

## New superintendent!

### Jeffrey Trapp named superintendent of Stockbridge Community Schools



Jeffrey Trapp was selected from a field of 22 candidates to lead the Stockbridge Area School District as superintendent, effective July 1. Photo credit Joan Tucker

by Mary Jo David

On June 2, the Stockbridge Community Schools Board of Education named Jeffrey Trapp the new superintendent of Stockbridge Schools, effective July 1.

Trapp, principal of the Stockbridge Jr./Sr. High School since 2017, was one of 22 candidates who submitted resumes for the superintendent position earlier in the spring. Five of the field of 22 were selected for in-person interviews with the school board; these interviews were held on May 26 and May 27. After that, two finalists—Aaron Shinn from Milan Area Schools and Trapp—were invited back for a second round of interviews, which were held in the early evening on June 2.

After both interviews, the school board collected written feedback from the audience, a process they incorporated during each of the previous interviews, and shared with those present some of their initial thoughts on the strengths and

weaknesses of each candidate.

Board members then deliberated late into the evening and announced their unanimous selection of Trapp as superintendent just shy of 10:30 p.m.

*See New superintendent on page 17.*

### A fond farewell to retiring Stockbridge Schools staff as school year ends



Stockbridge Schools bids farewell to staff retiring after the 2025/26 school year, including (l-r): Melissa Asher, Cady Bauer, Sherri Cole, and Brian Friddle. Not pictured: Sheila Queener. Photos from Stockbridge Community News image library

by Mary Jo David

This time of year brings much joy as we congratulate high school seniors and all those in the grades below who are advancing on to their next-grade adventures. But with the joy comes a touch of sadness as we also bid farewell to Stockbridge Schools staff who are retiring as of the end of this 2025/26 school year.

• **Melissa Asher:** Hired in 2000, Asher has spent 26 years working with our Stockbridge kids. She is retiring from her job as an early childhood teacher, but prior to that, Asher spent her early years as a paraprofessional, a substitute teacher, and a math interventionist.

*See Retiring staff on page 17.*

### Village of Stockbridge welcomes new council members amid financial challenges



Members of the Stockbridge Village Council are pictured (left to right) at the June 18 meeting: Trustee Logan Connolly, Manager Heather Armstrong, Attorney John Gormley, President Fred Cattell, President Pro Tem Molly Howlett, Trustee Kelsey Rasmussen, Clerk/Treasurer Robyn Hanson, Trustee Kim Morehouse, and Trustee Myranda Fairbotham. Present but not pictured: Trustee Meredith McManaman. Photo credit Becca Kavanagh

This spring, the Village of Stockbridge leadership underwent significant change as three of seven trustee positions became vacant and were filled by council appointment.

Meredith McManaman and Logan Connolly joined the Stockbridge Village Council in February, and a third position opened on May 21 when Jill Ogden resigned as village president. On June 18, the council approved Fred Cattell as village president, Molly Howlett as village president pro tempore, and resident Kelsey Rasmussen to fill the remaining vacant village trustee position for the remainder of the five-month term.

*See Village Council on page 17.*



July 2026  
*Features*

**Class of 2026 Stockbridge High School photos:**  
See pages 10-14.

**Gregory's 51st Annual 4th of July Parade:** See page 5 for the event schedule.

**Christmas in July:** See page 8 to learn about how you can help Stockbridge Community Outreach.

**A Day in the Village:** See page 24 for event coverage and a special thank you to sponsors.

## Rural Perspectives

# Duckweed is a tiny flowering plant without true stems or leaves



Diane Gray Constable

by Diane Constable

Duckweed (*Lemna minor*) is neither a duck nor a weed but is the tiniest flowering plant we have. It is found floating on the surface of slow-moving or still lakes, marshes, and ponds, where it can form large colonies of bright green vegetation.

This is a plant with no true stems or leaves. The leaf-like structure, or frond, measures less than one-quarter-inch long and is just a few cells thick. There is a tiny air pocket inside the frond, which helps it float.



This tiny duckweed could one day be out of this world, as NASA is considering growing it on spaceships. Photo credit Diane Constable

They have two to four fronds, and as they grow more fronds, the plant divides into two plants. It can divide about once per day, potentially creating nearly 17,500 plants in two weeks. The plant also produces very tiny flowers, and the seed forms inside a floating air bag, which can float to another part of the waterway. The thin delicate roots bring nutrients to the duckweed, and the plants have a gummy substance, which causes them to stick to bodies and feet of birds and other animals. This enables the duckweed to be transferred to new water sources.

In the cooler weather, these plants

sink to the bottom of the ponds until spring when they start growing again and float to the surface. It is a favorite food for ducks and other waterfowl and has been found to have more protein than soybeans. Frogs, water insects and small fish will hide in the duckweed.

Research shows that duckweed slows down water evaporation, filters phosphorus and nitrogen out of the waterways, and discourages algae growth and mosquitoes.

Fun Fact: Because duckweed is edible and full of micronutrients and antioxidants, NASA is considering growing it onboard spaceships as food for the astronauts.

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.

## Enjoy fresh air with free yoga

Information provided by 5 Healthy Towns Foundation

Looking for an excuse to get outside this summer? Join 5 Healthy Towns Foundation and our partners for some free yoga sessions! **FREE outdoor yoga takes place on Saturdays now through August** in Dexter, Chelsea, Grass Lake and Stockbridge at the times listed below.

**Dexter Wellness Center** hosts Yoga in the Park at Mill Creek Park on Saturdays, starting at 8 a.m. This is the 12th year DWC has hosted free yoga in Dexter and the outdoor session that started it all!

**Grass Lake Community Wellness Initiative (GLCWI)** hosts Yoga by the Lake at Grass Lake County Park (400 N. Lake St.) on Saturdays, at 9 a.m. No sessions July 4 or July 11.

**Stockbridge-Area Wellness Coalition and the Village of Stockbridge** are partnering to provide Yoga in the Park at Stockbridge's Veterans Park on Saturdays at 9 a.m. This is the first year for outdoor yoga in Stockbridge and represents a continuation of the village's growing parks and recreation programming. No sessions July 4.

See Free yoga on page 18.

Jeff Caskey Brad Caskey

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# School board candidate filing requirements. Filing deadline July 21.

Stockbridge Community Schools Board of Education Election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026.  
**Available Seats:**  
 Three (3) six-year terms expiring 12/31/2032  
**Filing Deadline:**  
 Required forms must be filed no later than 4 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 2026  
**Affidavit of Identity/Nominating Petitions:**  
 Candidates wishing to run for office must file an Affidavit of Identity and Nominating Petitions with the County Clerk. A \$100 non-refundable fee may be filed in lieu of petitions.  
**Withdrawal:**  
 Candidates wishing to withdrawal must submit a written withdrawal notice with the County Clerk no later than 4 p.m. on July 24, 2026.  
**Campaign Finance Disclosure Requirements:**  
 Candidates seeking public office in Michigan must meet requirements provided under Michigan's Campaign Finance Act. Information on requirements may be obtained from the State Bureau of Elections or the Ingham County Clerk.



Logo from SCN media library

## A successful 2nd Annual SASC Golf Outing is in the rearview mirror



SASC golf outing participants and planners join up for a group shot at Timber Trace. Photos provided by Rachel Stanley, SASC



The 2026 SASC Golf Outing First-Place Team.



The 2026 SASC Golf Outing Best-Dressed Team!

**by Mary Jo David**  
 The June 5 Stockbridge Area Senior Center golf outing was a great success! Some competed for First Place; some competed for Best Dressed. Regardless of what team they were on, everyone enjoyed themselves.  
 Besides the requisite golf, attendees had an opportunity to win many fun silent auction and raffle prizes. Even nongolfers enjoyed the festivities.  
 "It was so much fun," said Rachel Stanley, SASC director. She added, "It was truly another gold star day for our SASC!"  
 In addition to thanking the golfers, the Stockbridge Area Senior Center sends out special thanks to event sponsors and all those who helped behind the scenes.  
 See additional photos at [www.StockbridgeCommunityNews.com](http://www.StockbridgeCommunityNews.com).

## Bridge to Wellness 'Thank you' from 5 Healthy Towns

**by Matt Pegouskie**  
 Every month, we author an article about Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition (SAWC) and 5 Healthy Towns Foundation (5HT), and we try to pick something interesting or exciting or new. This month, we'd simply like to say THANK YOU.  
 Thank you to everyone who's been involved with Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition these past 15 years!  
 It's hard to put into words how grateful we are for your service to the greater Stockbridge area. Without you, there is no SAWC and no programs sponsored by the Wellness Coalition.  
 We've tried to capture everyone who's been a voting member of the coalition, including some who are no longer with us. I apologize to anyone we may have missed.  
 We look forward to the next 15 years and continuing to have a positive impact on the community.

*The following list is in the order of when people joined the Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition (top-to bottom, then left-to-right).*

|                |                   |                  |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Jo Mayer       | Harvey Morrell    | Shasta Angel     |
| Brian Johnson  | David Peck        | Lori Cowan       |
| Molly Howlett  | Amy Steffey       | Jodelle Sparks   |
| Susan Lockhart | Sue Wireman       | Stacey Mason     |
| Mary Gibson    | Jaime Kitley      | Jackie Scheller  |
| Tonya Sexton   | Patti Bihn        | Kara Kerstner    |
| Tom Clark      | Naomi Carson      | Jane Thompson    |
| Jan Clark      | Mark Taylor       | Debbie Prigge    |
| Andrea Place   | Sherri McConnell  | Carey Johnson    |
| Kelly Schmidt  | Deb Smith         | Bob Richards     |
| Emily Stewart  | David Lindemer    | Steve Keskes     |
| Paul Crandall  | John Torres       | Dana Blaszkowski |
| Cady Bauer     | Reiley Curran     | Ginny Rezmierski |
| Bill Stickney  | Cassie Watson     | Chris Conley     |
| Suzi Greenway  | Doug Lance        | Daryl Anderson   |
| Judy Brune     | Sarah Wilczynski  | Bruce Brown      |
| Karen Smith    | Wendy Walz        | David Rouse      |
| Deb Duranczyk  | Heather Armstrong | Rachel Stanley   |
| Campbell Laird | Lynne Beauchamp   | Stacey Glemser   |
| Francis Laird  | Erin Clifton      | Brian Friddle    |
| Kathy Walz     | Angela Adiska     |                  |

*Bridge to Wellness is sponsored by the Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition (SAWC). Matt Pegouskie is the community investment manager.*





Clyde Whitaker

## Clyde's Corner I love July! For me, it's filled with so many memories of summertime

by Clyde Whitaker

Who doesn't love July! The month holds some special memories for me, so I thought I'd share a few.

One big memory in July was my dad's birthday, July 22. Dad wasn't a big party guy, but he did enjoy the special treats he received, not to mention all the hugs. He always smiled big when we sang "Happy Birthday."

Friday nights usually meant clay pigeon shooting at the Munith Road and Gun Club across the field from our house on Territorial Road. It was a constant "bang, bang," well into the night. Sometimes my buddy John Stanfield and I would go over and shoot off a couple of boxes of shells. It was so fun dusting those pigeons!

Friday nights in July also meant "cruising the ave" in Jackson, with our cars all polished up. We were always ready to cruise up and down Michigan Avenue, joining the many others doing the same thing.

Memories of July in the hot baking sun on the Krummrey Farm are always on my mind. You could not escape the heat coming off the black muck in waves. Walking on it ensured the bottoms of your feet felt like they were on fire, and it could get brutal.

July was often a time when my dad would take us on a vacation to escape the heat for a short respite. We usually packed up the car and headed north. We would enjoy sightseeing, then find a small motel to spend the night. We thought it was fabulous!

I remember the times my Aunt Emma and Uncle Frank Spradlin would come and visit us from McGuffy, Ohio. It was always a fun time, especially seeing and running around with our cousins. There were times, as well, that we made a trip to McGuffy to see them. I can still remember waking up at their house to the smell of bacon cooking downstairs; Aunt Em was a great cook. Later in the day, Uncle Frank's favorite saying was, "Let's have a little fun," which usually meant a trip to the ice cream parlour!

We played a lot of baseball and went fishing down by the Pine Croft stream. Growing up in the country there on Territorial Road, I felt I had the world by the tail. Good neighbors and always fun stuff to do outside. Really, what more could a guy ask for!

*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.*



Clyde (left) enjoyed any opportunity to hang out with his cousin Richard Spradlin during their visits. Photo provided by Clyde Whitaker

## Surprises abound on Stockbridge Area Garden Club field trip

by Judy Williams

On June 15, the Stockbridge Area Garden Club visited the historic farm and gardens of Bob and Sandy Mottice in Manchester. Club members were utterly amazed to see the old buildings, including a log house, smokehouse, schoolhouse, blacksmith forge and carpenter shop, on the couple's property. Over the years, beginning in 1983, these buildings were moved to their property and lovingly restored by the couple.

The day brought a surprise for the Mottices as well, when they learned their restored log cabin had been the home of Ann Catharine and Wilhelm Heinrich, who just happened to be the great-great-grandparents of visiting garden club member, Mary Wilson, of Stockbridge!

The Mottices are hosting an event on Sept. 19 to showcase their restoration efforts. Join them at 20830 E. Pleasant Lake Road to view special demonstrations for making butter, sauerkraut, and hand-ground and smoked sausage. Blacksmiths and woodworkers will also be showcased, along with live music, vendors, and food trucks. The event is free; however, a small fee will be collected for parking, which is used to help pay for insurance and upscale toilet facilities.

*All photos by Judy Williams. See additional photos at [www.StockbrideCommunityNews.com](http://www.StockbrideCommunityNews.com).*



The smokehouse (foreground) and log cabin are just two of the buildings moved to the Mottice property and restored.

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Kristen Stromski

# Around the Open Air Market Market Bucks return to support Stockbridge families and vendors

by Kristen Stromski

Market Bucks are back, and with them, we bring even more opportunities this market season!

Thanks to the generous support of the 5 Healthy Towns Foundation and the Tri-County Office on Aging, Stockbridge community members have the exciting opportunity to receive Market Bucks at no cost to them for food purchases at the Open Air Market every Friday from 4-7 p.m. (The market is closed on holiday weekends.)

What are Market Bucks? Upon approval, these small-but-mighty certificates are given to qualifying families to spend at our market on any food items or plants that grow food. This program helps to bridge the gap for local families experiencing food insecurity by providing access to healthy food and produce for those in need.

To apply, applications can be picked up and returned at the market during open hours. We encourage those in need to stop by and pick up an application, as we aim to help as many families as possible this market season.

This program is made possible through our generous sponsors, who continue to make access to healthy food a priority for local families. Every Market Buck spent at the Open Air Market not only provides nutritious food to families, but also helps support local growers and small businesses that make our market thrive.

## Time to introduce myself

As we look forward to another exciting market season, I'd also like to take a quick moment to introduce myself. My name is Kristen Stromski, and I am volunteering to assist with marketing efforts for the Open Air Market. My husband,

our two children, and I are proud to call Stockbridge home, and I am excited to help connect our community with the incredible local vendors who make this market possible.

This summer, I am completing my final semester for my degree in marketing from Davenport University. I am excited to put my marketing education into practice while supporting the market. Local vendor markets are something I have always been passionate about, and I can't wait to help connect our amazing vendors to even more local community members this year.

If you see me wandering around taking videos or photos at the market, please make sure to stop and say hello. I look forward to meeting even more community members throughout the season.

For questions, please contact us at OAMStockbridgeMI@Gmail.com. And as always, make sure to come shop our amazing vendors at the Open Air Markets every Friday, May through mid-October, from 4-7 p.m. We hope to see you there!

MARKET BUCKS

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Open Air Market of Stockbridge

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Qualifying Stockbridge community members can receive Market Bucks, at no cost, to use for food purchases at the Open Air Market. Image credit facebook.com/OpenAirMarketofStockbridge

GREGORY'S 51ST ANNUAL

4TH OF JULY

CELEBRATION

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 2026

8:30 A.M.

PARADE LINE UP BEGINS (M106 CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.) YOU MUST BE IN PLACE BY 9:30 AM FOR CARD COLLECTION. ALL HORSE/ANIMAL GROUPS MUST INCLUDE A 'SCOOPER'.

9:30 A.M.

DECORATED BIKES CONTEST FOR KIDS AGES 3-12 AT THE KIDS' GATHERING SPOT AT M-106 AND STONEHOUSE ROAD.

10 A.M.

PARADE BEGINS. GORDIE KUNZELMAN AS EMCEE.

NATIONAL ANTHEM SUNG BY MISS CHARLOTTE BELL, 10 YEARS OLD, 4TH GRADER AT HERITAGE ELEMENTARY

GRAND MARSHAL:

FIRE CHIEF WENDY HAUSE CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH UTFD THIS YEAR!

| STOCKBRIDGE TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Carried                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 15, 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Stockbridge Township Supervisor Cg Lantis called Stockbridge Township Regular Board Meeting to order on June 15, 2026, at 7:00pm at the Stockbridge Township Hall. Members present at the Stockbridge Township Regular Board Meeting; Supervisor CG Lantis, Clerk Becky Muraf, Treasurer James Wireman, Trustee Ed Wetherell, Member absent Trustee Terry Sommer | Wetherell motion to accept the Stockbridge Township Financial Report as printed Wireman Second All in Favor Motion                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Pledge of Allegiance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Carried                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Moment of Silence                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Police report update from May 2026 Call for service to the Township Increases 59% from the month of April, while calls for service within the Village dropped by an insignificant 1.8%. Total Calls for Service within the Village 113 Total Calls for Service within the Township 110 |
| Muraf motion to accept the Stockbridge Township meeting agenda as printed Wetherell Second All in Favor Motion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Old Business                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Carried                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Stockbridge Township Hall rental will stay tabled until the updates are done to the kitchen.                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Citizens Comments Discussion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | New Business                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Wetherell motion to accept the Stockbridge Township Board meeting minutes from May 18, 2026 as printed Wireman Second All in Favor Motion                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Wetherell motion to pay the monthly bills in the amount of \$39 ,401.67 Wireman Second All in Favor Motion Carried                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Citizen Comments Discussion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Lanits adjourn the Stockbridge Township Regular Meeting at 7:12PM                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | BM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

# STOCKBRIDGE SPORTS

## Panthers track and field wrap up season at State Finals, Big 8 Championships



JayLee Chapman was part of the 4x800 relay that finished 19th at the D3 State Finals. Photos by Mike Williamson



William Gancer won the Big 8 title in the 1,600 at the Big 8 Conference Championships.

by Mike Williamson

The Stockbridge boys and girls track and field teams concluded their season with strong performances at both the MHSAA Division 3 State Finals and the Big 8 Conference Championships.

### Division 3 State Finals

Several Panthers qualified to compete against the state's top athletes at the MHSAA Division 3 State Finals.

Junior William Gancer represented the boys team in two distance events, placing 17th in the 1,600-meter run with a time of 4:36.79 before recording a personal-best 10:13.41 to finish 26th in the 3,200.

For the girls, sophomore Aliyah Numinen placed 22nd in the 1,600-meter run in 6:00.71, while freshman Lucy Chapman finished 20th in the 3,200 with a time of 13:19.62.

The girls 4x800 relay team of JayLee Chapman, Shelby OKoney, Lucy Chapman, and Numinen placed 19th with a time of 10:51.81.

In the field events, sophomore Charlotte Hays qualified in both the shot put and discus. She finished 28th in the shot put with a throw of 29 feet, 2¼ inches and placed 30th in the discus with a toss of 78-1.

### Big 8 Conference Championships

Stockbridge turned in several standout performances at the Big 8 Conference Championships, highlighted by a conference title from Gancer.

Gancer claimed the Big 8 championship in the 1,600-meter run with a winning time of 4:50.64. The boys also earned a runner-up finish in the 4x100 relay as Koen Griffith, Steven Karowich, Tommy Bills, and Noah Sandecki combined for a time of 46.27.

Griffith, Bills, and Sandecki all reached the finals in the 100-meter dash. Griffith placed fourth in 12.01 seconds, Bills was fifth in 12.04, and Sandecki finished sixth in 12.25.

Brendon Cordero added a fifth-place finish in the 400-meter run in 57.21 and later posted a personal-best leap of 18 feet, 3¾ inches to place seventh in the long jump. Kam Gross finished sixth in the shot put with a throw of 41-6¼, while Sandecki placed sixth in the long jump at 18-4. Bills added a seventh-place finish in the high jump after clearing 5-6.

Additional boys results included Owen Peckham placing 12th in the 800-meter run, Alex Avis finishing 14th in the 1,600 and 15th in the 800, and the 4x800 relay team of Avis, Wyatt OKoney, Jacob Broesamle, and Peckham placing seventh. Parker Sandecki recorded a personal-best 26.77 in the 200-meter preliminaries, while Evan Killinger posted a personal-best 29.93.

On the girls side, Numinen led the Panthers with a runner-up finish in the 1,600-meter run in 5:41.77 and a fifth-place finish in the 800 in 2:41.08.

Melina Sayre placed fourth in the 100-meter dash finals with a time of 14.10. Shelby OKoney recorded a personal-best 6:17.51 to finish sixth in the 1,600 before placing seventh in the 800. JayLee Chapman added a season-best 2:45.17 to finish sixth in the 800.

Charlotte Hays earned two top-five finishes in the throwing events, placing fourth in the shot put and fifth in the discus with a personal-best throw of 87-9. Madeline Topping also recorded a personal-best mark of 14-0½ to finish fifth in the long jump.

See Track and field on page 7.

## Panthers baseball season ends in district play

by Mike Williamson

The Stockbridge baseball team's season came to an end with an 11-7 loss to Ann Arbor Greenhills in the MHSAA Division 3 District Tournament in Canton.

The Panthers finished the season with a 6-24 overall record.

Despite collecting just two hits, Stockbridge stayed in the game by taking advantage



Jonny Hayes sprints toward third against Union City. Photo credit Mark Rogozinski

of six Greenhills errors and drawing six walks. The Panthers held a 4-3 lead after four innings before Greenhills scored four runs in the fifth and added four more in the sixth to pull away.

Noeh Glenn had a hit and scored twice, while Colton Romero added a hit and an RBI. On the mound, Xavier Zimmerman and Romero combined to strike out seven batters.

Prior to the district tournament, the Panthers dropped a 3-2 decision to Webberville.

Andrew Ackeborg led the offense with two hits and an RBI. Romero added a hit and scored a run, while Drew Hayes also collected a hit.

Hayes pitched well in the loss, striking out six while allowing three unearned runs.

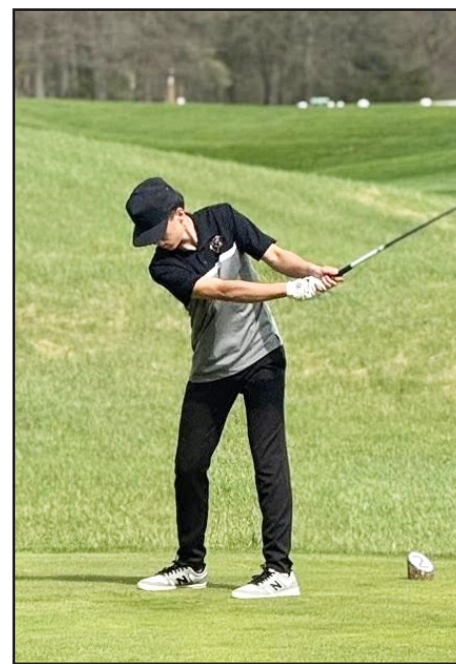
## Panthers finish ninth at Division 3 Golf Regional

by Mike Williamson

The Stockbridge boys golf team capped its best season in more than a decade with a ninth-place finish at the MHSAA Division 3 Regional at Washtenaw Country Club.

The Panthers posted a team score of 367 to finish ninth in the 20-team field. Ann Arbor Greenhills won the regional title with a score of 316.

See Golf on page 7.



Bradley Buddenborg tees off for the Panthers. Photo from Stockbridge Golf

# STOCKBRIDGE SPORTS

## Panthers softball season ends in Division 3 District Semifinals



**Zoey Horstman celebrates a home run against Napoleon.** Photo credit Mike Williamson

by Mike Williamson

The Stockbridge varsity softball team saw its best season in several years come to an end with a 15-10 loss to Napoleon in the MHSAA Division 3 District Semifinals at Onsted.

The Panthers finished the season with a 21-15 overall record and placed third in the Big 8 Conference with an 8-4 mark.

Stockbridge jumped out to an early lead with three runs in the first inning, highlighted by a two-run home run from Zoey Horstman. Napoleon responded with five runs in the bottom of the inning to take a 5-3 lead.

The Panthers answered with four runs in the second, regaining the lead on a two-run double by Laura Humrich. Napoleon responded with three runs in the bottom of the inning to move back in

front, 8-7.

Stockbridge scored twice in the third to briefly reclaim the lead before the Pirates answered with three runs in the bottom half of the inning and never looked back. Napoleon added one run in the fourth, two in the fifth and one in the sixth to secure the win.

Horstman led the Panthers offensively with four hits, including a double and a home run, while driving in three runs. Ava Lucas added three hits, including two doubles, and two RBIs.

McKenna Mezo went 3-for-3 with an RBI, while Airiana Smith collected two hits, scored twice and drove in a run.

Prior to the district tournament, the Panthers split a doubleheader with Bangor at Olivet University.

Stockbridge was limited to one hit in a 14-0 loss in the opener. Madison Rusnock recorded the Panthers' lone hit.

The Panthers bounced back with an 11-7 win in the nightcap.

Horstman and Smith each went 4-for-4 to lead the offense. Horstman scored three runs and drove in one, while Smith finished with two RBIs and two runs scored.

Alecia Smith and Humrich each collected two hits and two RBIs. Azlynn Parks added a hit and two RBIs, while Mezo contributed a hit and scored twice.

Emily Satkowiak earned the win in the circle, striking out six while allowing three hits.

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## Track and field page 6

Emma Monaghan posted a personal-best 55.74 in the 300-meter hurdles to finish ninth and added an eighth-place finish in the long jump. Morgan Rice recorded a personal-best 30.80 in the 200-meter preliminaries.

The Panthers also received strong relay performances, with the 4x100 team of Arabella Allison, Monaghan, Zoe Buddenborg, and Sayre placing fourth. The 4x200 relay finished fifth, while the 4x400 relay placed sixth.

## Golf page 6

Wyatt Loso led Stockbridge with an 11th-place finish, narrowly missing qualification for the Division 3 State Finals after shooting an 85.

Bradley Buddenborg followed with an 88 to place 19th. Cody Asquith carded a 94, Devin Bennett shot 100, and John Ransom finished with a 108.

## Village of Stockbridge road construction project to begin July 15



**Road construction on East Elizabeth and South Center streets will begin on July 15.** Image provided by Heather Armstrong

by Hope Salyer

Residents, businesses and visitors should prepare for traffic changes as the Village of Stockbridge begins a major roadway improvement project in downtown Stockbridge this month.

Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin July 15 and is expected to last approximately 12 weeks, weather permitting.

The project will include improvements along East Elizabeth Street from South M-106 to South Center Street, as well as South Center Street from East Elizabeth Street to Morton Road.

*See Construction on page 19.*

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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)

### 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

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### Our Writers

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

### Editor-in-Chief Emeritus

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

### We would love to hear from you!

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

#### Email:

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### Outreach in Action

## Christmas in July donations double ability to help Outreach clients

by Jo Mayer and Paul Crandall



**The Outreach Christmas in July program effectively doubles all gifted amounts that arrive in July.** Photo credit Engin Akyurt on [unsplash.com](https://unsplash.com)

Almost 10 years since its inception, the annual "Christmas in July" matching donation drive is still going strong at Stockbridge Community Outreach.

Beginning as a fundraising program exclusively financed out of the pockets of Outreach board members, the effort has grown from a match of \$3,000 in 2017 to a match of up to \$10,000 this year!

This year's match supporters include Choice One Bank, Eaton Community Bank, board member donors and others.

Fundraising monies raised from the program peaked in 2024 with \$19,314 received through the Christmas in July drive.

"We so appreciate the continued, steady support of Choice One Bank and the new partnering of Eaton Community Bank," said Gwen Reid. "We have such a supportive community, so we are hopeful that this will be the year we break the \$20,000 threshold!"

**How it works:** All donations received in July will be matched, up to a total of \$10,000 in donations for this year. This program effectively doubles the original gifted amounts that arrive in July. For example, if you give \$100, Outreach banks \$200.

Reid said most of the money from last year's drive, which totaled \$15,574, went to help clients with their utility bills and to stock the pantry shelves.

Just to remind readers how much donor generosity is appreciated, in 2025, Outreach accomplished the following, all from donated funds or grants:

- Sent home over 5,184 Tide-Me-Over bags to kids from preschool through high school.
- Handed out 5,435 bags of food at our weekly Wednesday "Pop Up" curbside distribution.
- Registered 38 new clients.
- Spent over \$32,550 on utility assistance.
- Served 1,435 families using our free clothing room.

"We are honored and grateful to be able to offer such needed services year-round," Reid said.

Anyone wishing to contribute to Christmas in July may send a check to Stockbridge Community Outreach (PO Box 682, Stockbridge, MI 49285), bring their donation to the Outreach office during open hours (MWF, 1–3 p.m.), or donate online at [stockbridgecommunityoutreach.org](http://stockbridgecommunityoutreach.org). Please note in the memo that your donation is for Christmas in July.

*Our local food pantry, crisis, and referral center is 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. Contact us at [Outreach49285@gmail.com](mailto:Outreach49285@gmail.com), 517-851-7285, or find us on Facebook.*



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# Community Calendar

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**Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays** – Prepared Meals for Seniors, noon to 2 p.m. Stockbridge Area Senior Center.

## **Mondays**

- Craft Drop In (Ages 8 and up) at the Stockbridge Library.
- Tennis Lessons - Drop-in Class (Ages 8-15), 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Veterans Park.
- Tennis Lessons - Drop-in Class (Ages 16+), 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Veterans Park.
- Walking Group, 7 p.m. at Veterans Park.
- First Mondays: American Legion Meeting, 7 p.m. at the Stockbridge American Legion Post.
- Second Mondays: Book discussion, 11 a.m. at the Stockbridge Library.

## **Tuesdays**

- Fiber Arts Group meets for knitting, crochet, weaving, spinning, etc., 3-5 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library.
- Pickleball, 6:30 p.m. at Veterans Park, beginners welcome.
- Art Basics with Tiffany, 6:30 p.m. at Village Hall.
- First Tuesdays: Sons of American Legion Meeting, 7 p.m. at the Stockbridge American Legion Post.
- Fourth Tuesdays: Legion Auxiliary Meeting, 7 p.m. at the Stockbridge American Legion Post.

## **Wednesdays**

- Yoga, 10 a.m. at Village of Stockbridge Meeting Hall.
- Discovery Storytime (For Babies, Toddlers, and Children), 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.
- Bingo, 6 p.m. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. at the Stockbridge American Legion.

## **Thursdays**

- Coffee chats, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Stockbridge Library.
- LEGO Group (ages 6-18), 4 to 5 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library.
- American Legion Thursday meals, 4:30-7 p.m. Open to the public.
- Ladies Night, 6 to 9 p.m. at Trillium Gardens.
- Celebrate Recovery, Stockbridge at Crossroads Community Church. A welcoming, community-focused format. Dinner (free) is at 6 p.m. Large Group at 7 p.m. Open Share at 8 p.m.

## **Fridays**

- Discovery Storytime (For Babies, Toddlers, and Children), 10:30 to 11 a.m. Stockbridge Library.
- Open Air Market of Stockbridge, 4 to 7 p.m. on the Stockbridge Township Square (See ad on page 19).

## **Saturdays**

- Yoga in the Park, 9 a.m. at Veterans Park. No class on July 4.

## **Sundays**

- Adults, all ages Cardio Drumming. 7 to 8 p.m. at the the Senior Center (SASC).
- July 1** - New Superintendent of Schools starts. See article on page 1.
- July 2** - Morning Trivia, 9:30 to 10 a.m. at SASC..
- July 4** - Gregory's 51st Annual 4th of July Celebration. See schedule on page 5.
- July 8** - Crazy Craig's Comedy Show, 11 a.m. to noon at the SASC.
- July 9** - Along the Fence Daylilies opens. See ad on page 2.
- July 9** - Drop-in STEAM Lab, 10 a.m. to noon at the Stockbridge Library.
- July 10** - Art with Ms. Tiffany, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. at the Stockbridge Library.
- July 11** - Power Core Yoga with Erin, 9 a.m. at Veterans Park.
- July 11** - Sewing Group, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library.
- July 11** - Waterloo UMC Annual Ice Cream Social and Car Show, 4 to 7 p.m. See ad on page 21.
- July 13** - Book Club, 11 a.m. to noon at the Stockbridge Library. Book: "The Readers of the Broken Wheel."
- July 15** - Music with Ms. Beth, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Stockbridge Library.
- July 15** - Bubble Fun Bubble Science, 11 a.m. to noon at SASC.
- July 16** - Morning Trivia, 9:30 to 10 a.m. at SASC.
- July 18** - Vinyasa Yoga Flow with Becca, 9 a.m. at Veterans Park.
- July 20** - Reading with Remington, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Stockbridge Library.
- July 21** - Tai Chi, 9 a.m. at Veterans Park.
- July 22** - Lansing Hoops (Hula Hoops), 11 a.m. to noon at Heritage School.
- July 23** - Drop-in STEAM Lab, 10 a.m. to noon at the Stockbridge Library.
- July 24** - Sounds & Sights Festival in Downtown Chelsea. See ad on page 7.
- July 25** - Gentle Vinyasa Yoga with Kelsey, 9 a.m. at Veterans Park.
- July 25** - Sounds & Sights Festival in Downtown Chelsea. See ad on page 7.

**For an online calendar of more community events visit:**  
[www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com](http://www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com).

**To see the full list of Library events visi** [cadl.org](http://cadl.org)

**To add your community events to our free community calendar, email submissions to** [stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com](mailto:stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com).



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Zimmerman**



## Seniors Not Pictured

Helal Beydoun  
Jax Glemser  
Paige Marshall  
Derrin Rose

# Remembering their service

Stockbridge veterans share their stories

Reprinted from Uncaged News May 2026 edition

"That Nation which respects and honors its dead, shall ever be respected and honored itself," said Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Edmund B. Whitman in 1868.

Memorial Day is a time of remembrance and tribute to those who fought and sacrificed for the nation. While many know it simply as Memorial Day, the holiday was originally called Decoration Day because

"And you won't find too many veterans that want to speak of what they had to do, what they did because their pride doesn't involve that. It comes, it comes from the pride of serving your country."

Memorial day is about honoring sacrifice and recognizing the people who served and the ones beside them who never made it home. 420,000 American soldiers died in WWII, 58,220 in Vietnam, and 4,500 veterans died in Iraq.

PHOTO ELLIE CREPS

families and communities decorated the graves of fallen soldiers with flowers. The tradition became especially important after the Civil War, when the nation sought ways to honor the massive loss of life suffered by both Union and Confederate soldiers. In 1868, Gen. John A. Logan officially declared the day a national observance dedicated to remembering those who died in military service.

As stories of sacrifice are shared across the country each year, local veterans in Stockbridge are also preserving memories of service, hardship, friendship, and pride.

At the Stockbridge Area Senior Center, veterans Stuart Kenewell, David Trojan, and David Plank reflected on the experiences that shaped their lives in the Marines and Navy.

For Stuart Kenewell, service began unexpectedly. Shortly after marrying his wife in 1968, he was drafted into the military at just 19 years old during the Vietnam War.

"When I was first drafted, we went to Fort Wayne in Detroit," Kenewell said. "They said, 'All right, we need four men for the Marine Corps today.' Everybody said Army or Navy. Then they picked at random, and my draft card was one that got picked."

Kenewell described arriving at Marine Corps boot camp in San Diego and immediately being pushed through intense physical and mental training.

"They pretty much break you down until you're almost ready to pass out, and then they build you back up," Kenewell said.

"But it made us into a very tough force."

After training, Kenewell was sent to Vietnam, where he worked in amphibious troop transport operations near Da Nang and along the demilitarized zone. Although he openly

discusses his experiences today, he explained that many veterans struggle to revisit those memories.

"You won't find too many veterans that want to speak of what they had to do," Kenewell said. "Their pride doesn't come from the things they had to see. The pride comes from serving their country."

He also wishes civilians understood veterans on a deeper level.

"We're not just somebody that shows up at a parade or saluting the flag," Kenewell said. "Veterans understand what it means to serve."

While Kenewell's memories center around combat and sacrifice, Navy veteran David Plank remembers the sense of wonder that came with traveling the world during his service.

Plank joined the Navy partly to avoid being drafted into the Army during the Vietnam era.

"The Navy was a lot better choice than being drafted into the Army," Plank said.

Serving aboard a rescue salvage ship with a crew of only about 80 sailors, Plank formed close friendships while traveling overseas.

"Basically just going out to sea and seeing the world," Plank said. "I've been in Naples, Spain, Greece, and it was quite a paid vacation, actually."

Even during long stretches at sea, sailors found ways to support each other.

"We had movies at night and just pumped everybody up around you to keep everybody's mind active," Plank said.

David Trojan's military career also opened doors he never expected. Trojan joined the Navy in 1979 during a time of economic uncertainty.

"There was a lack of opportunity and a lack of education," Trojan said. "I had four years of Naval Junior ROTC training in high school, so I decided to join right out of high school."

Within months of enlisting, Trojan found himself flying patrol missions near Iran during the 1980 hostage crisis. Over the course of his 21-year Navy career, he served throughout the Pacific, including Hawaii, Japan, Guam, Okinawa, Singapore, and South Korea.

Trojan said his proudest moment came not during combat, but during a humanitarian crisis in 1991 when Hurricane Iniki devastated Kauai, Hawaii.

"There were only about 50 military personnel on the island," Trojan said. "We basically became the humanitarian relief operation for the whole island."

Trojan helped clear roads, reopen the airport, and deliver emergency supplies to thousands of residents. For his efforts, he received the Humanitarian Service Medal.

"So I'm really proud of that," Trojan said. "It wasn't for a military operation. It was for helping people."

The military also shaped Trojan's future long after retirement. Using educational opportunities provided through his service, he earned a master's degree and became an aircraft engineer for the Department of Defense. Today, he continues volunteering in aviation museums across Michigan.

"Even though I'm retired now, I still restore aircraft in museums, and I still do presentations about local history and aviation-related topics all over the state of Michigan," Trojan said.

As we are able to hear these stories and gain knowledge, we should also be able to take away key points for remembrance. On Memorial Day, you can help celebrate by decorating gravesites of veterans who have lost their lives in war, as well as writing cards to active and retired veterans, or even just a simple thank you.

by Mckenna Williams, Reporter





Brian Friddle

## Superintendent's Desk What is BTAM?

Dear Stockbridge Families,

One of my highest priorities as superintendent is ensuring that every student, staff member, and family feels safe in our schools. Creating a secure learning environment requires more than simply responding to

concerns when they arise—it means identifying potential issues early and connecting students with the support they need before situations escalate.

Over the past several years, many of our administrators and mental health professionals have received specialized training in Behavioral Threat Assessment Management (BTAM). This proactive, evidence-based process helps schools identify, assess, and respond to concerning behaviors in a thoughtful, structured, and supportive way.

When families hear that a threat assessment has been initiated, I want them to understand what that means. A threat assessment is not an indication that someone has been found guilty of wrongdoing or that a dangerous situation exists. Rather, it is a careful process designed to gather information, understand the context of a situation, identify any concerns, and determine what level of support may be appropriate.

Every Behavioral Threat Assessment team includes an administrator, a law enforcement officer, and a member of our mental health staff. If a student receives special education services, our director of special education also participates to ensure all relevant perspectives are considered. This multidisciplinary approach allows the team to make informed decisions based on facts, patterns of behavior, and the individual circumstances surrounding each situation.

One of the greatest strengths of BTAM is its focus on context. Not every concerning comment or behavior represents a genuine threat. The assessment process helps distinguish between typical developmental behavior and situations that warrant additional attention or intervention.

Rather than relying on assumptions, the team carefully evaluates the available information before determining the most appropriate response.

Just as importantly, BTAM is centered on prevention—not punishment. In many cases, the outcome is connecting a student and their family with school-based supports, counseling services, or community resources that can address underlying concerns and promote long-term success. Early intervention often prevents more serious issues from developing.

We also recognize that communication and confidentiality are essential throughout this process. Information is shared only with those who need it to support student safety and well-being, and families remain important partners every step of the way. We value the trust our community places in us and are committed to handling every assessment with professionalism, compassion, and care.

I also want to reassure our families that every threat assessment is taken seriously. Our goal is always to de-escalate situations, provide appropriate support, and engage additional resources whenever necessary. Whether that means involving specialized staff or working with community partners, our focus remains on helping students while maintaining a safe learning environment for everyone.

At Stockbridge Community Schools, we are committed to fostering schools where students feel safe, supported, and ready to learn. Behavioral Threat Assessment Management is one of the many tools we use to fulfill that commitment, ensuring concerns are addressed thoughtfully, resources are provided when needed, and every student has the opportunity to succeed.

If you have questions about our Behavioral Threat Assessment Management process, I encourage you to contact your school's administration. We appreciate your continued partnership in keeping our schools safe, welcoming, and supportive for all.

Go Panthers!

Brian Friddle and Kelsey Jennett

*This is Superintendent Friddle's final column before his retirement.*

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Want More Information About Stockbridge Community Schools? Visit... **PANTHERNET.NET**

## New superintendent page 1



Kacie Kefgen, a consultant representing the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB), facilitated the superintendent interview meetings held by the Stockbridge Community Schools Board of Education. Photo credit Tracey Pardiack

also the parents of two Stockbridge students—one who graduated with honors with the Class of 2026 and one who is a current sophomore.

"I am all in for Stockbridge and look forward to the opportunity and journey ahead! GO PANTHERS!" Trapp exclaimed.

Aside from two years he spent teaching in North Carolina prior to moving back to Michigan, Trapp has worked in the Stockbridge district. Prior to being appointed almost 10 years ago as principal at the Jr./Sr. High School, he taught in and then chaired the Science Department at the school. He has also coached girls cross country and track, junior varsity football, and freshman boys basketball.

The Stockbridge Community News welcomes Superintendent Jeff Trapp, and we look forward to doing a more in-depth interview with him in the near future.

## Village Council page 1

The addition of these new trustees comes at a critical time. Village residents have faced a series of tax and water bill increases this spring, reflecting concerns about the village's long-term financial management.

Connolly shared the following goals as his reason for joining the council in February: "My goals are simply to make sure our community remains safe, healthy and balanced. I seek to help make Stockbridge a place to live, not just visit."

Rasmussen commented on her decision to get involved: "I found it alarming when I received the notice of public hearing for the police services special assessment district asking residents to pay an emergency tax for bills that I assumed would have been predictable and accounted for in the village's budget. I decided to run for council, and serendipitously, a council position opened and I was appointed to fill it."

When asked about her goals, Rasmussen responded, "I'm open to learning about every angle of these problems to find solutions with this team and recognize we may have some tough choices ahead. My priority is to return the village to financial solvency."

In November, residents will have the opportunity to vote for open Village Council seats on the ballot.

Village Council meetings are held at the village office at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. Meetings are open to the public, and residents are welcome to speak during public comment, with remarks limited to three minutes per person.

## Retiring staff page 1

- **Cady Bauer:** Hired in 2000, Bauer is saying goodbye after 26 years as an early childhood associate teacher.
- **Sherri Cole:** Hired in 2015, Cole is wrapping up 11 years as an early childhood teacher.
- **Brian Friddle:** Hired in the summer of 2021, Friddle is passing on the school superintendent torch to Jeff Trapp as of July 1.
- **Sheila Queener:** Hired in time for the 2024/25 school year, Queener chose Stockbridge as the place to finish her teaching career as a first grade teacher.

The community extends its thanks to all of the Stockbridge Schools staff members listed above and sends good wishes as these individuals embark on their next chapters.

Also worth noting, this spring a new contract was settled for Stockbridge teachers. It runs through June 2027. Pay increases for teachers were negotiated to put Stockbridge more in line with neighboring districts like Dansville and Leslie.

Later, when contacted by Stockbridge Community News, Trapp shared his initial thoughts about being selected to lead the administration of the school district.

"I am deeply honored and excited to serve as the next superintendent of Stockbridge Community Schools. Stockbridge has been my professional home for 20 years as a teacher, coach, and principal," Trapp said.

Trapp describes himself as the proud son of a 1969 Stockbridge graduate. He and his wife, Leanne, are

## Active Aging Strong leadership builds strong communities: The dedicated SASC board of directors is a perfect example

by Rachel Stanley

Behind every successful community is a group of dedicated individuals working quietly and faithfully to guide its mission. At the Stockbridge Area Senior Center, that leadership comes from a deeply committed board of directors whose contribution ensures the center remains a welcoming, vibrant, sustainable resource for older adults throughout the community.



Alexa Ten Eyck, president, leads the deeply committed Stockbridge Area Senior Center board of directors. Photo credit Alexa Ten Eyck

Under the leadership of board president Alexa Ten Eyck, the board plays an essential role in shaping the future of the senior center while preserving the values that make it such an important gathering place for local residents.

A strong board of directors provides more than oversight. It brings vision, accountability, advocacy, and connection. Board members volunteer countless hours reviewing policies, supporting programming, and planning for long-term growth. They ensure financial stability. Board work often happens behind the scenes, but the impact is seen every day in the smiles, camaraderie, activities, and services available to center participants.

For many older adults, the senior center is a place where friendships are formed, wellness is encouraged, and our community thrives. Programs that support healthy aging, social engagement, nutrition, education, recreation, and volunteerism all depend on thoughtful leadership in addition to responsible stewardship. A committed board helps make those opportunities possible.

One of the greatest benefits of a strong board is its ability to represent the needs and voices of the community. Board members connect the senior center with local organizations, businesses, volunteers and residents. These relationships strengthen partnerships and open doors for collaboration, fundraising, and expanded programming that benefits seniors across the Stockbridge area.

*"...Promote, educate, and offer activities for the emotional well-being of the Stockbridge Area Senior Citizens and their families"*

Good governance also ensures the organization remains mission-focused. The board works closely with staff and volunteers to support the center's purpose while adapting to the changing needs of today's active aging population. Whether addressing transportation challenges, expanding wellness opportunities, or creating new social activities, effective leadership helps the center remain responsive and relevant.

*See Active Aging on page 21.*

## Positive Parenting

## Transform a craft into a STEAM project with your child



Kelsey Rasmussen

by Kelsey Rasmussen

"I want to help," is a child's invitation to be included in the meaningful work around him. Sometimes this means we won't get loaded into the car on time, so we decide to do the task ourselves and skip the teachable moment. Other times, we slow down and let our child(ren) engage in learning by doing the real work of life. It benefits a child to develop skills and, once he's mastered those skills and can genuinely help set the table or peel the potatoes, it benefits parents, too.

Having taught science and engineering in secondary public school for 15 years, I've learned that much of what people do in everyday life is engineering. You're "engineering" whenever you identify a problem (we need to water the plants while we're Up North), come up with a solution (let's put the sprinkler on a timer), and repeat the solution until it works (you know it never works the first time!).

You do science every time you pursue a testable question: Does our family enjoy mac and cheese better when made with cream or cream of celery soup? Do tomato plants in direct sun produce more tomatoes than those in partial shade? Does fertilizing once or twice per month produce larger watermelons?

Artistic creativity is involved in engineering and experimental design. The buzzword STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, art and math because they all interweave.

- **Art** uses creativity for expression, for example, open-ended exploration with materials like paint or craft supplies. Kids may design toothpick-gumdrop sculptures or popsicle-stick-and-glue barns.
- **Engineering** focuses creativity to solve a problem. For example, use craft supplies or recycled materials to create a shelter for birds or bugs or to create a mail-and-cellphone holder to help the family stay organized.
- **Science** answers testable questions for discovery. For example, you can test which bug-hotel design attracts more mason bees.

Don't limit yourself. A person can be an artist, engineer and scientist depending on the need. In fact, most 4-year-olds already are!

### Activity Highlight:

Take your child's favorite craft and add this simple constraint: it has to help someone or something. A popsicle-stick structure becomes a bird feeder; a recycled cardboard box with bamboo straws or cardboard tubes becomes a bee hotel. Test whether these work by watching and counting visitors. Your little artist has become an engineer—probably without even noticing the difference!



Parents and children benefit by slowing down and letting children engage in learning by doing the real work of life. Photo credit Tiffany Snyder

## Free yoga page 2

Chelsea Wellness Center and Chelsea District Library are partnering to bring Yoga on the Lawn on CDL's front lawn on Saturdays, starting at 10 a.m.

These Saturday yoga sessions are free and open to all ages and abilities. Participants are asked to bring water and a yoga mat/blanket/towel.

All of the sessions have different schedules and days off this summer, so please follow the Facebook pages for each of the Wellness Centers, the GLCWI, and the Village of Stockbridge for the most up-to-date schedules and any cancellation information.

## Farm to Table 11th Annual Fabulous Feast: Tickets now on sale

Information provided by 5 Healthy Towns

You don't want to miss out on this year's Farm to Table Fabulous Feast, Sunday, Sept. 13 at Grass Lake County Park. This outdoor celebration highlights our local farms, local chefs, and the 5 Healthy Towns Foundation (5HF) communities coming together to support our farmers markets – Chelsea Farmers Market, Dexter Winter Farmers Market, Grass Lake Farmers Market, Manchester Market, and the Open Air Market in Stockbridge. Reduced priced tickets are \$67.50 now and available online. Tables are also available for \$550. Ticket prices will increase to \$75 on July 10. This is an alcohol-free and zero-waste event.

Mitzi Koors, chair of the Grass Lake Farmers Market board, is leading a committee of volunteers to showcase all Grass Lake has to offer – including a beautiful venue on the water, and a seasonal farm-inspired meal served family style. "This event is about more than great food; it's about honoring the people and partnerships that sustain our community," Koors said. "Every element of the evening reflects dedication and care of Grass Lake's community."

Steve Petty, 5HF CEO added, "This annual event fosters meaningful connections between those who grow the food and those who enjoy it. Now in its 11th year, the Farm to Table event continues to grow in both attendance and impact. We credit the event's success to strong community partnerships and our commitment to celebrating access to local food systems."

**WHAT:** 5 Healthy Towns Farm to Table Fabulous Feast, a multi-course dinner and silent auction

**WHEN:** Sunday, Sept. 13, 4 to 6 p.m. (Doors open at 3 p.m.)

**WHERE:** Grass Lake County Park, 400 North Lake St., Grass Lake

**COST:** Tickets are \$67.50, available online.

See Farm to Table on page 21.

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## Ingham County Farm Bureau makes \$100K investment in the Ingham County Fairgrounds

Information submitted by Lindsey McKeever

The Ingham County Farm Bureau announced a \$100,000 donation to the Ingham County Fairgrounds. While the gift is an unrestricted contribution to the fairgrounds, leadership has designated the funds to support construction of the new covered grandstand, helping restore a central gathering place for Fair Week and year-round events.

"We are deeply grateful to the Ingham County Farm Bureau for this generous gift," said Michael Yanz, president of the Ingham County Fair Board. "Their contribution advances our effort to rebuild a safe, accessible grandstand that will benefit youth exhibitors, families and the broader community for generations."

The fairgrounds has been without a grandstand since 2016, when the original structure was removed for safety reasons. The new grandstand will seat 1,382 guests and include restrooms and a concession area. The project is funded through a mix of federal and private sources; this donation helps close the gap and accelerate construction.

"We're proud to support the fairgrounds and the many programs it sustains," said the Ingham County Farm Bureau president, Jeanie Igl. "The fair is where agriculture, youth development and community come together. Investing in the grandstand is an investment in our local traditions and future generations."

The project is expected to be completed prior to the fair in 2027.

*Additional funding for this project was made available from federal funding totaling \$2.5 million, as well as a \$250,000 donation from the Dart Foundation.*

## Construction page 7

According to village officials, the project is being funded through Act 51 and Category B Grant funds and will include roadway reconstruction, upgrades to parking areas along Township Square, select sidewalk improvements and accessibility upgrades, as well as other related infrastructure improvements.

During most of the construction period, the affected roadways will be closed to through traffic. Motorists should expect limited access within the project area and are encouraged to use alternate routes whenever possible.

Pedestrians should also be aware of temporary sidewalk closures and detours and are encouraged to follow posted signs while work is underway.

Village officials acknowledge that construction will create temporary inconveniences but say the improvements will enhance safety, accessibility and the overall appearance and functionality of the downtown area for years to come.

Project updates will be posted on the village's website, <https://www.villageofstockbridgemi.gov>, as additional information becomes available.

Questions about the project may be directed to Project Manager Pat Turner of Wolverine Engineers and Surveyors at 517-204-5487 or by email at [patt@wolveng.com](mailto:patt@wolveng.com).

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# Obituaries

## Esther Louise Kapp



**Esther Louise Kapp**  
March 1, 1935 to June 5, 2026

**Esther Louise Kapp**, of Stockbridge, MI, passed away on June 5, 2026 at the age 91. She was born March 1, 1935, to Francis and Lucille (Huston) Maulbetsch.

Esther graduated from Ann Arbor High School class of 1953. She married Richard Walter Kapp in Ann Arbor on June 27, 1953.

She grew up on a farm in rural Washtenaw County. As a child she loved to work outside with her dad and brother, Lewis, tending the farm animals and helping to rebuild tractor engines during the winter months.

In the summer months, she worked in the fields where they grew vegetables that they took to the Ann Arbor Farmers Market. She continued her love of gardening and attending the Farmers Market for over 50 years. As the years progressed she expanded her passion for farming to include flowers and vegetables grown in her greenhouses.

In her later years, she took up baking and attending craft shows and markets with her baked goods, where she was famous for her soft pretzels and dinner rolls.

Esther enjoyed being outdoors in the sunshine working with her hands, spending time with family, relaxing weekends at the cabin, and baking giant batches of her Oatmeal Peanut Butter Chocolate Chip Cookies.

She is survived by her children: James (Kim) Kapp of Leslie, Linda (Bruce) Rogers of Munith, Bob (Emily) Kapp of Dansville, Walter (Carolanne) Kapp of Stockbridge, and Daniel (Paula) Kapp of Brooklyn; 11 grandchildren; and 23 great-grandchildren. Also surviving are her brother, John (Jane) Maulbetsch of Ann Arbor, sister-in-law, Mary (Alan) Erke of Chelsea; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Francis and Lucille (Huston) Maulbetsch; youngest son, Edward Kapp in 1984; her husband, Richard Kapp in 2006; and granddaughter, Jenny Tanck in 2025; brothers, Lewis Maulbetsch, Neil Maulbetsch, and sisters-in-law, Virginia Maulbetsch and Rebecca Maulbetsch.

Visitation was held at Jeruel Baptist Church, Munith on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, from 4-7 p.m., and on Thursday, June 11, 2026, from 10-11 a.m.

Funeral services were held at Jeruel Baptist Church on Thursday, June 11, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. with Pastor Scott Castle officiating. Burial followed at Munith Cemetery.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to the Dansville FFA, c/o Dansville Schools, 1246 Adams St, Dansville, MI 48819.

## Nancy Tasker



**Nancy Tasker**  
May 28, 1945 to May 28, 2026

**Nancy Tasker**, age 81, of Gregory died at home on May 28th by the side of her devoted husband Michael Craine. Beloved mother to Andrew (Carrie) and Benjamin (Shannon), grandmother to Clyde and Oliver, and friend to many, she will be greatly missed.

Nancy was preceded in death by her parents Mary and Roly, sisters Maryanne and Jane, and her cherished son Andrew.

Nancy Tasker died on her 81st birthday. She lived a full life as marriage partner of 54 years, a mother, a registered nurse, and an artist. She raised her children in Brighton and worked at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor. Her artistic work was in several media, including fiber, pen and ink, and watercolor. It was

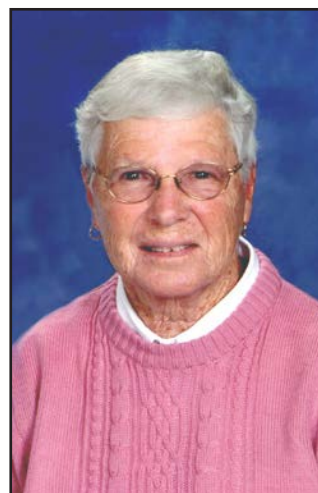
shown in galleries in the Midwest and in San Francisco.

Cremation has taken place. She will be laid to rest in Brighton near her mother and sister, and her son Andrew.

In honor of Nancy, memorial contributions can be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Greater Michigan Chapter or to the Livingston County Animal Shelter.

Arrangements by Lynch and Sons Funeral Home, Brighton.

## Joan Carol Bumpus



**Joan Carol Bumpus**  
Passed away June 16, 2026

**Joan Carol Bumpus** passed away peacefully on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, surrounded by the love of her family.

Joan is survived by her daughters, Carrie (Tim) Johnson, Tracy Bumpus, Amy West (Jason Kallio), and Tammy (Kevin) Basore; and her son, Chuck H. Bumpus Jr. (Nicky Straub); grandchildren: Michael (Isabella) Johnson, Mallari (Rob) Dancer, Jeff West, Jessi (Austin) Maynard, Nick (Hope) Basore, Natalie Basore, Stacey (Lalo) Rodriguez, Ethan (Caroline) Basore, Alec Bumpus, and Ian (Jasmine) Bumpus; great-grandchildren: Haley and Logan Bumpus, Onnalee and Isaac Bumpus, Aria and Joanie Rodriguez, Bowen, Oaklen, and Leni Maynard, Elin and Andrew Johnson, and Drew Dancer; her beloved sister, Mary "Sissy" Curtis; her honorary daughter, Jackie Scheller; her sister-in-law, Phyllis Ward; as well as many nieces, nephews, extended family members, her cherished caretakers, and dear friends.

Joan was preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, Charles H. Bumpus, as well as family members who welcomed her home with open arms.

Joan devoted her life to her family and found her greatest joy in being a wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. To those who loved her most, she was simply known as "Nana." Nothing made her happier than having her family together, and she created a home filled with warmth, laughter, and unconditional love.

Joan was well known for her beautifully decorated home during the holidays. Every season was celebrated with joy, creativity, and a touch of magic that made family gatherings feel extra special.

She was a faithful member of the First Presbyterian Church of Stockbridge, a place that held a special place in her heart. Joan cherished her church family and the many friendships she made throughout her life.

Joan and Chuck shared a love story that spanned more than six decades. Their devotion to one another was evident to everyone who knew them. After Chuck's passing, Joan missed him deeply and spoke often of how much she longed to be with him again. Though their family grieves her loss, they find comfort in knowing they are reunited once more.

Joan shared a special bond with her only surviving "sissy", Mary Curtis. Together they filled countless years with laughter, stories, mischief, and love. Their closeness was a treasured gift, and the memories they created together will forever be cherished by their family.

Nothing brought Joan more happiness than spending time with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Her family will forever treasure the memories, traditions, laughter, and unconditional love she shared.

Though their hearts are broken, the family finds comfort in knowing that they are together once again. Her legacy of love, faith, kindness, hospitality, and devotion to family will continue through the generations she leaves behind.

Funeral services were held on Monday, June 22, 2026 at noon at First Presbyterian Church of Stockbridge, where the family received friends from 10 a.m. until the time of service. Burial took place at Oaklawn Cemetery in Stockbridge.

Memorial contributions may be made to the First Presbyterian Church of Stockbridge, the Stockbridge Community Outreach, or Stockbridge Athletics.



*"Dear Gabbie" is not meant to replace the advice of professionals ... especially your mom!*

**Dear Gabbie,**

**I have noticed people are much more free and loose about dropping the F-bomb and other swear words in conversation, and I'm trying to relax about that since it doesn't seem to be going away. But the one word I really cringe at is the "R word." Am I being unreasonable to think calling people "retarded" is beyond the pale?**

**Signed,**

**Alphabet Soup**

Dear Alphabet Soup,

I truly believe those who throw the "R word" around loosely have never had a loved one who was diagnosed with a severe learning disability. According to WebMD and other online sources, the term "retardation" is an old term that has been replaced with the phrase "intellectual disability." But that doesn't make it any less hurtful to hear the "R word" used casually to describe someone who is simply being irresponsible or foolish.

Over the years, when someone I know calls someone or something "retarded," I've made it my business to ask if they know anyone who was ever diagnosed with an intellectual disability. They generally tell me "No," to which I respond, "Then you don't know how hurtful that might be to someone within earshot." Admittedly, it makes for an embarrassing moment or two between us, but we soon move past it, and I can say the "R word" has never again been used in my presence by anyone I mention this to.

Coincidentally, I recently read something by an American who commented that the British have some very creative words to describe a person who is acting clueless. The best part about these British words is that they aren't offensive to a group of people but rather to things—like a plank, a turnip, a spoon, a walnut, or whatever! And apparently it's even more effective to put the word "absolute" or "bloody" in front of any of those words, for emphasis. ☺

Also, despite what some might like you to believe, omitting the "R word" from our lexicon is not caving to political correctness. Rather, it's taking into account people's feelings—a practice that, used regularly, could help make the world a better place, regardless of a person's political leanings.

So anyone reading this who likes to use the "R word" regularly—don't be an absolute plank. Find a different word to use instead.

*Gabbie*

## Active Aging page 17

President Alexa Ten Eyck and the board of directors recognize that investing in older adults strengthens the entire community. When seniors remain active, connected, and engaged, everyone benefits from their wisdom, experience, volunteerism, and continued participation in civic life. Supporting healthy aging is not simply about services, it is about creating dignity, belonging, and opportunity for every generation.

The success of the Stockbridge Area Senior Center reflects the power of teamwork. Staff, volunteers, members, donors, other participants, and board members all contribute to creating a positive environment where people feel welcomed and valued. The board of directors serves as a foundation for that success, helping guide the organization with integrity, compassion, and dedication.

Society is continually learning the importance of active aging. Thanks to the commitment of its essential board of directors, the Stockbridge Area Senior Center continues to grow as a place of connection, purpose, and support for older adults in Stockbridge and their families.

*Rachel Stanley is the director of the Stockbridge Area Senior Center (SASC)—a great place to spend time. Experience firsthand a sense of connection and well-being at the SASC. For information, visit [stockbridgeareaseniors.org](http://stockbridgeareaseniors.org), call 517- 480-0353, or stop in at 219 W. Elm St.*



## Farm to Table page 18

To purchase tickets, sponsor, donate or attend this year's event, scan the QR code below or visit <https://www.5healthytowns.org/farm-to-table-dinner/>



For more information about the 5 Healthy Towns Foundation or the five farmers markets, visit [www.5healthytowns.org](http://www.5healthytowns.org).

## Waterloo Village United Methodist Church

8110 Washington St, Grass Lake (Waterloo)

**Annual Ice Cream Social & Classic Vehicle Show**

**Sat, July 11, 4 – 7 p.m.**

**All Cars, Tractors, Motorcycles Welcome!**

This is a freewill donation event.



### 2026 ADDITIONAL EVENTS

Saturdays: 8 – 10 am

Sept 12, Oct 10, Nov 14, Dec 12

- **BRB! - Breakfasts 'R Back: Hall**
- **Bottle/Can Drive: Schoolhouse Steps**

**BOYer! the Magic Guy @ 5:30 pm**



Reprinted from Uncaged News April 2026 edition

PHOTO PROVIDED BY AIDIN SCHIPUL

A firefighter assists a volunteer in containing and extinguishing a blaze, working together to control the fire and prevent it from spreading.



## ontainment

From brush fires to emergency calls, volunteer firefighters face danger, loss and long hours protecting their community

The call came in late, and by the time we got there, the cold had already settled in. Smoke was still rising from what used to be Rustic Roots in Dansville, and the ground was slick under our boots. As we started spraying water, it soaked through my gear, freezing almost as soon as it hit. Every movement got heavier, stiffer, like my body didn't want to cooperate anymore. We were there for more than five hours.

What starts as something small like burning leaves or dry grass can actually turn into something much bigger. The National Interagency Fire Center reports that wildfires burn millions of acres across the United States every year.

The world needs firefighters. They play a key role in protecting communities and property. In Stockbridge, the fire department is completely volunteer-based. According to the National Fire Protection Association, about 65% of firefighters in the United States are volunteers who respond when they are needed.

For me, my brother asked me to join, and I did. The application process includes filling out an application and completing an interview. If accepted, members learn skills such as using a fire hose, rescuing people from vehicles and putting out different types of fires.

Members also use tools such as the

jaws of life, chainsaws and halligans. It is a role focused on helping others and learning new skills.

S.A.E.S.A. has been serving Stockbridge, Waterloo, White Oak and Bunker Hill since 2006.

During dry parts of spring, summer and fall, brush fires are common. These can start from burning leaves, dry grass or other materials that spread out of control. So far this year, there have been about five brush fires in the area. Some are already out by the time crews arrive, while others take hours to contain.

The department also responds to structure fires. When Rustic Roots in Dansville caught fire in March, Stockbridge firefighters responded

to assist. Crews worked in freezing conditions for about five hours.

Firefighters also respond to medical calls with ambulance services, often for cardiac arrests or overdoses. While outcomes vary, responders said these are some of the most difficult parts of the job.

Training takes place monthly, usually on the first Monday. Activities include controlled burns, hydrant operations and equipment maintenance.

For those interested in serving, the department encourages applications.

by Aidin Schipul, Reporter

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## Reading Between the Lines Take a gamble and give 'Doc' a try, by Mary Doria Russell

by Mary Jo David

*"Bein' born is craps ... How we live is poker."* (Doc Holliday to Morgan Earp in "Doc.")

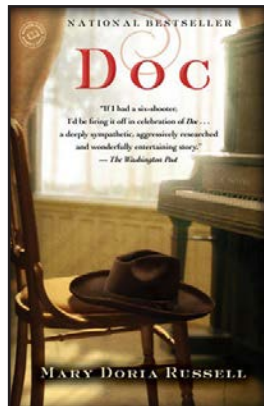


Image credit  
[penguinrandomhouse.com](http://penguinrandomhouse.com)

The very reason some people don't join book clubs is the very reason why maybe they should. By that I mean, I have always shied away from joining a book club because I don't want to read books I don't like. Yet, were it not for a book club I joined a year ago, I never would have read the book "Doc" by Mary Doria Russell.

It shouldn't have surprised me that I enjoyed this book. "The Women of the Copper Country," also by Russell, is a book I often recommend, especially to people from Michigan, home of the Copper Country. (See Reading Between the Lines, March 2024.)

But "Doc" is definitely out of my wheelhouse. The only Westerns I watched were with my dad when I was a kid. Sure, I saw movies like "Tombstone" and "Wyatt Earp," but only because my husband wanted to see them.

So here was "Doc"—all 400-plus pages—staring me in the face. Do I pretend I read it, or do I skip out of book club all together? Alas, I decided to bite the bullet, per se, and dig in, and I'm so glad I did. Even though it's fiction, I knew from past experience Russell thoroughly researches her topics, and as a friend of mine put it, "The author has a strong voice and a writing style that is very engaging."

John Henry "Doc" Holliday, for whom this eponymous work is written is treasured by his mother who dies of tuberculosis when Doc is only 15. Through her influence, he was an excellent student of Latin, French, and even Greek, and was a classically trained pianist. After graduating from dental school at the age of 22, John Henry leaves his father, aunts, uncles, and cousins in Georgia to head west. Leaving his family was tough, but they all hoped sending him West would be better for his "consumption" (likely tuberculosis he contracted from his mother before she passed away).

His command of so many languages, as well as his genteel manners, made him quite the standout in Texas, and later Dodge City, Kansas, but his temper and Southern charm were not always met with openness and appreciation.

Let's just say that Doc's "I'll be damned if I will spend my time listenin' to ungrammatical, repetitious, imbecilic nonsense without a challenge," did not always endear him to the roughshod cowboys of Dodge City.

"Doc" is a story about the nucleus of friendships this lonely dentist develops over time. And it's these characters who grab the reader and pull them in. As my friend also pointed out, when it comes to her characters, Russell has "seemingly unique perspectives across a myriad of historical figures."

Yes, Wyatt Earp—in fact three of the Earp brothers—figures big into this story. And yes, Doc saves Wyatt's life, and his smile. But it's Morgan Earp who Doc develops the closest relationship with, and that friendship would be the envy of anyone then or now.

Big Nose Kate, Doc's paramour, also happens to be a prostitute and gambler who feeds the baser side of Doc's personality. But friends like Jau Dong-Sing (aka: China Joe), who runs a laundry, bring out the best in Doc, and he in them. Then there are characters like Bat Masterson—is he a good guy or a bad guy? Read the book and you still may come away wondering. The same is true of Eddie Foy, a talented but selfish entertainer.

While the sheer number of characters mentioned in this review may have your head spinning, Russell strategically weaves their stories in without losing the reader.

In "Doc" you learn so much more about his life than you would in what Russell refers to as the dime novels of the day—the old paperback Westerns. But the book is also a bit of a mystery as Wyatt Earp and Doc, in their own ways, try to figure out what happened to the biracial teen, John Horse Sanders, whom Wyatt had taken under his wing.

Whether you're interested in the history, the characters, the mystery, or just because it's on a book club list, I recommend you take a gamble and give "Doc" a try.

# A DAY IN THE VILLAGE 2026

sponsored by:  
**Stockbridge  
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of Commerce**



The Stockbridge Area Chamber of Commerce wishes to thank everyone who came out for this year's A DAY IN THE VILLAGE event on Father's Day weekend. We hope you enjoyed it! Thanks to the Stockbridge Downtown Development Authority and many others for their generous donations. Special thanks to the vendors and the volunteers that helped with this event—we couldn't have done it without you.



Photos by Joan Tucker

