

Unadilla Township honors Hometown Heroes with street banners in downtown Gregory



Pictured left to right: Local heroes killed while serving in Vietnam: PFC Maurice John Biehn, PFC John Donohue, PFC James Loso, and SSG Robert Simons. See photos of all 14 hometown heroes at www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com. Photos by Kristin Shea

by Kristin Shea

Unadilla Township has chosen to honor the township’s Hometown Heroes in a unique and distinguished manner starting this year. At the intersection of M-36 and Main Street in Gregory, a number of banners have been hung with pride from the tops of utility poles.

According to Merriam-Webster, the word "hero" can be defined in a few different ways: 1) an illustrious warrior or soldier, 2) a person who shows great courage, 3) a person admired for achievements and noble qualities.

In Unadilla’s case, each banner features the name and photo of a local military veteran who served our country in a selfless and heroic way, including some who were killed in action while doing so.

Psychologists Dr. Zeno Franco and Dr. Philip Zimbardo, co-authors of “The Banality of Heroism,” agree that "Heroism can be a sudden, one-time act, or something that persists over a longer period of time. The core of heroism revolves around the individual's commitment to a noble purpose and the willingness to accept the consequences of fighting for that purpose."

See Hometown Heroes on page 7.

New Stockbridge superintendent focuses on learning, belonging and community trust

by Melissa McPherson

As he prepares to lead Stockbridge Community Schools into the new school year, incoming Superintendent Jeffrey Trapp says his top priority is keeping student learning at the center of every decision while strengthening relationships with students, staff and families.

Formerly principal of Stockbridge Jr./Sr. High School, Trapp began his new role as school superintendent on July 1. When asked about his plans and goals for the upcoming year and beyond, he said he has four goals: Lead the learning, increase student engagement and involvement, build a sense of community trust through improved communication, and focus on recruitment and retention of staff and students.

Over the past year, the district has made significant progress in areas such as attendance and behavior, so Trapp’s first goal will require a shift of focus, making learning the top priority.

See New superintendent focus on page 14.



Jeff Trapp and family celebrate daughter Tayla Trapp’s “Class of 2026” graduation from Stockbridge High School. Pictured l-r: Jeff, Tayla, Jeff’s wife Leanne, and their son Tanner. Photo provided by Jeffrey Trapp

Changes coming to SCN as 10-year anniversary nears

by Hope Salyer
Managing editor, Stockbridge Community News

As the 10-year anniversary of the Stockbridge Community News approaches in November, the SCN team is preparing to make several changes readers will notice—most notably, a transition to a primarily black-and-white newspaper.

Since its inception in 2016, SCN has grown from an eight-page monthly newsletter into a 16-to-24-plus-page newspaper delivered free of charge to more than 9,000 households throughout the 125-square-mile Stockbridge Community Schools district. Readers have come to expect SCN in their mailboxes on or near the first of each month, along with additional stories and community information published online throughout the month.

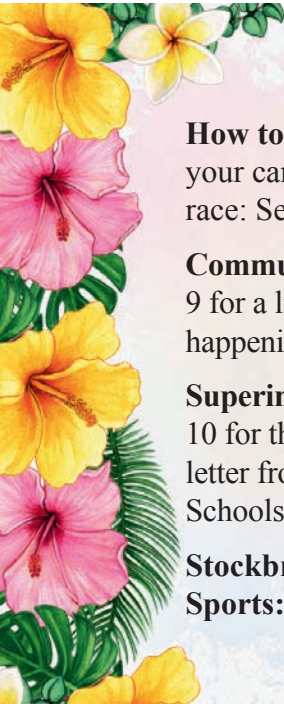
During these 10 years, the cost of producing and distributing the newspaper has increased significantly. Printing, postage, software, technology and other operating expenses have all continued to rise.

While SCN maintains a small number of paid, part-time positions, the entire board and most members of the team are volunteers. Keeping staffing expenses low, however, cannot fully offset the rising cost of producing a newspaper of SCN’s current size and circulation.

Even as expenses have increased, SCN has continued to deliver a free monthly print edition while keeping advertising rate increases to a minimum.

See SCN on page 2.

2026 AUGUST




How to change your vote after your candidate drops out of the race: See page 3.

Community Calendar: See page 9 for a list of community events happening this month.

Superintendent's Desk: See page 10 for the new school year kick-off letter from new Superintendent of Schools Jeff Trapp.

Stockbridge Youth Recreational Sports: See page 16.

Rural Perspectives: Common chicory a favorite of bees and butterflies



Diane Gray Constable

by Diane Constable

Common chicory (*Cichorium intybus*) is a non-native perennial herb plant that can be found along our roadsides, fallow land, waste areas, and sometimes lawns. Its base leaves and deep taproots resemble its close relative, the dandelion.

The flower stems can grow up to 6 feet tall with flowers spaced vertically along the semi-woody stem. The ragged-edge blue flowers bloom between June and October and are 1-2 inches wide. They can be various shades of blue from periwinkle to cerulean, and can sometimes be pink or white. The blossoms last just a day and usually close by around noon when the sun is high, but may stay open if cloudy. They do well in drought conditions.

It is a nectar plant for many pollinators and a favorite of bees, butterflies, and beetles. Deer, rabbits, small mammals and turkey enjoy eating the foliage, and many species of sparrows and other birds consume the seeds and the insects that feed on it.

Chicory has been used for food and medicine throughout history. The ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans cultivated it for a variety of ailments, including liver problems. Its use spread through Europe and made its way to North America in the mid-1700s. The fresh leaves were eaten in salads. The taproots were ground and brewed into a beverage and were often substituted for coffee when coffee was unavailable.

It was, and is, often grown as a high-nutrient, high-mineral, and high-protein plant in livestock pastures.

Fun Fact: It has been shown that the chicory plant has compounds in it that will kill roundworms in cattle, goats, and sheep that feed on it.

As an avid photographer, Diane Constable regularly



Chicory stems can grow up to 6 feet tall, and the blue flowers bloom between June and October. Photo credit Diane Constable

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.

Mary Jo David earns national recognition in NFPW contest

by Hope Salyer

Stockbridge Community News Editor-in-Chief Mary Jo David has earned an honorable mention in the Specialty Articles–Food category of NFPW's national communications contest for her October 2025 "Woah Nellie" column, "Community cookbooks are full of surprises and tasty treats, like this month's 'Pumpkin Crunch Cake.'"

The article advanced to the national competition after earning first place in the Specialty Food category of the 2025 NFPW At-Large Competition.

One judge in the At-Large Competition praised David's entertaining writing style and said the column made her want to follow the cooking instructions herself.

SCN page 1

Beginning with the October edition, SCN will transition to a mostly black-and-white format. The front and back pages will remain in full color, and occasionally a limited number of color pages may be included throughout the rest of the newspaper. Pages highlighting major community events and milestones—especially those told through photographs—will continue to receive priority for color printing. These may include Homecoming, senior photos, A Day in the Village and other special community features.

Regular columns, obituaries, traditional advertisements, letters to the editor and other articles will generally be printed in black and white.

As SCN approaches its 10-year anniversary, our greatest priority is preserving the newspaper our community knows and loves.



Mary Jo David received an honorable mention in the National Federation of Press Women's national communications contest. Photo provided by Mary Jo David



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10–5

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Schoolhouse: 1591 Territorial Rd, Stockbridge

'Boy Scouts' is now 'Scouting America' and includes a Family Scouting concept



The Boy Scouts of America has changed its name to Scouting America. This new logo is part of the organization's rebranding. Image credit scouting.org

by Judy Williams

Big changes have come to Boy Scouting. One of the biggest changes is in the name: "Boy Scouts of America" is now "Scouting America." This change reflects Scouting being more inclusive and geared to the entire family. The local Cub Scout Pack 768 will now be known as Family Pack 768 and is open to both boys and girls from kindergarten through fifth grade.

After its official beginning on Feb. 8, 1910, Scouting quickly evolved to include the practice of earning merit badges. Now, 115 years later, the evolution continues to include the name change as well as welcoming girls to participate.

While the look of Scouting has changed, it still has the same goal: To develop responsible citizenship and self-reliance. Scouting

America will continue participation in a wide range of outdoor activities, educational programs, and career-orientated events.

Mark your calendar!

- On Aug. 16, at 2 p.m., the Family Pack 768 will host a game day for kindergarten through fifth-grade students who wish to find out more about the new Family Scouting programs. This event will be held at the Stockbridge American Legion Hall.
- On Aug. 25, at 6:30 p.m., Family Scouting Round-Up will be held, also at the Stockbridge American Legion Hall.

Changing your vote after a candidate drops out



Image created using ChatGPT.

If you've already completed and submitted your absentee ballot through one of these methods 1) by mail 2) in person at a local clerk's office or 3) via a drop box:

Your vote can be changed by canceling or "spoiling" the ballot and resubmitting a new one. The new one can be submitted absentee or in-person.

- Michigan law stipulates that returned absentee ballots can be "spoiled" through a written and signed request submitted to the local clerk's office.
- Deadline for "spoiling" a ballot: That request must be received by 5 p.m. on the second Friday before Election Day. (For the August 2026 primary, that date was July 24.)

If you've submitted your ballot into a tabulator or by early in-person voting:

Absentee votes cast by inserting the ballot into a tabulator at an early voting site cannot be spoiled or changed, and neither can any votes cast by early in-person voting.

If you have filled out your ballot but not submitted it yet:

You can "spoil" that ballot and either vote in-person or receive a replacement absentee ballot using the process listed in the bulleted points above.

If you still have questions about changing your ballot, contact your local clerk's office.

Sources: michigan.gov and Michigan Advance.

compiled by Mary Jo David

Recently, Michigan voters experienced candidates dropping out of the U.S. Senate race and the governor's race after absentee ballots had already been sent out. Voters who already completed and returned their absentee ballots can change their vote, but they must follow a specific process to make sure their changed vote will count.

Bridge to Wellness

Internships provide a win-win for 5HF and the interns



Former 5 Healthy Towns Foundation intern Katie Hogan studied the availability and accessibility of healthier foods in and around the Stockbridge community as part of her graduate work at Michigan State University. Photos provided by Matt Pegouskie



Michigan State University graduate Claire Smith will begin an internship with 5 Healthy Towns Foundation in August, supporting several Stockbridge-area organizations and community initiatives.

her internship with 5 Healthy Towns. Claire Smith will join 5HF to support the community outreach efforts of three important organizations: Stockbridge Community Outreach, Stockbridge Area Senior Center and the Open-Air Market (OAM) of Stockbridge. Smith will also be supporting the One Big Thing initiative.

Smith's background and experience in data analysis set her apart from other candidates. She is looking forward to hitting the ground running in Stockbridge. Smith's initial tasks will include assisting the OAM with administrative tasks like establishing a tiered-sponsor program for recognizing our sponsors, promoting the Market Bucks Program, identifying new small farmers to add more options at the market, and building a plan for the 2027 Open Air Market.

Please join us in giving Claire Smith a warm welcome to Stockbridge.



This column is sponsored by the Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition (SAWC). Matt Pegouskie is the community investment manager.

by Matt Pegouskie

Every year, 5 Healthy Towns Foundation (5HF) hires an intern to help us meet our mission while providing the intern with a learning experience about what it's like to work in a nonprofit environment focused on small, close-knit communities.

Last year, Stockbridge-area residents and community leaders met with Michigan State University graduate student (now alumni) Katie Hogan. As part of her final requirements to graduate, Hogan interviewed representatives from Stockbridge Community Schools, Stockbridge Community Outreach, the Village of Stockbridge, Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition, and others to examine the availability and accessibility of healthier foods. This review included folks throughout the entirety of the Stockbridge School District, including Munith and Gregory.

Beginning this August, a new intern and graduate from MSU will be starting



Who We Are

Founded in 2016, the Stockbridge Community News is a Michigan nonprofit organization, IRS-licensed to operate as a 501(c)(4) organization (# C4-4001565).

An unpaid, volunteer board of directors oversees all SCN operations.

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

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

Our Mission

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

Our Board of Directors

Joan Tucker	President
Nancy Wisman	Vice-President
Judy Williams	Treasurer
Bev Glynn	Secretary
Mary Jo David	Editor-in-Chief
Hope Salyer	Managing Editor
Amy Haggerty	Board Member
Terry Sommer	Board Member

SCN Support Team

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Susan Daily	Volunteer
Kayla Fletcher	Media Coordinator
Agnes Geiger	Copy Editor
Mary Krummrey	Graphic Specialist
Connie Risner	Advertising Outreach
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.

Email:

stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com

Also find us at: facebook.com/stockbridgecommunitynews
or stockbridgecommunitynews.com

Postal Address:

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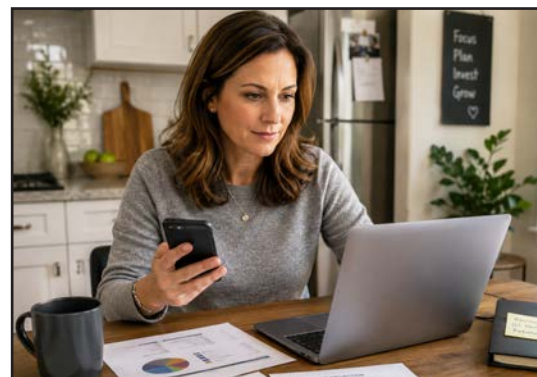


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Outreach in Action

Donor-advised funds benefit Outreach while reducing your tax burden

by Jo Mayer and Paul Crandall



Donors to Stockbridge Community Outreach can take advantage of donor-advised funds (DAFs)—a portfolio option at many foundations and financial institutions. Photo credit: ChatGPT on July 19, 2026

In June's column, we explained the pros and cons of qualified charitable distributions (QCDs), noting one big limitation: QCDs can only be used by those over 70.5 years old. This column explains an alternative—called donor-advised funds (DAFs)—which are financial tools available to all adults.

Stockbridge Community Outreach has seen a gradual increase in third-party checks coming from investment firms and community foundations on behalf of individual donors.

Curious about the trend, we reached out to learn more from local resident and Stockbridge school employee Katee Buddenborg, who gave us permission to share her experience.

Buddenborg explained that she had donated money to a **donor-advised fund** and directed that checks be sent each month to Stockbridge Community Outreach. Interesting! How does it work?

She responded, "When we decide to make a donation, we look up the charity with the Tax ID number to see if it's listed [with the IRS as a 501(c)(3)]. If it is, we put in a grant recommendation. We select the organization, choose an amount that we would like to donate and select if it's a one-time donation or recurring. We can select a grant purpose, and where we'd like the funds to be used ... Once we do that, we submit it for review and wait for approval."

How donor-advised funds work

1. Establish and contribute: Donors open an account with a sponsoring organization, and contribute cash, stock, or complex assets like real estate or crypto to receive an immediate tax deduction for that year.

One great way to start is to contact a local community foundation. They tend to be more aware of local needs and effective 501(c)(3) organizations and can help donors determine where to donate funds for the most local impact. For example, Capital Region Community Foundation in Ingham County and Jackson Community Foundation in Jackson County are two local foundations offering DAFs.

2. Advise: Donors request, through the sponsoring organization, that a check be sent to a particular IRS-qualified public charity, like Outreach.

3. Invest and grow: DAF assets are invested and grow tax-free.

See Outreach on page 11.



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Reading Between the Lines 'Purple State' is a campaign for unity

by Jessica Martell



As a writer, Dana Perino makes several bold choices in "Purple State" and extends a beach-read olive branch across the political aisle. Photo credit HarperCollins.com

In 2007, Dana Perino made history when she became the first Republican woman to serve as the White House press secretary. Since then, she has worked as a political commentator and written several nonfiction bestsellers. This year, Perino made her fiction debut with "Purple State," a story of three New York City women finding love in small-town Wisconsin.

As a writer, Perino makes several bold choices in "Purple State." First, she chose to write a story centered around three liberal young women. This seems risky only because Perino's established fan base might not be inclined to sympathize with these protagonists. Further, readers from the other side of the political spectrum might be incredulous, looking for ways Perino creates stereotypical caricatures more than well-rounded characters.

"Purple State" follows the story of Dot, a disenchanted PR consultant, who decides to take a job with a Democratic political action committee (PAC) for the year leading up to the 2028 election. The job is to live in Wisconsin, a state notorious for flip-flopping red and blue between election cycles. She is charged with getting to know the people and the issues residents care about, while strategizing with the PAC to deliver a Democratic win in the state.

Dot enlists her two best friends, Harper, an aspiring author, and Mary, a hot-shot attorney, to join her on this adventure. Perino engages Hallmark's tried-and-true formula: Big city girls plus small-town stud muffins equals romantic comedy "warm fuzzies." The result: Perino seems to give readers either windows into characters that might be very different from themselves or mirrors to reflect characters that might be familiar.

The next interesting choice Perino makes is writing a story without any real antagonists. Barely any attention is paid to the Republican candidates or their political operatives, who would be the natural adversarial choice, possibly because the author did not want to cast aspersions on her own party. In the story, Dot and her colleagues struggle with the DNC at times, providing some eyebrow-raising revelations about the inner workings of the PAC leadership. While these behind-the-scenes details are some of the most compelling aspects of the book, they don't really rise to the level of being antagonists. Instead, the real conflict revolves around what Dot, Harper and Mary will do after the election.

By far, Perino's biggest risk is leaving a major plot point unresolved. As a reader, I find this deeply unsatisfying. However, as a critic, I respect this daring and brilliant choice. First, it defies the Hallmark formula, so leaving a loose end is the very thing that elevates this story above dime-a-dozen rom-coms. Second, the subtext here makes Perino's point: love, kindness, humanity, relationships—the things that unite us—matter more than the things that divide us.

With "Purple State," Dana Perino extends a beach-read olive branch across the political aisle, and rom-com readers from red, blue and purple states will find something endearing here.

Jessica Martell spent 17 years as a high school English teacher before accepting her current position as an educational consultant. She and her husband live in Munith with their cat, Scootie.

Waterloo Township Public Hearing Notice, Tuesday, August 18, at 7 p.m.

The Waterloo Township Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, Aug. 18 at 7 p.m. at the Waterloo Township Offices located at 9773 Mt. Hope Road, Munith, MI 49259. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive public comment on proposed text changes to sections 11.11A1 and 11.11A3 on township kennels. A copy of the proposed text changes may be viewed at the township offices during regular business hours.

Written comments should be mailed or emailed to the township offices, 9773 Mt. Hope Road, Munith MI 49259 or dropped off prior to Aug. 17.

Individuals with special needs requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Waterloo Township Board by writing or calling the Clerk's Office, 9773 Mt. Hope Road, Munith, MI 49259. Phone: 517-596-8400.

Ralph Schumacher
 Planning Commission Secretary

Obituaries

Daniel Milton Dixon



Daniel Milton Dixon
Aug. 15, 1940 to July 10, 2026

Daniel Milton Dixon, age 85, of Gregory, Michigan, passed away on July 10, 2026, at Michigan Medicine Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Daniel was born on August 15, 1940, in Stockbridge, Michigan, the son of Vaughn and Catherine (Adams) Dixon. He made his home in the Gregory area for the past 39 years, moving from Howell, MI.

A dedicated and hardworking man, Daniel spent 40+ years working at Chelsea Milling Company. Always on the go, he would never slow down. He enjoyed working outside and cutting trees.

On October 14, 1991, Daniel married Valerie M. Hart, and together they shared more than 30 years of marriage.

In addition to his wife, Valerie, Daniel is survived by five children: Daniel Jr. (Kelly) Dixon of Gaylord, Kimberly (Mark) Carpenter of Napoleon, David Dixon of Jackson, Jeffrey (Shannon) Hart of Williamston, and Susan Wilson of Rochester Hills; ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. Daniel was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Vaughn Dixon Jr.; and a sister, Margaret Hayes.

In accordance with his wishes, no services will be held. He will be laid to rest at Munith Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Arrangements by Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home, Stockbridge.

Don E. Tippin



Don E. Tippin
May 21, 1939 to July 3, 2026

Don E. Tippin, age 87, of Stockbridge, Michigan, passed away on July 3, 2026, at Arbor North Living Center in Jackson. Don was born on May 21, 1939, in Cranberry Twp., Ohio, the son of Earl and Kathleen (Sutter) Tippin.

On August 2, 1959, he married Marilyn J. (Sand), and together they shared nearly 67 years of marriage. Don was a lifelong learner, earning his Bachelor of Science in Education from Kent State University and a Master's degree from The Ohio State University. His career as an educator in the Stockbridge School Systems spanned over 19 years, retiring in 2002.

His faith in Jesus Christ was central in his life. He taught many Bible studies, was a lay leader in the United Methodist church and led disaster relief

teams to hurricane affected areas for many years.

Through his words and actions, he instilled the importance of Christian faith to his children. His hobbies included reading, golfing, carving, woodworking and watching the weather. He especially enjoyed making footlockers and cedar chests for family.

Don is survived by his wife, Marilyn; three children: Daneen (George) DeMaagd of Tennessee, Kevin (Debra) Tippin of Sanford, and Bret (Linda) Tippin of Jackson; 10 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren; his siblings, Janet Eckstein, Sue Bartley, and Terry Nolan; and a sister-in-law, Margaret Sand, all of Ohio.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at JaxNaz Church, 3905 Clinton Road, Jackson, with Pastor Rick Webb officiating. The family received friends at the church on Tuesday from 10 a.m. until the time of the service. Burial took place at Munith Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Youth Haven.

Arrangements by Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home, Stockbridge.

Becky Rose (Harvey) Wild



Becky Rose (Harvey) Wild
Aug. 24, 1952 to June 25, 2026

Becky Rose (Harvey) Wild passed away peacefully on June 25, 2026, surrounded by the love of her family.

Born on August 24, 1952, in Jackson, Michigan, Becky lived a life filled with kindness, laughter, and a deep appreciation for the people and experiences that brought her joy. She cherished traveling with family and specifically her aunt, often finding inspiration in the adventures she shared with family, friends, and the book club. She could often be found with a good book in hand, watching a Tigers or Spartan game.

Becky loved spending time with her family and friends. She created countless treasured memories whether enjoying a friendly game of cards or attending her grandchildren's events. Her warm

heart, generous spirit, and ability to bring people together will be remembered by all who knew her. Over the years, she built many lasting friendships through her career and earned the respect of those who knew her. She took pride in doing things well and in helping others whenever she could.

She was preceded in death by her beloved parents and her sisters, Jill and Sandra. She is survived by her two daughters, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren; two sisters and a brother; nieces and nephews; and many dear friends whose lives were enriched by her friendship, kindness, and unwavering support.

Becky's legacy lives on through the family and friends she loved so deeply and the many lives she touched. She will be missed and remembered with love forever.

A Celebration of Life was held on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Revel Run, 555 S. Dancer Road, Chelsea, MI.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be made to the Chelsea District Library or Stockbridge Community Outreach.

Arrangements made by Staffan-Mitchell Funeral Home.

Jane W. Marz



Jane W. Marz
Oct. 12, 1935 to July 6, 2026

Jane W. Marz, age 90, of Jackson, formerly of Stockbridge, MI, passed away on July 6, 2026 at Brightside Assisted Living and Memory Care in Jackson, MI. She was born on October 12, 1935 in Stockbridge, MI, the daughter of Wendell and Vera (Hurst) Barber.

Jane was a lifelong Stockbridge resident. She grew up in Stockbridge, one of four children, and graduated from Stockbridge High School. She worked for D & C Stores for many years. On June 19, 1976, she married Ralph A. Marz and they enjoyed 22 years of marriage before his passing on December 23, 1998. Jane was a member of the Hiawatha Club. She enjoyed golfing, hunting, playing card games and Dominoes, and cooking for family and friends.

Jane is survived by two children, Kenneth (Vickie) Marz of Connecticut, and Laura (David) Gallaway of Pleasant Lake, MI; three grandchildren, Diana (Brian) Fediuk, Robert (Samantha) Marz, and Amanda (Hunter) Gallaway; and two great-grandchildren, Miley and Ross. In addition to her husband Ralph, she was preceded in death by her parents, and her siblings: Joan Lynde, Mary Barber, and William Barber.

Visitation was held at the Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home on Friday, July 10, 2026 from 5-7 p.m., and on Saturday, July 11, 2026 from 10-11 a.m. Funeral services were held at the funeral home on Saturday, July 11, 2026 at 11 a.m. Burial followed at Oaklawn Cemetery in Stockbridge, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Stockbridge Area Emergency Services Authority (SAESA). Arrangements by Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home.

Obituaries cont.

Gay Marie Flores



Gay Marie Flores
Passed away July 13, 2026

Gay Marie Flores, of Jackson, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, July 13, 2026 at the “eternal age of 29.” She is survived by her loving husband of 38 years, Ezequiel; her twin daughters, Socorro Flores and Corazon (Christopher) Tippens; Maria (Jim) Krohl, and Ezequiel Flores Jr.; grandchildren, Emrys, Viktor, Aiden, Sawyer, Elliott, Finnley, Ethan, Isabella, and Allie; siblings, Mary (Vic) O’Keeffe, Donna (David) Ross, twin sister, Gale (Hans-Rainer) Borchert, and Dean Middlebrook; along with several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Richard and Patricia Middlebrook.

Gay was born in Frankfurt, Germany. She graduated from Stockbridge High School Class of 1977 and received her Associate’s Degree from Jackson Community College in General Studies. Gay taught First Communion at the Scared Heart Church. She was a big crafter and enjoyed crocheting and machine embroidering. Gay loved spending time with her grandchildren and was a loving wife, mother, stepmother, grandmother, and sister. She will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

Mrs. Flores was at the Desnoyer Funeral Home where a Prayer Service was held on Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at 10 a.m. followed by the Mass of Christian Burial at 10:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart/Sagrado Corazon: 608 S. Elm in Jackson, with Father Tim Nelson officiating. Interment followed at St. John Catholic Cemetery.

The family received friends at the Desnoyer Funeral Home: 204 North Blackstone Street in Jackson on Monday, July 20 from 5 to 8 p.m. with a Rosary Service at 7:30 p.m.

Margaret Ann Morrison



Margaret Ann Morrison
Passed away July 25, 2026

Margaret Ann Morrison, a lifelong resident of White Oak Township, died peacefully on July 25, 2026 surrounded by her loving family.

She was born at Rowe Memorial Hospital in Stockbridge, MI, the daughter of Elmer and Marie (Guinan) Phelps and grew up with her siblings on the family dairy farm.

She married Richard L. Morrison on August 22, 1964, at Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian Catholic Church in Bunker Hill, officiated by Fr. Charles Christopher, a close personal friend of Richard. Together they raised their family on a small farm. Nothing brought greater joy to Margaret than family and friends, and she found quiet contentment caring for her family and tending her extensive flower gardens. She and Richard enjoyed trips to St. Clair, watching the freighters from a special location on the St. Clair River. She was a devoted Irish Catholic, and her steadfast faith remained a constant source of strength. She was a parishioner at Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian Catholic Church for much of her life.

Margaret devoted most of her professional life to education, teaching in Stockbridge and Livonia, and she established the Special Education program at Mason Public Schools. She made a lasting difference in the lives of countless students and their families.

Margaret was predeceased by her parents; her sister, Mary Jeanne Phelps; brother, Peter Phelps; and her grandchild, Julia Nunally Rodriguez.

She is survived by her husband of nearly 62 years, Richard; her children, Rich Morrison (Connie), Kathleen Morrison, and Matthew Morrison; grandchildren, Paul Rojas, Eva Rojas and husband, and Mixie Morrison; two great-grandchildren; her brothers, Clark (Marie) Phelps and John Phelps; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Margaret was an inspiration to all who knew her, and she touched many lives through her kindness, compassion, amazing will, and grace. She faced many chronic illnesses and met each with resilience and faith. Her family extends heartfelt gratitude to the many caregivers who attended Margaret during her final days, especially her special friend, Sue.

The family received friends at the Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home, Stockbridge, on Wednesday, July 29, 2026, from 4-7 p.m., with a Rosary at 7 p.m. The family also received friends at Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian Catholic Church in Bunker Hill Twp., on Thursday, July 30, 2026, from 10 a.m. until the time of service.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian Catholic Church on Thursday, July 30, 2026 at 11 a.m. A private burial will take place at a later date.

Memorial donations may be made to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Father Solanus Casey Center, or a local Special Education Program.

Hometown Heroes page 1

To the family members who sponsored the banners, these men will forever be remembered for accomplishing great things at great personal risk. The accolades given to these young men during their time in combat are a testament to their bravery, commitment and courage, important qualities we hope to embody in our own lives, as well as instill in future generations.

The following men, listed alphabetically, are included in the 2026 charter group of Hometown Heroes banners currently on display:

- SP4 AC Allen, US Army
- PFC Maurice John Biehn, USMC
- Pvt. Elwin Breniser, US Army
- PFC John Donohue, USMC (KIA)
- LCpl Charles “CJ” Gauthier, USMC
- Sgt. Jimmy Howton, US Army
- Sgt. Dustin Lanehart, USMC
- PFC James Loso, US Army (KIA)
- Pvt. Carl Manoogian, US Army
- SP4 Gordon Outwater, US Army
- SSG Robert Simons, US Army (KIA)
- SPC David Stoffer, US Army
- Pvt. Kenny Stoffer, US Navy
- Roland Stoffer, US Army

Donohue, Loso, Outwater, and Simons all earned Purple Hearts. Donohue, Loso, and Simons were killed in action during the Vietnam Conflict and Biehn died while serving during that time in South Vietnam. Their names are featured on the township’s Gold Star Memorial located at the fire station in Gregory. The memorial is a list of all the residents killed in action during the various wars and conflicts.

Unadilla Township has created a venerable tradition with these banners, and will continue to add to the collection each year. Although only veterans are currently on display, the program would like to honor all of the Hometown Heroes, including law enforcement, nurses, and firefighters. Going forward, the township plans to put the banners up in the spring, just before Memorial Day, and they will remain on display through Veterans Day in the fall. The permanent brackets that are used in the display were paid for by the township, and the fire department volunteered their time to install them.

Amber Walker Smith, deputy clerk of Unadilla Township, had this to say. "We are absolutely thrilled to be facilitating this project for our veterans, first responders, and families. We hope that when the community drives through Gregory, the faces of these remarkable people will inspire those who see them to persevere with gratitude and good conscience. These banners also provide families with the opportunity to see their loved ones within the community again, a gift the township cannot pass up."

If your family resides in the area and is interested in purchasing a banner, you can obtain a registration form at the Unadilla Township Hall, located at 126 Webb St., Gregory, MI 48137. The cost is \$104.95. Any questions about the project can be directed to Amber at deputyclerk@twp.unadilla.mi.us.

All photos by Kristin Shea. See full photos at www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com.

STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY NEWS

— Donation Form —

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Amount

The Stockbridge Community News appreciates your donation, which will be put to good use to cover the costs of printing, mailing, and posting the paper. Please mail donations to: Stockbridge Community News, P.O. Box 83, Gregory, MI 48137. Make checks payable to SCN. Donations may not be tax deductible.



Clyde Whitaker

Clyde's Corner 'I miss you, Phil': A tribute to an old friend

by Clyde Whitaker

All of us at one time or another have had people in our lives whom we admired—people who inspired us. I have been blessed to have many people around me to help me navigate this journey we call life.

Phil Gladstone is one of those people. Phil was small in stature, but he had a big heart. Phil had no enemies and whenever you saw him, he always cracked a huge smile and was happy to see you.

As most of my readers already know, I was lucky enough to play basketball, baseball and run cross country in my high school career. Phil, unfortunately, could not participate in sports. You see, he was born with curvature of the spine, which required him to wear a full body brace. He could not run, and even walking was a struggle.

What Phil missed out on in athletics he made up for in academics. Phil was very intelligent and did well in school. He took after his father, Bob Gladstone, an engineer and robotic plane enthusiast.

Phil never complained about anything. He was even-keeled and always had that smile on his face, while offering encouragement to us all. I consider myself a lucky guy for having Phil in my life, a man of great courage and someone who was always happy to spend time talking with you.

Phil didn't know it, but I used him as motivation to perform to the top of my abilities in whatever sport I was in. I thought to myself, what would Phil do if he could participate like me? That made me give 100% all the time.

Sadly, my friend passed away on a cold December day, Dec. 1, 2021. I think about Phil often, wishing he were here. He and I both laughed when the song "Frankenstein" would play on the radio. Phil left his mark on all of us who knew and loved him.

Till we meet again old friend, "I miss you Phil." (P.S. When I get up there someday, we will play some hoops and have some laughs.)

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. Additional photos available at www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com.



Phil Gladstone in 11th grade, wearing a bracket around his neck. Photos provided by Clyde Whitaker



Classmates pictured together at their 45-year class reunion (l-r): Cheryl Gransden, Clyde Whitaker, and Phil Gladstone.

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Community Calendar

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. All ages. No class Aug. 4.
- 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. at Veterans Park (See ad on page 15).

Saturdays

- Yoga in the Park, 9 a.m. at Veterans Park.

Sundays

- Adults, all ages Cardio Drumming. 7 to 8 p.m. at the the Senior Center (SASC).
- Aug. 1** - Highest Praise Backpack Giveaway, 10 a.m. to noon, on the Stockbridge Township Square.
- Aug. 2** - Ballstars Kickball "TB's SMAC" at the Gregory ballfield. Time is 2 p.m.
- Aug. 6** - Back to School Bootcamp for educators, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at CADL Okemos. Learn about library resources for school success. Registration required.
- Aug. 6** - Morning Trivia, 9:30 to 10 a.m. at Stockbridge Area Senior Center.
- Aug. 6** - Drop-in STEAM Lab, 10 a.m. to noon. Stockbridge Library.
- Aug. 8** - Sewing Group, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library.
- Aug. 9** - Ballstars Kickball "Good vs. Evil" at the Gregory ballfield. Time is 2 p.m.
- Aug. 10** - Stockbridge Book Club, 11 a.m. to noon, at Stockbridge Library. Book: "The First Ladies."
- Aug. 12** - Stockbridge Community Schools Open Houses.
- Aug. 14** - Art with Ms. Tiffany, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. at Stockbridge Library. Babies through preschoolers.
- Aug. 16** - Ballstars Kickball "Back to School" at the Gregory ballfield. Time is 2 p.m.
- Aug. 16** - Family Pack 768 (Scouting America) Game Day for kindergarten through fifth-grade students, 2 p.m. at the Stockbridge Legion Hall.
- Aug. 17** - Reading with Remington, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Stockbridge Library.
- Aug. 19** - Stockbridge Community Schools First Day of School.
- Aug. 19** - Music with Ms. Beth, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Stockbridge Library. Babies through preschoolers.
- Aug. 20** - Morning Trivia, 9:30 to 10 a.m. at the Stockbridge Area Senior Center.
- Aug. 20** - Drop-in STEAM Lab, 10 a.m. to noon at the Stockbridge Library.
- Aug. 22** - Union 4 Life Annual Breast Cancer Charity Golf Outing, Tee-Off at 9 a.m. at Pierce Lake Golf Club. Proceeds benefit UM Cancer Center. Register online at www.union4lifecharity.com.
- Aug. 22** - Family Fun Fair, 4 to 7 p.m. at Millville United Methodist Church.
- Aug. 25** - Family Scouting Round-Up, 6:30 p.m. at the Stockbridge Legion Hall.

For an online calendar of more community events visit:
www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com.

To see the full list of Library events visi cadl.org

To add your community events to our free community calendar, email submissions to stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com.



Jeffrey Trapp

Superintendent's Desk Looking forward to an incredible school year at Stockbridge Community Schools

by Jeffrey Trapp, superintendent of schools

As we prepare to welcome our students back on the first day of school, I want to take a moment to share how excited and grateful I am to begin this school year as superintendent of Stockbridge Community Schools. It is such an honor.

When people ask me why I have dedicated my career to Stockbridge, my answer has always been the same: the people. For the past 20 years, this community has been my professional home. I have been blessed to serve as a teacher, coach, Junior/Senior High School principal, and now superintendent.

My connection to this district is deeply personal. My father, Robert Trapp, graduated from Stockbridge High School in 1969. This past spring, I had the privilege of watching my daughter graduate with the Class of 2026, and my son continues his educational journey as a current sophomore here. As both a parent and an educator, I understand the trust families place in our schools every day. That perspective motivates me to ensure every student receives an outstanding education while feeling supported, valued, and connected.

Our upcoming school year brings exciting leadership transitions that position us well for the future.

- **Meghan Kunzelman** is returning to the Junior/Senior High School and stepping into the role of principal. For Meghan, this transition feels like "coming home," as she has spent 17 of her 20 years in education serving at the secondary level. Meghan's transition to this new role is made smoother because of her previous experience in this building as the Jr. High principal and athletic director.
- **Josh Nichols** is the new Junior/Senior High School student support specialist. In this role, he will focus on our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework and investing in the success of our students. Josh is a fantastic example of a leader who brings creativity and honest reflection to a whole new level.
- **Julie White** is moving to the position of Heritage School principal. Julie is excited to make this transition, as the bulk of her education experience has been with upper elementary and middle school students, teachers, and families. She will be a familiar face for our Smith students who had the pleasure of knowing her last year when she joined our district as principal.

We are also thrilled to welcome two new hires to the Stockbridge leadership team.

- **Nicole Greiter** is our new Smith principal and early childhood director. Nicole joins us with extensive expertise from her time as the director of early childhood instruction for Ingham ISD. She is passionate about investing in children from birth to age eight and brings expertise in preschool, literacy and family engagement.
- **Dan Stafford** is the district's new athletic director. Dan brings a wealth of experience, having served as an athletic director previously in both Charlotte and Holt. He is committed to developing a positive school environment where all students can reach their potential, and he has a proven track record of collaborating with stakeholders to improve athletic programs.

In addition to these leadership changes, we are thrilled to welcome several outstanding teachers and support staff members to Stockbridge Community Schools. Every new employee brings unique experiences, fresh ideas, and a passion for serving our students. Together, we strive to make our district such a special place to learn and grow. I hope our community will join me in welcoming each of them to the Panther family and sharing in some refreshments at our Meet & Greet on Monday, Aug. 10, at 5:45 p.m. in the Junior/Senior High School cafeteria!

Next, our Open Houses will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 12. These are always a highlight as students meet their teachers and reconnect with friends.

Finally, we are eager to welcome everyone back for the first day of school on Wednesday, Aug. 19.

Together, we look forward to another incredible year of learning, growth, and celebration with all of you.

We are Stockbridge. Go Panthers!

Positive Parenting

Adults, too, can benefit from making time for play

by Tiffany Snyder

A "therapeutic outlet" is adult verbiage for "play," and chances are, we can all benefit from more of it! Here are some healthy activities that help regulate our nervous system, process emotions, and relieve stress:

- Creative arts (painting, sculpting).
- Expressive writing (journaling).



All of us—kids and adults—need to experience the joyful sound of a happy brain that is allowed to play! Photo credit Compagnons at unsplash.com

- Somatic movement (yoga, dance, cardio-drumming).
- Mindful hobbies (gardening, cooking).

These types of play are necessary for the mental, physical and spiritual well-being of all generations, especially if we are parenting (or grandparenting) the next generation.

When is the last time you played for the fun of it? A large majority of adults don't know how to play or won't allow themselves to because they are "too busy." Or if they do play, alcohol is a prerequisite, and does no favors for our nervous systems.

Being a parent frequently gives us a reason to play, but can we really focus on enjoying ourselves? When playing, do we feel pulled in another direction? Are emails or to-do lists beckoning? These are signs that we might need some solitude to slow down mentally and live in the moment. Meanwhile, young children live in the moment EVERY moment, so it is no wonder they are experts at playing.

The purpose of taking this inventory is not to cause guilt or comparing with others, but to empower us to be intentional with our precious time.

Too often we fill moments of boredom by grabbing our smartphone instead of looking at the opportunities around us. Hopefully our phones are a short bridge to actual in-person connections, which are also important.

Repeating the same routines makes our brains say, "Blah!" We actually can get "stuck in a rut" because our brains are losing neural connections when traveling the same pathways. We need stimulation (a new path!) as well as solitude to function well. Too much of either is a recipe for dis-ease. Luckily, our little community has many opportunities (and more to come!) to try something new. Check out the Stockbridge Community News Community Calendar—on page 9 of this edition or online—to find activities for young and old.

For example, since January, I've led a painting class, held at the Village Hall, called "Art Basics." (Dates in August include Aug. 11, 18, 25, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.) For an hour and a half, we use acrylic paint to play, and I think it's magical! In this intergenerational class, everyone (ages 6- 86, so far) comes with different experience levels. Materials are provided. We set up our space and listen to instruction on how to mix colors. Then we get started together. In other words, "I do, then you do."

Getting started together and agreeing to just see what happens moves us through the nerves of starting something new. "Oops" moments do happen, and I'm an expert at helping others see the potential within the unexpected. I encourage artists to choose how to add personal touches to their creation so there is balance between structure and free-flow.

Hearing grandkids asking their grandma, "Can we come back every week?" or seeing a girlfriend admiring her boyfriend's koi fish and admitting she attended "as support" is music to my ears.

Truth is, we ALL need some support! No one knows exactly what they are doing!

As a parent, or human being, we are learning as we go. Responding to unexpected events is not just an art skill. It's a life skill.

See Positive Parenting on page 13.

Outreach page 4

4. Anonymity: Optionally, donors can choose to remain anonymous when giving money to a charity through a DAF.

Key benefits, rules and drawbacks

Following are some important things to know about DAFs.

- **Tax Advantages:** Contributions to a DAF are deductible in the year they are donated. No capital gains tax is paid on donated appreciated securities.
- **Flexibility:** There is generally no annual deadline or minimum distribution for disbursing the funds.
- **Irrevocability:** Funds cannot be returned to the donor. The donor cedes legal control to the sponsoring organization, though the donor retains advisory privileges. While sponsors usually follow donor recommendations, they are not legally obligated to do so. Also, donors deciding to terminate a DAF can request that the sponsoring organization close the account after all remaining assets are distributed to the IRS-qualified public charity.
- **Fees:** Sponsoring organizations charge administrative fees, often based on a percentage of assets, plus investment fees. The fees charged by community foundations tend to be lower than those charged by financial institutions.
- **Minimums:** Some sponsors require a hefty minimum initial contribution and a waiting period before beginning to disburse funds to charities.

While DAFs have only recently arrived on the radar at Outreach, that doesn't mean they are a new thing. According to Wikipedia, the first donor-advised fund was created by the New York Community Trust in 1931. Over the years, tax laws and financial institutions have evolved and now DAFs are part of the portfolio options at many foundations and financial institutions. In fact, as of 2015, donor-advised funds were the fastest growing charitable giving vehicle in the U.S. ("Charitable Giving Statistics." NPTrust.org. 2015-02-17)

Thanks to Buddenborg and others, Stockbridge Community Outreach is becoming part of this growing trend.

Important note: It is strongly advised that you consult with a financial advisor before making financial decisions.

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, 517-851-7285, or find us on Facebook.

Time flies! The 2026 market season has reached midpoint

by Kristen Stromski

How is it already August?

My, how time flies when you're having fun! August officially marks the halfway point of the market season, which runs from May to October. Important Note: Due to road construction, for the rest of this season, the Open Air Market is relocating to Veterans Memorial Park in downtown Stockbridge.

As we approach the market's halfway milestone this year, we look back with an immense amount of gratitude and reflect on everything we have



As the market season continues, Open Air Market looks forward to more Friday-evening shopping and fun in Stockbridge. All photos by Kristen Stromski.

accomplished so far this year. The market has seen such growth in returning vendors, overall attendance, interactive kids' events, and community partnerships. This has allowed us to watch families spend their Friday evenings together, reminding us exactly why this market is so important to our community.

See OAM on page 12.



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STOCKBRIDGE TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES

July 20, 2026

Stockbridge Township Supervisor Cg Lantis called Stockbridge Township Regular Board Meeting to order on July 20, 2026, at 7:01pm 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, Trustee Terry Sommer. Member absent None. Pledge of Allegiance. Moment of Silence. Wetherell motion to accept the Stockbridge Township Regular Board Meeting agenda as printed. Sommer seconded. Discussion followed. Wetherell motion to amend the Stockbridge Township agenda to add the Police Letter from Ingham County. All in favor. Motion carried. Citizens Comments None. Sommer motion to accept the Stockbridge Township Board meeting minutes from June 15, 2026, as printed Wetherell Second All in Favor Motion Carried. Sommer motion to accept the Stockbridge Township special meeting from July 6, 2026, as printed Wetherell Second All in Favor Motion Carried. Wireman motion to accept the Stockbridge Township Financial Report as printed Sommer Second All in Favor Motion Carried. Police update Calls for service to the Township decreased 7% from the month of May, while calls for service in the Village dropped by 20%, largely due to the end of the school year. However, if we factor out crossing guard and school checks for both May and June calls for service increased by 17% Total Calls

for Service within Village 90 Total calls for Township 102. Library gave annual update. Memorial Plaque for Cliff. Old Business. Michigan Storm Chasers have completed the installation of the Stockbridge Township Weather Camera. Muraf motion to approve contract with Lantis Plaza for a 10-year agreement with \$1.00 per month Stockbridge Township will maintain along with Storm Chasers the Weather Camera. Lantis Plaza will provide power and internet for the camera. Must give 30 days' written notice if either part wants to leave agreement. Sommer Second All in Favor Motion Carried. New Business. Highest Praise will have the annual backpack give away on August 1, 2026, from 10 am to noon. Sommer motion to give Stockbridge Community News a one-time donation of \$7333.08 starting August 1, 2026, for postage for zip code 49285 for Stockbridge Township residents in exchange Stockbridge Community News will publish Stockbridge Township minutes in paper at no charge monthly from August 1, 2026, to July 31, 2027, Wireman Second roll call vote Sommer Yes, Wireman Yes, Muraf Yes, Wetherell Yes, Lantis Yes All in Favor Motion Carried. Fire Ordinance discussion. Wow discussion on phone and internet service. Police discussion. Wetherell motion to pay the monthly bills in the amount of \$44,857.76 Wireman Second All in Favor Motion Carried. Citizen Comments None. Lanits adjourn the Stockbridge Township Regular Meeting at 8:04PM. BM.

OAM page 11

With reflection, we recognize that we truly would not be where we are today without all of our amazing vendors, sponsors, community members, and each team member who makes this event possible for our small town!

A special thank you goes out to:

- | | | |
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| • 5 Healthy Towns Foundation | • Mandy Urquhart, Realtor | • Stockbridge DDA |
| • Brent's Bugs | • Municipal Inspection Services | • Stockbridge Township |
| • CADL, Stockbridge Branch Library | • SAESA Fire Department | • SRSly Stockbridge |
| • Greater Lansing Food Bank | • Stockbridge Area Arts Council | • Tri-County Office on Aging (TCOA) |
| • Friends of the Stockbridge Library | • Stockbridge Area Senior Center | • Trillium Gardens |
| • L&B Equipment, LLC | • Stockbridge Community Outreach | • Two Men and a Truck |
| | | • Village of Stockbridge |

Thank you for supporting our mission as we continue to create a welcoming place for our community.

Community support is ultimately what brings us together here at the Open Air Market, and we are excited to continue the fun into the second half of the season. Whether you're a loyal market supporter or you haven't made it out yet this season, we invite you to stop by, shop local, and experience everything our community has to offer. Each purchase, market visit, and friendly conversation helps to make our market thrive.

We are looking forward to welcoming more vendors, community activities, and Friday evenings filled with shopping, entertainment, and time spent together as our market season continues.

See additional photos at www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com.

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Positive Parenting page 10

We just need to take an out-of-the-ordinary left-turn for our well-being!

The comment I hear the most is, “I didn’t realize how much I enjoyed painting!” That, my friends, is the joyful sound of a happy brain that was allowed to play!

Activity Challenge: Please join me for an evening of creative play for ages 6 and up, especially adults who need to play and/or recharge! Our community needs each other to be the best it can be! I’m positive you’ll leave feeling better than when you arrived! This month, mark your calendars for Tuesdays, Aug. 11, 18, and 25 at 6:30 p.m. and join us at the Stockbridge Village Hall.

Tiffany Snyder is a returning resident of Stockbridge. She taught K-8 art in West Michigan for 15 years and now enjoys being a toddler-mom and teaching "Art for Your Mind" classes.



"Dear Gabbie" is written with the simple hope of bringing a few smiles to your day and is not meant to replace the advice of professionals ... especially your mom!

Dear Gabbie,

Is it my imagination, or are people just rudier nowadays? I watched a customer throw a burger at an employee this week. Even if there was a problem with the burger, what was throwing it at someone going to accomplish?

Signed,

There's the Beef

Dear There's the Beef,

You are correct, people are more comfortable being rude in public nowadays. According to a Pugh Research article written in March 2025, “Nearly half of U.S. adults (47%) say the way people behave in public these days is rudier than before the COVID-19 pandemic.” Admittedly, I thought the percentage would be higher, and I didn’t expect the increase to be tied to the pandemic, but it does appear that more people are resorting to rudeness nowadays.

Regardless of the reasons for rudeness, there is seldom an excuse to be rude to a clerk or cashier, and certainly throwing food at them is never called for. Of course, the right thing to do when you think you’ve received poor customer service or a defective product is to ask to speak to a manager. If you still do not get satisfaction after speaking to the manager, you want to write a letter. ←No, that last sentence is not just me acting old! Admittedly, it’s much easier to jot off an email to customer service. But taking a few extra minutes to locate a corporate person’s name and mailing address ... yes, you read that correctly, too ... their MAILING ADDRESS ... can help to ensure you receive a response from the company.

Just be sure to word your letter politely, explain the situation as briefly as possible, provide proof if you have it, and don’t hesitate to mention if you have in mind a fair and reasonable way the company can make good on its poor product or service.

The key word is “reasonable.” Writing a complaint letter about receiving a handful of burned potato chips with your sandwich order is not worth the stamp to mail it. But suggesting a hotel provide a free night’s stay when you were given the key to a room that had painter’s tape left around all the doorways and moldings—that is reasonable. Yes that really did happen, and yes, we were given a new room immediately when we called the front desk. But when the second room didn’t have a power cord for the television, it was time to consider making the corporate office aware by writing a letter after we returned home.

Nowadays, you even have the benefit of using AI to help you word the letter appropriately. And, if you are of a certain generation, you also may want to Google to find out how to address the letter and how to purchase a stamp!

Gabbie

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New superintendent focus page 1

"My mindset is leading the learning," he said. "I'm the lead learner, and I want our administrators to be leading the learning in their buildings and our teachers to be leading the learning in their classrooms."

In order to achieve this, the district will review student achievement data to identify strengths and areas for improvement. This includes regularly analyzing academic performance throughout the year, using data to guide instruction and determine how best to support students who need additional help while challenging those who are already succeeding.

"We want to continue moving our student proficiency in the right direction," Trapp said.

Alongside academics, this new superintendent hopes to increase student engagement and involvement by building a stronger sense of belonging throughout the district. Stockbridge Community Schools' familiar slogan, "We Want You Here," will remain important, but he wants to ensure those words are not just about being physically present. He wants those words to also translate into meaningful experiences for students.

"What does it really mean for a student to feel like they belong at school?" he asked. The answer to that question will hopefully result in more students taking pride in being Stockbridge Panthers, not only in athletics and other extracurricular activities, but also in academic proficiency.

Trapp said district leaders are in the midst of planning several events during the opening weeks of school. These are designed to strengthen student engagement and school culture, although details have not yet been finalized.

Creating a strong learning environment isn't just about the students and staff, however. Trapp hopes to extend this feeling of belonging and involvement to parents, caregivers, and the community as a whole. He wants to foster a sense of trust by improving communication. He plans to evaluate how effectively the district communicates by gathering feedback from families and measuring how information is being received.

"I want there always to be a 'why' behind the decisions we're making, and for everyone to clearly understand what that 'why' is," he explained.

Another priority will be recruiting and retaining students and staff. Like many Michigan districts, Stockbridge has experienced declining enrollment. While statewide demographic trends play a role, he also acknowledged that community perceptions can influence families' decisions on where they send their children to school.

Recently there have been some concerns over bullying within the district, and although survey data collected over many years indicates that students' perceptions of bullying have improved over time, Trapp emphasized that every concern deserves attention.

"If one student feels that way, that's one student we don't want to lose," he said. "We need to reach out, understand what's happening and work toward a solution."

Responding to concerns recently raised in a Stockbridge Community News letter to the editor regarding student behavior and support for teachers, Trapp said building trust begins with listening carefully to those involved before making decisions. He said that there will always be decisions not everyone agrees with, and there are likely always reasons behind the scenes that need to be considered.

"I want people to bring their concerns to us," he said. "Every one of us wants to be seen, valued and heard." He believes building strong relationships with district employees, students and families is essential to creating a district where people want to remain.

As the new school year approaches, Trapp said his overall vision is straightforward: improve learning, strengthen relationships and ensure every member of the Stockbridge school community feels they belong.

See more photos at www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com.



Formerly principal of Stockbridge Jr./Sr. High School, Trapp began his new role as school superintendent on July 1. Photo provided by Jeff Trapp.

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Active Aging

Create a memorable event: Rent the Stockbridge Area Senior Center

by Rachel Stanley
Looking for an affordable, welcoming venue for your next gathering? The Stockbridge Area Senior Center (SASC) is more than a place for senior programs, it is a vibrant community gem available for rent by individuals, families, businesses, and organizations. SASC rental experiences provide a comfortable, versatile venue while directly supporting the center's mission and future.

The benefits of space

Whether you're planning a graduation party, family reunion, wedding, retirement celebration, baby shower, community meeting, fitness class, or educational program, the SASC offers flexible spaces to meet your needs.

- Our convenient and welcoming **Dining Area** comfortably seats 45 guests for meals and can be reconfigured to accommodate up to 60 people for ceremonies, presentations, or receptions. We've proudly hosted varying events in the space—for example, the wedding of two SASC members, retirement parties, baby showers, intergenerational gatherings, homeschool art classes, community picnics, and musical performances. Many of these events have brought joy and connection to our community.

Other space options

For organizations or instructors seeking an ongoing rental location, our Activity Room and Community Bay provide outstanding spaces for health and wellness programming.

- The **Activity Room** features specialized exercise flooring designed for movement-based activities and is already home to many of our popular weekly programs, including cardio drumming, chair yoga, and tai chi to name a few.
- For those who need even more space, our large **Community Bay** offers expansive and customizable floor space capable of accommodating up to 200 chairs, making it an ideal location for larger community events, fundraisers, expos, and training sessions.

If you've attended one of our popular chili cook-offs, pancake breakfasts, or Christmas dinners, you've experienced firsthand the center brings people together. At the SASC, we believe active aging happens best in community. Our facility is a place where people of all ages can stay physically active, continue learning, build friendships, volunteer, and share their talents. We welcome opportunities for sharing our space for intergenerational activities that bring youth, families, and older adults together, creating a stronger and more connected community for everyone.

The cost and community benefits

Facility rentals are affordable at just \$40 per hour for special events, with flexible rates available for recurring classes or meetings. Every rental directly supports the Stockbridge Area Senior Center's ongoing journey toward financial sustainability.

Revenue generated through facility rentals helps maintain our building, expand programming, and create more opportunities for residents of all ages to stay active, connected, and engaged. When you rent space at the SASC, you gain access to quality event space and your rental dollars make a meaningful impact in the community.

Supporting our mission

Our mission is simple: "To promote, educate, and offer activities that support the emotional well-being of the Stockbridge Area senior citizens and their families." If you're searching for a safe, affordable, and welcoming location for your next event, consider the Stockbridge Area Senior Center. We'd be honored to help make your gathering memorable and together build a stronger, healthier, and more connected community.

Contact us today to learn about availability, schedule a tour, and reserve your date. We can help you create a memorable event while you help us to support active aging and strengthen our community. **Call or text Rachel at 248-633-6432.** Or, email SASC42985@gmail.com.

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, call 517- 480-0353, or stop in at 219 W. Elm St.



QR code provided by SASC

2026-2027
School year starts
August 19th
2026

BACK TO SCHOOL

**Open Houses are scheduled
for August 12, 2026**

*We strongly encourage students and their families to come in,
meet their teachers, and learn about the new school year.*

**Extracurricular opportunities are
starting soon. Everyone is invited
to join in the fun and engage with
our school community.**

STOCKBRIDGE
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

The Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation and Stockbridge Community Schools wish all our children and families a great year. We invite you to get involved and make the most of the time that you spend in our school community. Please contact your building principal to find out how you can specifically become more intimately involved as a part of our Panther family.

Welcome Back Students and Parents!

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STOCKBRIDGE SPORTS



The U10 softball team finished 2nd at the Mason Fastpitch League tournament. Photo credit Kristen Gordon



Stockbridge 10U LaFontaine finished 2nd in league and 2nd in the end of year tournament. Photo provided by Mike Williamson



Max Jarson, 10U LaFontaine.
Photo credit Amanda Jarson



Lani Bennett, 8U softball. Photo credit Double D Image Creations



Mikey Marks, 12U Porter-Winnie.
Photo credit Double D Image Creations



Mason Townsend, 12U Porter-Winnie. Photo credit Double D Image Creations

Gregory's Fourth of July Parade 2026



Visit www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com for more parade photos. Photos by Judy Williams and Mary Jo David