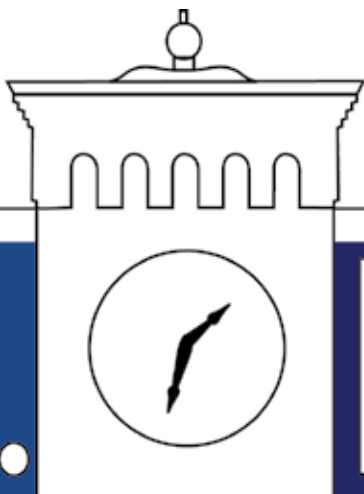




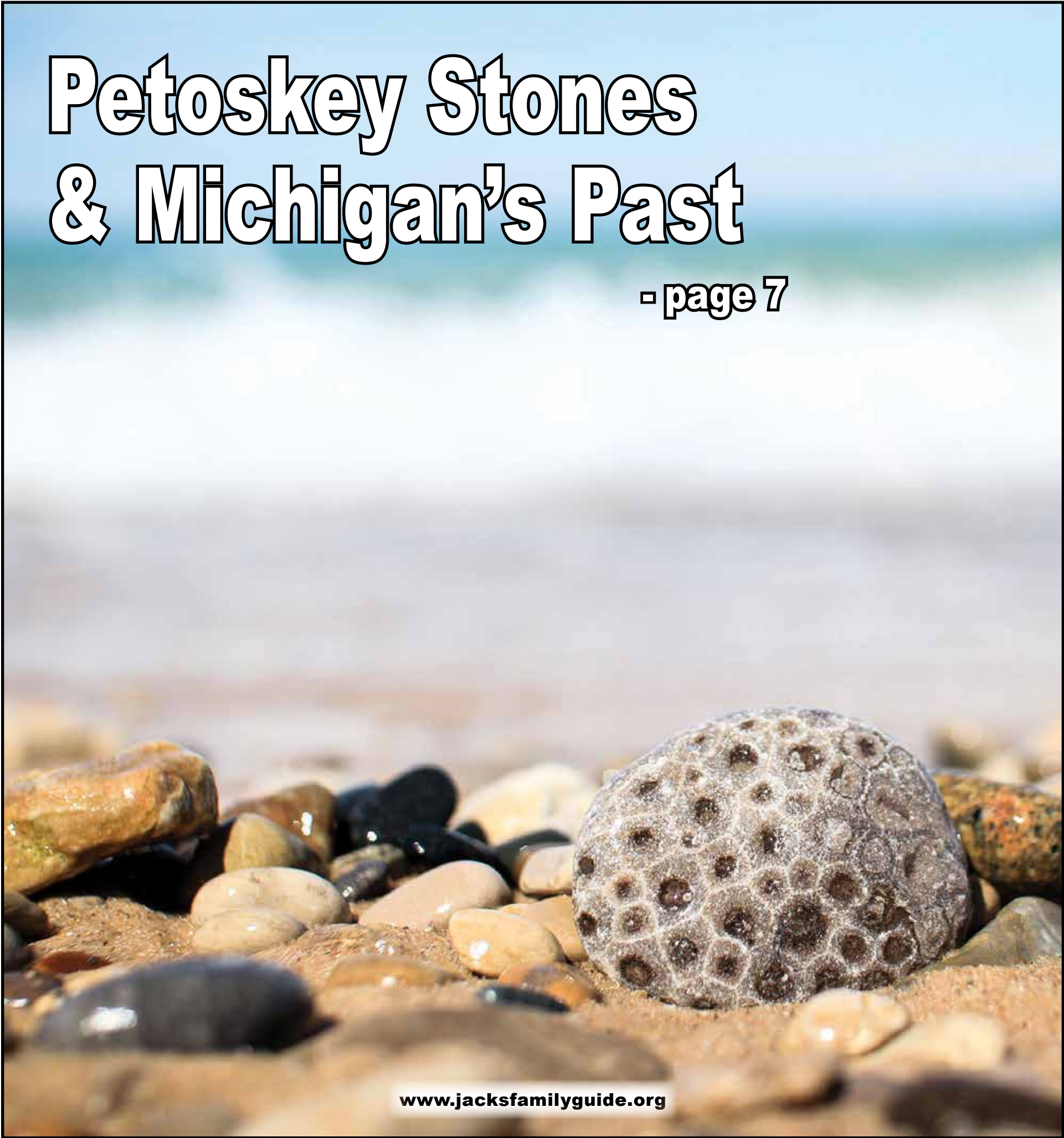
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JACKSON AREA COLLABORATIVE KNOWLEDGE SOURCE

Petoskey Stones & Michigan's Past

- page 7



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Adopt-A-Planter Program Brightening up Brooklyn's Main Street

By Aaron Dimick,
Community and Economic Development
Director, Village of Brooklyn



The Village of Brooklyn is recognizing the residents, businesses and organizations that are brightening up Main Street with flowers for the Adopt-A-Planter Program. The following are winners of the 2026 program:

First Place Best Overall
Betsy Currie and Ally

Top 3: Circular Planters
ERA Reardon Realty
Heart O' The Lakes Women's Club
Village Peddler Gift Shoppe

Top 3: Rectangular Planters
Girl Scout Troop #60387
Donna Howland
Swiss Swirl Ice Cream

Due to the high number of impressive entries and variety of planter shapes, judges decided to award a first place best overall winner and recognize their top three selections for circular and rectangular planters.

Overall winner Betsy Currie adopted the garden outside the Weatherwax Park bathrooms with her 6-year-old granddaughter Ally. Currie, a lifelong Brooklyn resident, has been adopting planters for the past four summers and is thankful for this award.

"It's really amazing," said Currie. "We were going with a whimsical look, some-

thing that would appeal to kids as well as adults with lots of color."

Their names have been engraved on the official Adopt-A-Planter trophy, which includes the names of past winners, and get to hold the trophy for one year. The Village of Brooklyn thanks the other residents, businesses and organizations that adopted planters this year:

- WellWise Services
- Poppa's Place
- Lakeside Custom Printing
- Come to Your Effin Senses
- Phyllis Pittman
- Edward Jones Financial Advisors
- Dawn Burmeister
- Patrone's Day Spa
- Pinetree Antique Mall
- Carol Moran
- Sweet Caroline's Clothing Boutique
- Shady's Tap Room
- Abie Baldwin & Taylor Ave
- The Morris Smith Agency
- Val Herr
- The Fugate Family
- Angel's Floral Creations
- Skiff Lake Bible Church
- Terri Staub Clark
- Lutheran Church of the Lakes

A summer tradition since 2009, the Adopt-A-Planter Program is a way for the community to get involved in Brooklyn's beautification and make Main Street more welcoming to residents and visitors. This year, 27 planters were sponsored by the community. Participants donated flowers and planted them along Main Street in late May. Sponsors are encouraged to maintain the planters while the Village's Department of Public Works provides regular waterings.



Betsy Currie & Ally, 2026 Adopt-A-Planter winners.

Photo courtesy of the Village of Brooklyn

Hometown Eats

August 2026: Toast-n-Jelly Café

By Val Herr

When I think of a really good diner, I think of home-cooked food, a relaxed atmosphere, friendly staff, and good prices. Toast-n-Jelly Café hits every mark. The café opened this past May in the former location of Kimmie's Café in Michigan Center. The new owner was our waitress and was happy to tell us about her restaurant.

Toast-n-Jelly Café is located at 4540 Page Ave. in Michigan Center. They offer great food at great prices, with portions that ensure you will have leftovers. On our visit, we enjoyed coffee (which again rated very high), a three-egg meat lovers omelet with toast, French toast with sausage links, and a cinnamon roll to share. We took home half the omelet, two sausage links, and most of the cinnamon roll.

Every bite was delicious, but I have to give special attention to the cinnamon roll. It was

advertised as homemade, and we've ordered homemade cinnamon rolls at other restaurants only to be disappointed. You will not be disappointed here. Not only is it big enough for at least two people to share, but they slice it open, grill it, put it back together, and top it with icing.

We visited on a Saturday morning and, not surprisingly, the restaurant was full. After a short wait, we were seated. I especially enjoyed the old-fashioned counter seating, where you can watch your food being prepared.

I will point out that the bathroom is small, and I doubt it would accommodate a wheelchair. Otherwise, the restaurant is simply amazing.

We will absolutely be back because I want to try their Doodle Bug Tots. These tater tots are topped with cheese, bacon, and chives and served with sour cream. Do I need to say more?

My biggest surprise came when we paid the bill. Everything was only \$26!

Show up hungry, and be sure to order a cinnamon roll.



Photo courtesy of Val Herr



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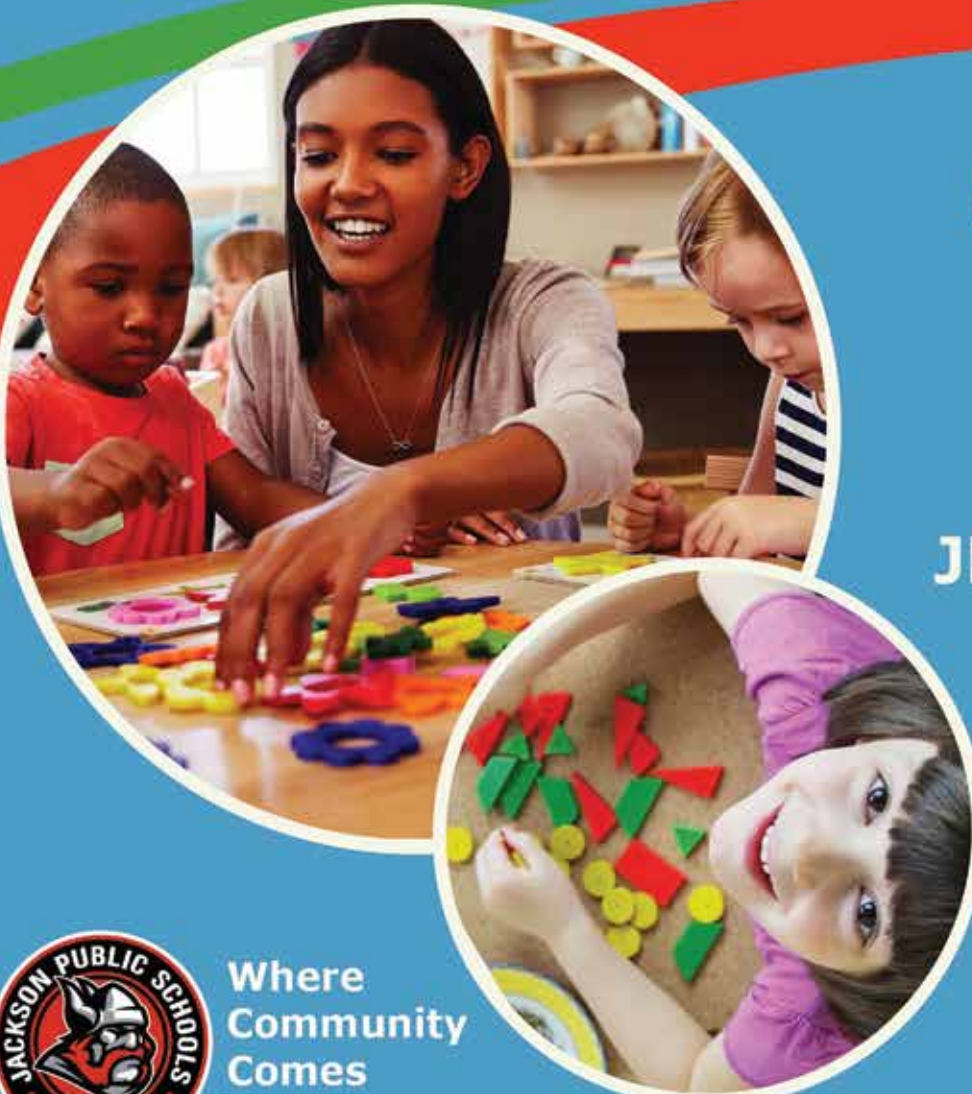
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Where Community Comes Together.

Jackson County Animal Shelter's Adoptable Pets: Marley and Castello

Contributed by the Jackson County Animal Shelter

Marley

Meet Marley, an eight-year-old Labrador Retriever mix with a heart of gold! This sweet, friendly girl loves everyone she meets. She's house-trained, doesn't bark much, and isn't a jumper, making her an easy companion.

At 84 pounds, Marley is a little on the chunky side, but she enjoys going for walks and would love a family to share them with. Her tail is always wagging, and she gets along well with most other dogs.

Come meet this lovable girl at the Jackson County Animal Shelter—she's ready to find her forever home!

Dog adoptions require an approved application: <https://www.co.jackson.mi.us/Dog-Adoption-Application>

The availability date is when the dog becomes

Jackson County Animal Shelter property; required medical procedures may delay adoption. A meet-and-greet with your dog is required, and a cat room walk-through is available. Adoption fees are \$200 for medium/large dogs and \$300 for puppies/small dogs, including vaccinations and a microchip.



Castello

Meet Castello, a handsome 14-year-old tuxedo cat with classic black-and-white markings. This mellow gentleman was surrendered when his owner's lifestyle changed and is now looking for a new forever home.

Castello gets along well with the other cats at the shelter and loves chasing—and even retrieving—poof ball toys. He enjoys gentle

pets, lap naps, tasty treats, and will happily come over to greet you.

Castello is neutered and ready for adoption at the Jackson County Animal Shelter, 3370 Spring Arbor Rd., Jackson.

Cat adoption fees are \$60 for one cat or \$80 for two, which includes applicable tests and vaccinations.

A \$25 refundable good-faith deposit is required to ensure pets are sterilized if needed, and the shelter provides information on low-cost spay/neuter options. Any necessary medical procedures may slightly delay adoption.

The best way to meet Castello is by visiting the shelter. You can also complete an online adoption application at <https://www.co.jackson.mi.us/DocumentCenter/View/1894/Cat-Adoption-Application-PDF>, or learn more at mijackson.org/579/Animal-Shelter. You can also find the shelter on Facebook or view available pets on Petango.



Cascades Humane Society's Pet of the Month

Contributed by Cascades Humane Society

Meet Mojo, a four-year-old mixed-breed dog with a resilient spirit and an even bigger heart! He's ready to leave shelter life behind and find a loving family to call his own. His journey has only made him stronger, and he's eager to share his loyalty and companionship with the people who give him a chance.

Mojo is currently undergoing treatment for heartworm disease. Cascades Humane Society will continue his treatment even after adoption to help ensure a long, healthy life with his new family. He's also

missing a few toes, but that doesn't stop him from enjoying life. Mojo is looking for adopters who will love him for the wonderful dog he is and help him continue to thrive.

Mojo has been neu-



tered, microchipped, is up to date on his vaccinations, and is ready for his forever home. His adoption fee is \$310. To learn more about Mojo or schedule a visit, contact Cascades Humane

Society at 517-787-7387 or stop by 1515 Carmen Drive, Jackson.

About the Cascades Humane Society

Organized and incorporated in 1952, Cascades Humane Society is dedicated to improving the lives of animals, promoting responsible pet ownership, and creating lasting connections between pets and families. If you are interested in donating, volunteering, or learning about other ways to support CHS, please call 517-787-7387 or email hgolightly@chspets.org to learn more.



2025

IMPACT

CHS

Cascades Humane Society

943 TOTAL ADOPTIONS

26,657 POUNDS OF PET FOOD GIVEN TO PETS IN NEED

1,761 CATS & DOGS SPAYED OR NEUTERED

6,301 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Cascades Humane Society Opens New X-Ray Room to Enhance Lifesaving Medical Care

*Contributed by
Cascades Humane Society*

After more than two years of planning, fundraising, and construction, Cascades Humane Society is proud to announce the completion of its new digital X-ray room, a major advancement that will significantly improve the medical care provided to homeless, neglected, and injured animals throughout the community.

The project was made possible entirely through private donations, with half of the funding generously provided by John Malone in honor of his late wife, Maureen Malone. In recognition of their generosity and lasting commitment to animal welfare, the new space has been named the John and Maureen Malone X-Ray Room.

For years, animals requiring diagnostic imaging had to be transported to local veterinary clinics for X-rays. While the shelter has been fortunate to receive support from area veterinary partners, transporting an animal in pain often delayed diagnosis and treatment while adding unnecessary stress.

Over the past two years, Cascades Humane Society has also partnered with Baker College, where

many routine X-rays have been performed while veterinary technology students gained valuable hands-on experience. Although this partnership remains an important part of the shelter's veterinary program, emergency cases cannot wait for a scheduled appointment. Having digital X-ray equipment on-site allows the veterinary team to diagnose injuries and illnesses immediately, resulting in faster treatment, quicker surgeries when needed, and better outcomes for the animals in their care.

"This equipment is truly transformational for our medical team," said Dr. Sarah Patrias, DVM, Medical Director at Cascades Humane Society. "Having digital radiology available within our hospital means we can diagnose injuries and illnesses in minutes rather than hours. That allows us to make critical medical decisions more quickly, reduce an animal's pain and stress, and provide a higher level of care to every rescue animal that comes through our doors. We are incredibly excited about what this means for the future of animal care at Cascades Humane Society."

The X-ray room was created by remodeling a

former supply room located adjacent to the shelter's surgery suite. The renovation required significant structural improvements, including closing two existing doorways, installing lead-lined drywall, and adding specialized electrical service for the imaging equipment.

As part of the project, the entrance to the dog holding area also had to be relocated. A new doorway was constructed through the shelter's Volunteer Hub, improving both safety and workflow within the veterinary department.

Cascades Humane Society once again partnered with O'Harrow Construction, a trusted local contractor that has completed several major improvement projects at the shelter in recent years, including the Faith & James Knight Cat Suite that opened in July 2025.

The organization also recognizes IDEXX and MinXray for their expertise in helping select the digital imaging system that best met the shelter's needs. Representatives from IDEXX will provide on-site training for the veterinary staff this month.

"This project represents much more than new equip-

ment," said Stefanie Riggs, Executive Director of Cascades Humane Society. "It represents faster diagnoses, better medical care, and less suffering for the animals that rely on us. Every improvement we make is made possible because our community believes in our mission. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who contributed to this project, and all of the donors who continue to invest in the future of animal welfare in Jackson."

Unlike many people assume, Cascades Humane Society receives no tax dol-

lars and no funding from national humane organizations. Every service provided, from animal rescue and adoption to affordable spay/neuter programs and advanced medical care, is funded through the generosity of individual donors, grants, business partners, and community fundraising events.

The completion of the John and Maureen Malone X-Ray Room marks another important milestone in the shelter's ongoing commitment to connecting animals in need with people who care.





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How to Read Your Credit Report: A Complete Section-By-Section Guide

Contributed by
TRUE Community Credit Union

Here's a primer on reviewing your three main credit reports.

Knowing How to Read Your Credit Report: A Key to Financial Wellness

Every year, millions of people likely view their credit report for the very first time. And if you haven't taken a look at yours for a while, or ever, there's no time like the present to download your most recent reports to make sure everything is in order. After all, research shows that more than one in four people find mistakes in their reports, so it's smart to make sure all of your data is correct.

Where to Get Your Credit Reports

There's no need to pay for copies of your credit reports. Since the pandemic, the three main credit bureaus have been providing weekly reports at no charge. The quickest way to see them is by downloading the reports.

- To get your free reports, visit AnnualCreditReport.com, which is a site set up by the federal government that provides access to free reports from the three main credit scoring bureaus mentioned above.

- TRUECCU members enrolled in Savvy Money also have free 24/7 access to a credit report through the TRUECCU Digital Banking dashboard.

Note: If you don't regularly read your credit reports, get a copy of all three to make sure they are all free from errors. Not every lender or creditor reports your data to all three agencies, so a mistake could potentially be on one, two, or all three.

When to Check Your Credit Report More Often

You may want to read your credit report more than once a month in these specific scenarios:

- Before major purchases. Check your score well in advance of applying for a mortgage or auto loan to catch any issues you were not expecting.
- While rebuilding credit. Keep a close eye on your data to make sure your score is moving

in the right direction. (Many credit card companies provide this type of service for no additional charge.)

- After identity theft. Monitor your reports frequently to verify that any fraudulent damage has been removed. It's also a good idea to freeze your credit following an issue with identity theft to make sure no one can open more accounts in your name.

How to Read Your Credit Report Categories

Your credit report is basically a summary of your credit history, including whether you pay your debts on time. Here are the main categories and how to read your credit report.

Personal Information: This section should contain your name, address, Social Security number, and other personal information about you, including past and present employers. Make sure your address and other details are accurate.

Public Records: If you filed for bankruptcy in the past 10 years, this is where that information would be listed. Included in this public record is the date the petition was filed and the estimated month and year it will be removed.

Credit Accounts (or Tradelines): This is a list of the credit card accounts and outstanding loans you have. Look at these accounts carefully and make sure they all belong to you.

Payment History: This section can also be broken down into subcategories called accounts with adverse information and satisfactory ac-

counts. This section typically includes whether you are current on your payments or if you have fallen behind by 30, 60, 90, 120+ days or more. Charge-offs, foreclosures, and repossessions are also included here.

Credit Inquiries (or Regular Inquiries): This section shows when companies have accessed your credit report regarding a credit application.

Each business that requests your report should be listed, along with contact information and a date when the report was provided.

Collections: If you owed a debt and did not pay it for 180 days or longer, it would likely show up here. If there are any collections, and you disagree with the data, it's important to reach out to the collections agency directly and ask for the information to be validated. Doing this will buy you 30 days to deal with the issue.

Reporting Errors

If you find any mistakes when reading your credit report:

- Reach out to the credit bureau directly that reported the errors – big or small.
- Ask for a correction.
- They have 30 days to rectify the situation.
- If the problem isn't fixed in that time frame, you may have to give them a nudge.
- If another month goes by with no word, you can reach out to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) at www.consumerfinance.gov/complaint.



Photo by Markus Winkler on Pexels

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*By Jean McKim,
Imagine Planet*

Today, the tank is home to a brittle star, sea cucumber, hermit crabs, snails, corals, sea urchins, a feather duster worm, and several fish. Although bony fish evolved after the Devonian Period, they help create a vibrant display of marine

We hope you will stop by to explore Michigan's incredible prehistoric past. Have a safe and fun summer!



Photo by Brad Switzer on Unsplash

Maintaining a saltwater aquarium takes careful planning and attention to detail. We chose to create a reef tank with just a few fish,

to celebrate a century of pride, history, and community



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College & Career Access Center, August Scholarships

WID Michigan College Scholarship

Description: Women in Defense Michigan established the WID Michigan Scholarship Program in 2009 to encourage women to pursue careers related to the national security and defense interests of the United States, and to provide development opportunities to women already working in these fields. From the program's inception to date, more than \$100,000 in scholarships have been awarded.

Eligibility:

- Must be a woman
- Must be a resident of Michigan and a United States citizen
- Must be currently enrolled at an accredited Michigan university or college, with at least junior status (60 credits)
- Must demonstrate educational expenses
- Must have a minimum GPA of 3.0

Award: \$1,500 - \$5,000+

Deadline: August 15, 2026

Calvin L. Carrithers Aviation Scholarship

Description: The Calvin L. Carrithers Aviation Scholarship is provided by GlobalAir.com to support students in university aviation programs. Four \$1,000 scholarships are awarded annually to U.S. students who commit to blogging weekly about their aviation experiences, including flight training, flying, school, and their interest in the field. Applicants must be students in a U.S.-based university aviation program, must be a U.S. citizen, and must have a strong interest in aviation and commitment to weekly blogging about aviation-related experiences.

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be currently enrolled in a fully accredited university aviation program: Commercial Aviation, Professional Pilot, Aviation Management, Airport Management etc. within the United States.

• Applicants must be willing to write a 200-500 word blog post a minimum of once a week throughout the school year while at school. Posts can be about aircraft, flying, ground training weekend activities, internships, or anything that the student finds interesting and pertains to life in their particular aviation program. In addition, each blog post must also include a hyperlink to a page on the GlobalAir.com website.

• Additionally, applicants must write an essay explaining their interest in the career path they have chosen and how they plan to work towards their goals during the school year and demonstrate how they will stay consistent with the blog's weekly deadline.

Award: Four awards of \$1,000

Deadline: August 15, 2026

American Fire Sprinkler Association (AFSA) Second Chance Scholarship

Description: This scholarship contest is open to U.S. citizens or legal residents with a high school diploma, GED, or something similar. To use the scholarship, you must start college or a trade school in the Fall 2026 or Spring 2027. Winner selection is NOT based on financial need, GPA or demographic criteria.

Eligibility:

• The Second Chance College Scholarships Contest is open to citizens and aliens legally residing in the USA with High School Diploma, GED or equivalent.

• Scholarship funds are payable to the winner's college/university or certified trade school in the United States; winner must enroll or already be enrolled for Spring 2026 session.

• Relatives of AFSA staff or NATIONAL board members may not enter.

• Past winners of AFSA's High School Senior Scholarship Contest or AFSA's Second Chance College Scholarships Contest are not eligible to win this contest.

• Scholarship winners are randomly selected by computer-generated drawing from among valid entries received at the conclusion of the contest period.

Award: Five awards of \$1,000

Deadline: August 31, 2026 at 12:59 PM CDT

Asbestos.com Scholarship

Description: Applicants will submit an essay that is between 750 and 1,500 words, based on the topic of asbestos. Asbestos is a toxic mineral that causes mesothelioma, an often terminal cancer affecting more than 3,000 Americans annually. The topic you choose should bring light to the issues surrounding mesothelioma and help raise awareness about the disease, research, promising clinical trials, survivors and

caregivers.

Eligibility:

• Applicant must be at least 18 years old.

• Applicant must be enrolled full-time in a U.S. institution as an undergraduate or graduate student.

• Applicant must provide 2 letters of recommendation.

Award: One award of \$2,000 & one award of \$3,000

Deadline: August 31, 2026

CHASA Scholarship for Childhood Stroke Survivors

Description: CHASA is proud to offer college and vocational school scholarships for students with a diagnosis of hemiplegia or hemiparesis due to any cause, or a diagnosis of pediatric stroke. CHASA has awarded scholarships annually since 2000.

Eligibility:

• Applicants must be 25 years of age or younger and: affected by either child-

hood hemiplegia or hemiparesis due to any cause or by pediatric stroke, with onset of condition before the age of 18.

• Must be currently diagnosed as having hemiplegia or hemiparesis or pediatric stroke.

• Must be attending a post-secondary school leading to a degree or certification or attending a post-secondary vocational education program.

• Must be enrolled by Fall the year of the scholarship to be awarded.

• You may reapply for consideration each year for up to four consecutive years.

Award: Maximum amount of \$3,000

Deadline: August 31, 2026

Make Me Laugh Scholarship

Description: Submit an online short written response (250 words or less) for the question:

"OMG... finding and ap-

plying for scholarships is serious business, but it's time to lighten things up a little. We don't want to know why you deserve \$1,500 or how great your grades are; we simply want to LOL. Describe an incident in your life, funny or embarrassing (fact or fiction), and make us laugh!"

Eligibility:

• Applicants must be fourteen years of age or older at the time of application.

• Applicants must be legal residents of one of the fifty United States or the District of Columbia.

• Applicants must be currently enrolled (or enroll no later than the Fall of 2027) in an accredited post-secondary institution of higher education.

Award: \$1,500

Deadline: August 31, 2026

For the full list of monthly scholarships, please visit the College and Career Access Center's website at jacksoncac.org.



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