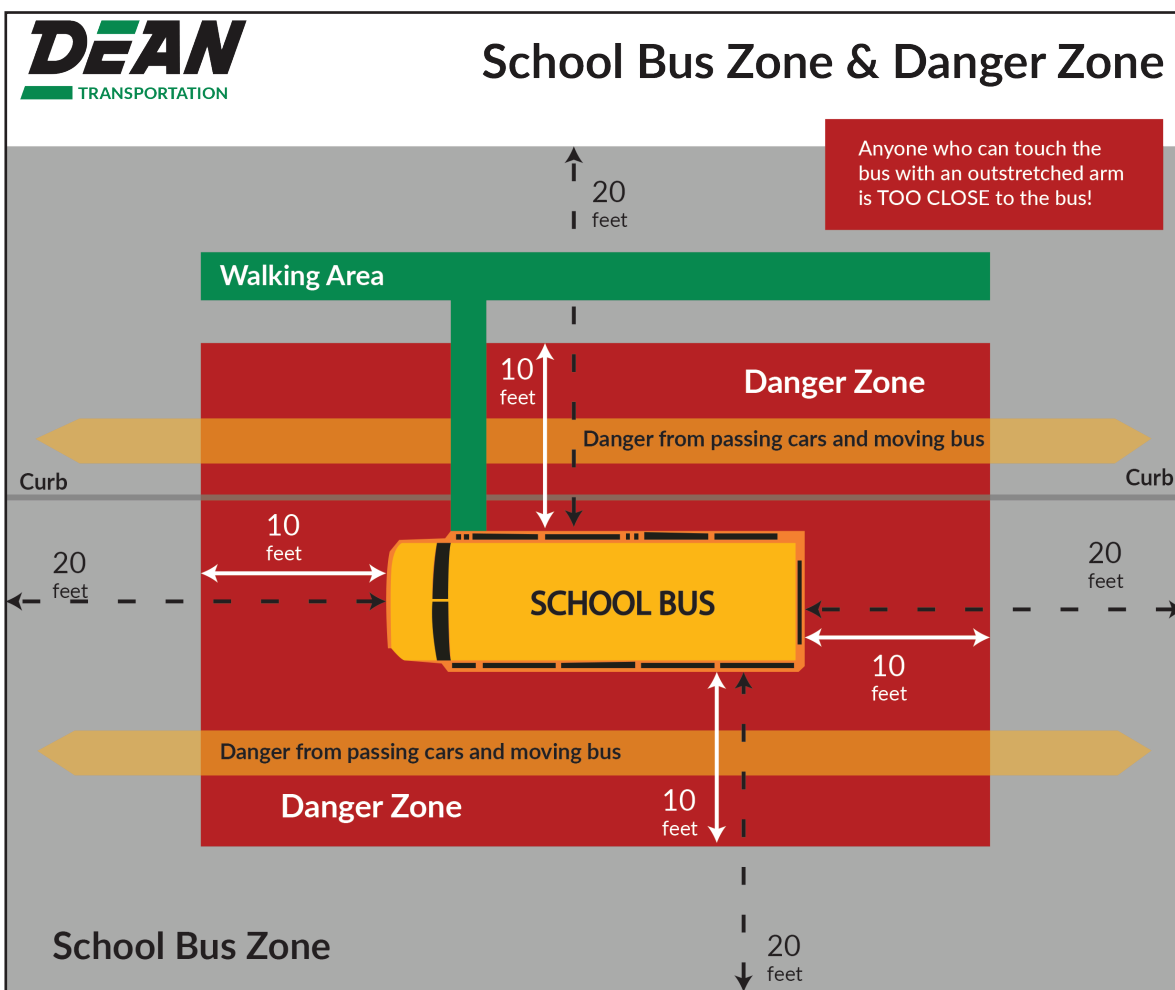
The fun thing about using recycled materials is that you—and your children—can be creative and come up with hundreds of ways to put these materials to good use.

*Nicole Ryder is a Play and Learn Group specialist at Ingham Intermediate School District. Currently she runs Play and Learn Groups in Stockbridge, Mason, and Leslie. Previously, she was a special education teacher for 20 years. She is also "mom" to her two teenage boys.*



Nicole Ryder

## School bus safety reminders in time for start of winter semester



## Bus Stop Safety Tips for Drivers

- Be prepared to stop when a slowing school bus has its overhead yellow lights flashing.
- Stop outside the School Bus Zone, at least 20 feet away from a stopped school bus that has its red overhead lights flashing
- Avoid distracted driving (cell phone use, eating, grooming, etc.) during the times when school buses are making stops for passenger pick-ups and drop-offs.
- Watch and be alert for children waiting at their bus stops.
- Parents driving children to the bus stop, please do not release children into streets/traffic and have them run to the bus.
- The illegal passing of a school bus is extremely dangerous, and a serious traffic offense. Drivers found in violation are responsible for a civil infraction, and subject to fines, cost and community service.

Graphic from michigan.gov



Make egg cartons into a color-sorting activity. Paint each section a different color and provide colorful pom-poms or popsicle sticks for matching. Image credit Nicole Ryder

# SCN 2024 Top Stories. Thanks for reading!

## ~JANUARY~

**Lady Panthers Shock State-Ranked Jackson Northwest**  
*by Mike Williamson*



## ~FEBRUARY~

**Staff Spotlight: A well-deserved shout-out to Smith Elementary secretary Misty Welch**  
*by Don Porter*

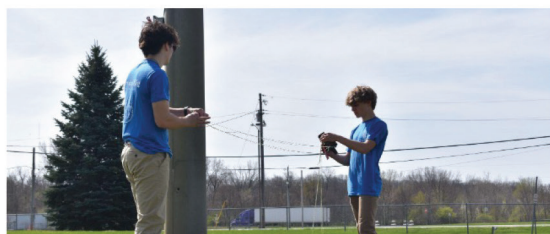


## ~MARCH~

**From the Superintendent's Desk: Stockbridge schools using structured approach to reinforce, teach positive behaviors**  
*by Brian Friddle*



## ~APRIL~



**From Small Town to the Sun: Stockbridge FFA Students Launch Satellite to Capture Solar Eclipse**  
*by Robert Richards*

## ~MAY~



**2024 Senior Honors Night at Stockbridge Jr./Sr. High School**  
*by Joan Tucker and Mary Jo David*

## ~JUNE~



**Stockbridge Community Schools bids farewell to well-loved staff members**  
*by Amy Haggerty and Mary Jo David*

## ~JULY~

**SCN's Judy Williams placed in national writing contest, again**  
*by Agnes Geiger*



## ~AUGUST~

**Math teacher Lissa Avis named 2024 Helen B. Mitteer Employee of the Year**  
*by Mary Jo David*



## ~SEPTEMBER~



**2024 Stockbridge Homecoming Queens Court Announced**  
*by Hope Salyer*

## ~OCTOBER~



**Kindergarten teacher Michelle Hedding sees short attention spans and potential for astronomical growth**  
*by Mary Jo David*

## ~NOVEMBER~



**Snow and frigid temperatures didn't keep local residents from attending the annual Festival of Lights parade on Nov. 30**  
*by Hope Salyer*

## ~DECEMBER~

**Clyde's Corner: We lost a son and heaven gained a beautiful soul**  
*by Clyde Whitaker*

