

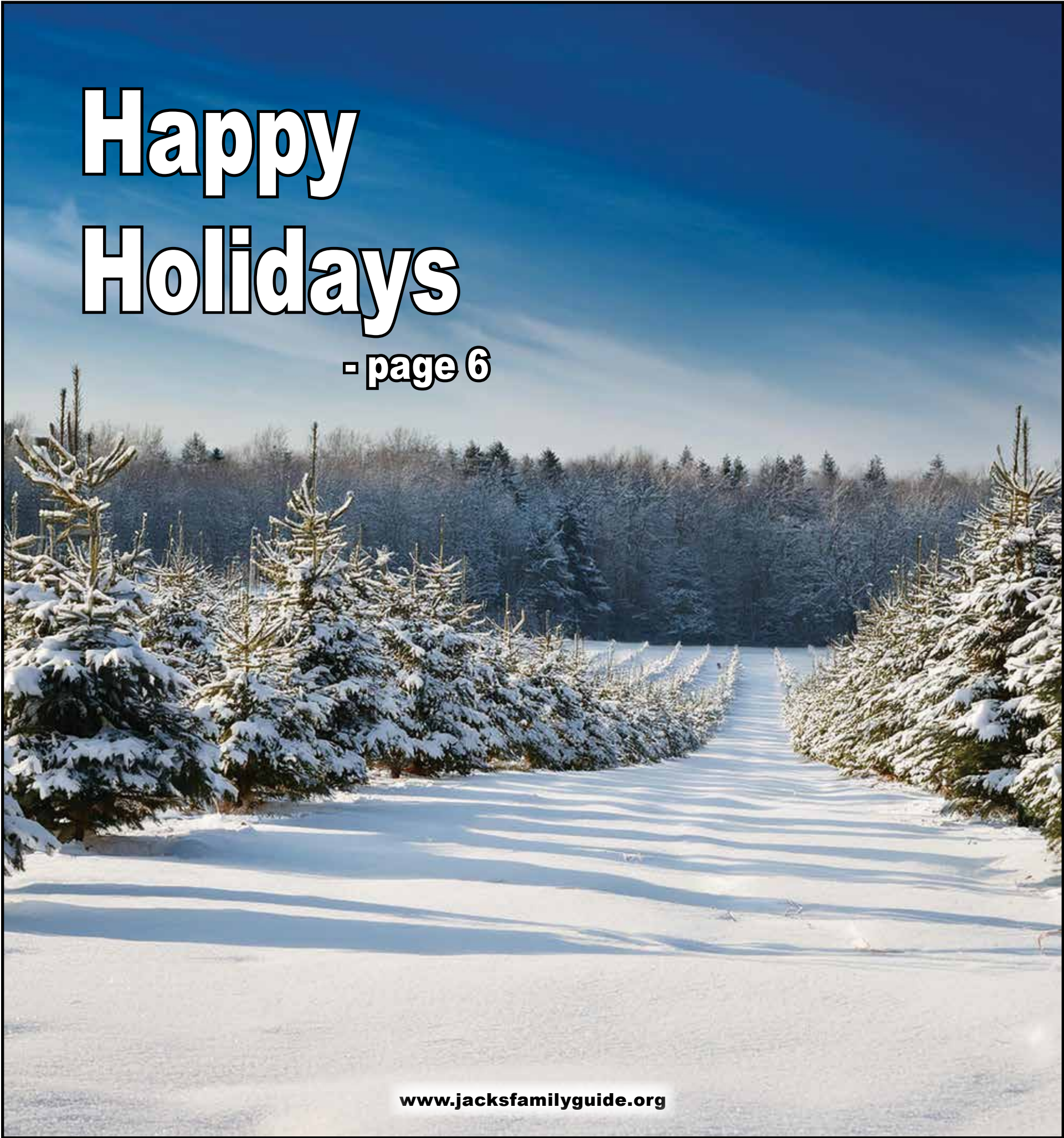
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# J.A.C.K.S.O.N

JACKSON AREA COLLABORATIVE KNOWLEDGE SOURCE

# Happy Holidays

- page 6



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Jackson Area Collaborative Knowledge Source. Our mission is to inspire community unification and promote the voices of organizations and individuals in Jackson County through a collaborative monthly publication.

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EST. 2015

Learn to Love Your Hometown

One Last Time

By Val Herr

I have chosen to live in Jackson County my entire life. I can't imagine living anywhere else. I have lived in different parts of the county and each and every part has its own unique wonders. Communities are not made up of roads, street signs, lights, etc. They are made up of people. Jackson has a large population of wonderful, caring people who work and volunteer to make Jackson the best place it can be. I have raised two boys here, volunteered for countless organizations and made the very best of friends. I could do more. We all could do more. We get out of Jackson what we put into it. It's not perfect, but that's okay. Volunteering and supporting each other is our path forward. It's up to each of us to do our part. I want Jackson to grow and thrive. I want this to be a place where my parents can grow old



comfortably, where my kids want to live, and where Matt and I can continue to support them. What do you want Jackson to be? How are you going to help accomplish this?

I've been writing this article for many years to highlight the wonderful organizations and people in Jackson. But the time has come for me to do something different. Rest assured, I will still be supporting my wonderful hometown and volunteering, but the time for me to put my "pen" down on this monthly article has come. I hope that over the years, you have learned something new about Jackson, I hope you have been inspired to get involved, and I hope you have enjoyed my articles. I truly enjoyed writing them.

Take time in December to decide what's important to you and how you can impact that. Do your part. Get involved and inspire others.

Thanks, everyone, for reading my articles and giving me a platform to write about my amazing hometown.



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# Active Living in Jackson: Recreation Program Keeps Seniors on the Move

By Aaron Dimick,  
City of Jackson

Public Information Officer

When lifelong Jackson residents Kathy and Mike Fausell were looking for ways to stay active, they didn't have to look far.

"The program is definitely approachable and affordable. Everyone really enjoys it," said Kathy Fausell. The couple are familiar faces at the Parks and Recreation Department's Active Living Program, which holds its main activities at the Boos Recreation Center. "It's great to spend time together and get exercise," Kathy said.

Active Living provides recreation activities for residents over 50 years old. Program Coordinator Julie Weisbrod says that when she started leading senior programs in 2021, there were around 400 members. "There's nearly 1,000 people enrolled now. The program is growing, and the word is getting out," Weisbrod said. Weisbrod says the Senior Program name change to Active Living combats perceptions about older adults. "We want the name to be uplifting. Some people believe that because you're a certain age, you're no longer relevant. The program em-

powers participants to stay relevant and keep learning new things," Weisbrod said.

Active Living offers exercise classes, group activities, monthly luncheons, and travel opportunities, taking participants on the day, overnight, and extended trips. Recent outings include visiting Nashville, Tenn., a play in Metro Detroit, and Kewadin Casinos in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. "We've been on a few of the trips, which were lovely. It's so much fun to climb on a bus and go somewhere. And you don't have to drive," said Mike Fausell.

There are also Worth-a-Try events where members try out different activities like kayaking, pickleball, and painting. "We try to bring in more active opportunities, and if they like it, they can continue on their own," Weisbrod said. Getting out of the house and mingling with others is a big part of the program. "For some, this might be the only time they're around other people. The socialization is really appreciated," Mike said.

Annual membership for Active Living is \$10 a year. Program costs are offset by the Jackson Recreation Millage, which was renewed by voters in the Aug. 2024 election. There are additional costs for travel and luncheons.

With the 65 and over population rapidly growing,

Weisbrod says it's important to keep them healthy and engaged. "I see a big

impact that this program makes for people. Come here, and you'll find a lot of

folks who are in the same boat you are," Weisbrod said.



Active Living Coordinator Julie Weisbrod (center) with participants Kathy and Mike Fausell.




Active Living exercise program at the Boos Recreation Center.

Photos courtesy of the City of Jackson



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# Jackson County Animal Shelter's Adoptable Pets: Gummy Bear & PussNBoots

Contributed by the Jackson County Animal Shelter

## Gummy Bear

Meet Gummy Bear, a ten-year-old American Staffordshire mix who came to us as a stray. His name suits him perfectly—he's as sweet and lovable as can be. Despite his tough past, this senior gentleman has a heart full of love to give. He's a bit underweight and is simply looking for a family to shower him with care and affection. He's housetrained, adores squeaky balls, and while he isn't a fan of cats, he'll make a wonderful companion for anyone ready to give him the love he deserves. Come meet him today! Dog adoptions require an application, which you can find online here. The availability date is when the dog becomes JCAS property; however, any necessary medical procedures may cause a slight delay in the adoption process. A

mandatory meet & greet with your dog is essential. A cat room walk-through is available to test reactions. Dogs will be placed with approved applicants, and the adoption fee is \$150 for medium/large dogs and \$250 for puppies/small dogs, which includes vaccinations, microchip, and sterilization.



## PussNBoots

PussNBoots is an eleven-year-old domestic shorthair who arrived at the shelter as a stray. With his stunning dark butterscotch coat and adorable white paws, he's a real charmer. Life hasn't been easy for him, but now he's soaking up all the love and attention he deserves. Friendly and affectionate, PussNBoots is quick to greet visitors and has a soft spot for

treats. At just 6 pounds, he's a bit underweight but is on his way to regaining his strength. This sweet boy is ready to be someone's loyal companion and best friend. Stop by and meet him today at the Jackson County Animal Shelter, 3370 Spring Arbor Rd., Jackson, Michigan. Cat adoption fees are \$60 for one cat, \$80 for two, which will include applicable tests, vaccines and spay/neutering. Any necessary medical procedures may slightly postpone an adoption. While visiting the shelter is always recommended, you can also submit an online cat application here, fax it to 517-780-4750, or email it to [animalshelter@mijackson.org](mailto:animalshelter@mijackson.org). For more information, visit our website at [mijackson.org/579/Animal-Shelter](http://mijackson.org/579/Animal-Shelter). Find us on Facebook or view all pets on Petango.com-Shelter Details. Current Shelter Hours: Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri 10:00-4:30, Thu 10-7, Sat 10-4:30.



# Cascades Humane Society's Pet of the Month

Contributed by Cascades Humane Society

This month we have Daphne looking for her forever home:

Hello, I'm Daphne, a charming 2.5-year-old Husky eager to find my forever home! I've been well cared for at CHS and am spayed, up-to-date on my vaccines, microchipped, and heartworm negative. I'm a smart and loving girl with a playful spirit, always excited for new adventures and fun. I already know commands like "sit," "down," and "shake," and while I may be a bit shy at first, I quickly warm up to

become a silly, affectionate, and loyal companion. My adoption fee is normally \$260, but for the month of December this fee is sponsored by Lammers Heating and Air. If you think we

required, and please ensure they're up-to-date on their rabies vaccines. I'm excited to meet my future family!!

## 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 or volunteering, please call 517-787-7387 or email [hgolightly@chspets.org](mailto:hgolightly@chspets.org).



1,200 TOTAL ADOPTIONS	384 PETS SAVED FROM HIGH-KILL OR AT CAPACITY SHELTERS	14,938 POUNDS OF PET FOOD GIVEN TO PETS IN NEED	900 OWNED CATS OR DOGS SPAYED OR NEUTERED



# Beware of Scams this Holiday Season

Contributed by **TRUE Community Credit Union**

Fraudsters often use the busyness of the holiday season to take advantage of consumers, hoping they will ignore the warning signs of a scam. Below are a few of the most common scams that consumers can fall victim to.

## Scam #1: Imposter Scams

An imposter scam occurs when a fraudster pretends to be someone you trust, like your financial institution, using phone calls (vishing), text messages (smishing), or emails (phishing) to convince you to send them money or share personal information. The messages pressure you to act now or something bad will happen.

TIP: Always stop and verify before taking action. If something feels off, hang up or don't reply to the text or email. Contact the person or organization directly to make sure the information is legitimate. Never log into any of your accounts through a link – always go directly to the website or use your financial institution's secure app.

## Scam #2: Too Good to Be True Discounts

Fraudsters will list "hot" items on platforms like Facebook Marketplace at a significant discount that require payment through apps such as Zelle, Venmo, Paypal, or Cash App. Once you send the money to the fraudster – it's gone.

TIP: Only use these payment methods with people you know and trust. Check the site for signs of a scam and research the company through the Better Business Bureau, or a simple Google search for reviews.

## Scam #3: Travel and Airfare Scams

Many people will shop for cheap airline tickets over the holiday season, leading fraudsters to target travelers with schemes ranging from bogus flight-booking websites to fraudulent flight cancellation emails and sudden price increases.

Warning signs of an airline scam:

- A website or marketplace seller is offering airline tickets at a significant discount. Fake travel agencies advertise huge deals to try and get you to suspend your suspicions.
- You're contacted and

asked to pay extra for a flight or are told your trip has been canceled and you need to pay more to rebook it.

TIP: Purchase airline tickets directly from the airline (or through reputable third-party sellers that offer customer service). If you receive any messages about your trip, contact the airline



directly to make sure the message is legitimate.

## Scam #4: Online Gift Exchanges

Fraudsters use the traditional Secret Santa game to trick you into sending money and gifts to them (as well as giving up your personal information).

In these scams, you're asked to provide your name and address, along with the contact information of a few friends. Then, you're asked to send money or small gifts to a stranger on the list. In return, you'll receive mul-

tiples gifts from other people who participate.

But the whole thing is a scam, and any money, information, or gifts you send go straight to the scammers.

Warning signs of a fake online store:

- You're offered multiple gifts in return for sending money or presents to a stranger.

- You're asked for personal information in order to enter the exchange. Scammers can use this to steal your identity or target you with more scams.

TIP: Secret Santa exchanges can be a lot of fun, but make sure that you're joining a group with people that you know and trust.

## Scam #5: Holiday Gift Card Scams

Never pay for goods, services, fees, fines, or taxes with gift cards. Fraudsters will impersonate your bank, government agencies, or other authoritative people and demand payment in gift cards. If you buy gift cards in a store, make sure they haven't been tampered with, that the package is intact and not torn, and that the pin is still hidden. The barcode should have a

sticker placed over it.

TIP: Get a receipt so that you can verify the purchase if your card is lost or stolen, and only purchase gift cards from reputable retailers. If you're buying online, check the store's URL to see if it's secure, and whenever possible, purchase gift cards from the actual retailer or company.

## Scam #6: Fake Charity Scams

Scammers take advantage of your generosity during the holiday season and create fake charities, GoFundMe campaigns, and other charitable activities. Charity scams can often be incredibly hard to spot – until you've lost money or given up sensitive information. Scammers often create "lookalike" charities that use variations of trusted names to fool you and will often try to pressure you into donating by using hard-sell tactics that can be threatening.

TIP: Always check the URL and charity name before donating. You can also check the legitimacy of the charity by using Wise Giving Alliance, Charity Navigator, and for any GoFundMe campaigns look for the group organizer prior to donating.




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# Jackson Interfaith Shelter Announces Capital Project to Build a Family Shelter

*Contributed by the Jackson Interfaith Shelter*

Jackson Interfaith Shelter (JIS) is excited to announce the launch of its capital campaign to build a dedicated family shelter. The new facility aims to provide a safe, supportive environment for families experiencing homelessness in Jackson.

With the support of generous donors, this initiative will expand JIS's services, offering increased capacity, privacy, and essential resources for families. The shelter will include private rooms, communal spaces, and access to comprehensive programs, allowing families to regain stability and independence.

"Homelessness affects families across our community, and this project is a critical step toward providing the shelter and care they deserve," said Steve Castle, CEO of Jackson Interfaith Shelter. "This new facility will offer families the support they need to rebuild their lives."

Numerous community partners have already committed to supporting the

project. The John George Jr. Trust is generously offering a \$3,000,000 matching grant to kick off the project. In response to their matching opportunity, many others have contributed to the project: Alro Steel's Alvin L. Glick Foundation (\$1,500,000); Dawn Foods Corporate Giving (\$300,000); The Hurst Foundation (\$300,000); The Phil and Pat Willis Foundation (\$100,000); and over \$65,000 from local churches, corporations, and families.

Jackson Interfaith Shelter is inviting the community to join the campaign and respond to the John George Jr. Trust matching gift. Contributions will help fund the construction of the new shelter, ensuring that families experiencing homelessness receive the comprehensive support they need.

For more information on project updates or ways to support the campaign, please visit [www.interfaithshelter.com/familysshelter](http://www.interfaithshelter.com/familysshelter).

## About the Jackson Interfaith Shelter

Jackson Interfaith Shelter is Jackson's low-barrier emergency homeless shelter. The shelter currently has 76 beds and houses nearly 700 men,

women, and children every year. Additionally, community meals are served three times a day, 365 days a year, at 7:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Over 80,000 meals are served each year thanks to gener-

ous donations from community partners. To learn more about the mission of JIS or to learn more about the community work and current events, please visit <https://www.interfaithshelter.com>.



## Happy Holidays with Love for You

*By Victoria Beaman*

With the holiday season upon us, we can allow our



energies to become depleted with the hustle and bustle. As humans, we put a lot on our plates. We

feel that we need to please everyone and occasionally forget to take care of ourselves. The content of my writings usually discusses beauty and wellness, but I've decided to do something a little different with this article and share with you one of my favorite poems from a truly lovely soul. This poem comes from my studies in Consciousness and Human Potential. It's a fascinating subject, and I'm extremely excited to share some of my newfound knowledge with you. I hope you will enjoy the wise words and have all the peace and joy the holidays bring to you and your loved ones.

"Lose yourself,  
Lose yourself in this love.  
When you lose yourself in this love,  
you will find everything.  
Lose yourself,  
Lose yourself.  
Do not fear this loss,  
For you will rise from the earth  
and embrace the endless heavens.  
Lose yourself,  
Lose yourself.  
Escape from this earthly form,  
For this body is a chain  
and you are its prisoner.  
Smash through the prison wall  
and walk outside with the kings and princes.  
Lose yourself,  
Lose yourself at the foot of the glorious King.  
When you lose yourself  
before the King  
you will become the King.  
Lose yourself,  
Lose yourself.  
Escape from the black cloud  
that surrounds you.  
Then you will see your light  
as radiant as the full moon.  
Now enter that silence.  
This is the surest way  
to lose yourself. . . .  
What is your life about, anyway?—  
Nothing but a struggle to be someone,  
Nothing but a running from your own silence."  
— Rumi, Rumi: In the Arms of the Beloved



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# Jackson County Chamber of Commerce Celebrates Local Achievements at Annual Community Awards Event

*Contributed by  
Jackson County  
Chamber of Commerce*

Jackson County Chamber of Commerce hosted its Annual Community Awards on December 2, 2024, honoring the outstanding individuals, businesses, and organizations that have made a significant impact on Jackson's growth and quality of life. The event celebrated excellence in various categories, including the prestigious Brick Awards, new Quality of Life Award, Reach HIRE Award, and Small Businessperson of the Year. Winners were selected for their dedication to driving progress, embodying community values, and inspiring others within Jackson County.

## Brick Awards

The Brick Awards celebrate businesses and individuals who have improved their facilities through remodeling or new construction. Sponsored by the Jackson Commercial Contractors Association, whose mission is to keep local work for local contractors. The 2024 Brick Award recipients were:

*John Griswold –  
Griz Chiropractic*

John Griswold grew up with parents who owned a local business, instilling in him the value of buying local, staying local, and serving the community. These lessons have shaped his dedication to giving back and supporting Jackson in meaningful ways.

Showing his commitment to buying local, just some of the vendors and contractors involved in this project include Lambers Heating and Cooling, School Electric, Johnson Sign Company, RJM Marketing & Design, and Griswold Carpet One, in addition to help from his own family.

*The Center for Family  
Health*

The Center for Family Health has made remarkable strides in improving access to care for our community. With a larger facility

that includes two additional exam rooms, a second patient bathroom, and separate areas for sick and well patients, they have created a more efficient and welcoming space that enhances the patient's experience. Additionally, the new pharmacy drive-through provides a much-needed convenience, addressing feedback directly from their patients. The project's general contractor was Jackson's own RW Mercer, with Covalle Group Architects handling the design of the renovated walk-in clinic.

*da Vinci Primary School*

The da Vinci Primary School renovation is a transformative project that has impacted our community.

By transforming the school into a state-of-the-art learning environment, the project enhanced educational opportunities, fostered economic growth and improved community safety. Renovations provided students with a more conducive learning environment, leading to improved academic performance and increased engagement. Additionally, the new facilities equip students with the tools and resources necessary to excel in STEM fields. Economically, the project created jobs and could contribute to increased property values, attracting new residents to the area.

The renovation project was managed by Jones Construction Solutions, based in Jackson.

## Quality of Life Award – RJ's Metropolitan Ice Cream Co.

Presented by Experience Jackson, this award recognizes individuals or organizations who have made extraordinary contributions to improving the quality of life in our community. From supporting recreational activities to enhancing our cultural and natural resources, today's honorees make Jackson a better place to live.

RJ's Metropolitan Ice Cream Co. demonstrates

exceptional hospitality and quality service by offering unique, trendy, and delicious food options that cater to a wide variety of tastes. Robert and Yvette Wilkie and their daughter

Jaylah pride themselves on serving up 9 assorted flavors of seasoned fries, allowing guests to explore new and exciting combinations. RJs has been honored as one of Michigan's best small businesses and recognized as a destination shop in the state, including being featured on the PBS travel show Under the Radar in 2023, which continues to bring in visitors from Michigan and the Midwest.

## Reach HIRE Award – Henry Ford Jackson Hospital

The Reach HIRE Award honors a business or individual dedicated to creating job opportunities and promoting workforce development in Jackson. This year's recipient has gone beyond supporting employment initiatives, workforce training, and community engagement. Henry Ford Jackson Hospital was nominated for the Reach HIRE award for their long-term commitment to workforce development throughout our community.

From their Healthcare Camp that engages middle school students to expose them to a career in health fields, to their partnership with the Jackson Area Career Center to provide career spotlights, mock job interviews and resume development, to their work in the adult population through their Nursing Assistant and Medical Assistant Training

programs, in partnership with the MLK Center and Michigan Works! Southeast, Henry Ford Hospital Jackson is working to provide exposure and opportunity to healthcare careers to members of our community. Henry Ford Jackson Hospital also recognizes that earning a single credential and having a job is not the end for many people. That is why they developed the annual "Grow My Career" event for their existing employees to learn about advancement opportunities in the organization and offer tuition discounts through their partnerships with four-year universities.

## Jamie McKibbin Community Enthusiast Award – Rachel Buchanan

Named in honor of Jamie McKibbin, this award celebrates a community enthusiast who embodies passion, dedication, and a relentless commitment to Jackson. This year's recipient has shown an unwavering love for our community, just as Jamie did.

Rachel Buchanan has chosen to call this community home for 25 years.

She began her experience in Jackson as a student at Spring Arbor University, where she met her husband, David, and spent 20 years after graduation promoting the community through positive stories and news during her time

in radio at HOME.fm. During this time, Rachel developed a passion for spending her time to make our community the best Jackson it can be as a leader and advocate for its

growth and development.

Because of this passion for our community, Rachel transitioned her media skill-set four years ago to Experience Jackson, Jackson County's official tourism bureau, where she can take on an even more active role marketing our community to its residents and visitors. Her work with Experience Jackson has elevated our community's opportunities to tell the story of Jackson County to both locals and visitors alike.

## Small Businessperson of the Year – Doug Shafer, Shafer Redi-Mix

Presented by County National Bank, this award honors a smallbusiness leader who has shown dedication, innovation and a commitment to growth within Jackson's business community.

Doug Shafer has demonstrated exceptional leadership and innovation, guiding Shafer Redi-Mix through significant growth and enhancing operational efficiency through modern technologies.

Learn about the individual award-winner stories at [Jacksonchamber.org](http://Jacksonchamber.org) and the Chamber social media pages

It was an incredible honor to celebrate the outstanding contributions of these individuals and businesses who play such an important role in shaping our community," said Ryan Tarrant, President & CEO of the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce. "Their dedication to excellence inspires us all to strive for greater success."

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# College & Career Access Center, December Scholarships

## Science Ambassador Scholarship

**Description:** To apply, film a three-minute educational video of yourself explaining a STEM topic you're passionate about. To apply, you must be a high school senior or an undergraduate college student. Your video should be:

- A mini-lecture, not a personal statement. Pretend you're a lecturer speaking to a class. Teach us something.
- Clear, creative, accurate, and a demonstration of your passion for the subject. We value novel, memorable approaches to topics. Your video doesn't need to be fancy or high-tech. Production value is not a factor.
- Three minutes or less in length. Videos longer than this will not be considered. No exceptions!
- About any STEM topic, not necessarily your field of study. Pick a topic that excites and fascinates you. We don't need to hear about the latest thing in science news (unless that's your jam).
- Scientifically accurate. We encourage you to cite the sources used to research your topic. Ideally, this would be in a slide or frame at the end of your video. You can use any citation format you'd like.
- Uploaded to YouTube and marked 'public.' No exceptions!

### Eligibility:

- Open to women in science, technology, engineering or math.
  - Must attend college (or plan to attend college) in the United States or a United States Territory.
  - Only open to undergraduate students and high school seniors.
  - All fields within science, technology, engineering, and math are eligible.
- Award:** \$20,000  
**Deadline:** December 16, 2024

## Foreclosure.com Scholarship Program

**Requirements:** Essay of a minimum of 800 words to a maximum of 2,000

**Essay Topic:** The real estate market slowdown and its effect on foreclosures. There is much speculation on how the current foreclosure market will evolve due to a variety of factors such as:

- Rising inflation costs.
- Rising mortgage rates and higher monthly mort-

gage payments.

- The expiration of COVID related forbearance and mortgage protection programs.
- Discuss how these factors will change the foreclosure market in the coming year.

Many are predicting more foreclosure homes will come on the market due to these factors, but there is some debate on how fast these properties may become available. Will rising inflation rates along with higher monthly mortgage payments see this happen gradually as the year progresses? Or will the expiration of the COVID protection programs be funneling a larger number of properties into the foreclosure market more quickly?

**Award:** Up to \$4,000

**Deadline:** December 15, 2024

## Burger King Scholarship

**Description:** The BURGER KING McLAMORE Foundation is a U.S. based 501(c)(3) public nonprofit that believes without education you limit your potential to be your own way. It is our mission to create brighter futures by empowering individuals and feeding potential through education and emergency relief.

### Eligibility:

- Be living in the United States, Canada or Puerto Rico
- Be graduating high school seniors (U.S. and Puerto Rico), graduating from grade 12 (Canada) or graduating from home school education in the U.S., Puerto Rico or Canada
- Have a cumulative high school grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale, or the equivalent
- Plan to enroll full-time, without interruption, for the entire 2022-23 academic year at an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school in the U.S., Canada or Puerto Rico

**Award:** \$1,000 - \$60,000  
**Deadline:** December 16, 2024

## Equitable Excellence Scholarship

**Description:** Equitable Foundation has established the Equitable Excellence Scholarship Program to assist high school seniors who are planning to continue their education at a two- or

four-year college in the United States by Fall 2025.

This program is administered by Scholarship America®, the nation's largest designer and manager of scholarship and other education support programs for corporations, foundations, associations, and individuals. Eligibility for individual programs is determined at the sole discretion of the sponsor and eligible applications are reviewed by Scholarship America's evaluation team. In compliance with Federal law, this program will not discriminate in the terms, conditions or privileges of participation on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability or sexual orientation.

**Eligibility:** We're committed to students who show potential. Those with the courage to pursue what's possible; display strength in managing challenges; share wisdom with others. The Equitable Excellence Award is our promise to those individuals dedicated to achieving their dreams.

- Be current high school seniors who plan to enroll full-time in an accredited two- or four-year college or university in the United States for the entire upcoming academic year.
- Be a United States citizen or legal resident living or claiming residency in one of the 50 U.S. states, District of Columbia or Puerto Rico.
- Be willing to provide a release to publicize their identities and information about their achievements along with photographs for use in Program promotion/information.

**Award:** \$20,000

**Deadline:** December 18, 2024 by 3 PM CT

## The Top Ten List Scholarship

**Description:** There are many scholarships and colleges that want to know the number one thing you want people to know about you. Just one? That's it? "But, I'm amazing," you say. We hear you, and we know that it's tough to narrow down your awesomeness into one measly reason.

So, inspired by David Letterman and his top ten lists, we created the Top Ten List Scholarship. With so many awards based on grades and extracurricular activities, this unique scholarship gives you the chance to

show us what's truly special and different about you. Get creative, be serious, or tug at our heart strings. Whatever you do, you only have ten reasons to convince us, so make each one count.

### Eligibility:

- Must be at least 14 years of age.
- Must be a legal United States resident.
- Must be a resident of one of the 50 United States or the District of Columbia.

**Award:** \$1,500

**Deadline:** December 31, 2024

## NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund Youth Essay Contest

**Description:** The NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund sponsors a scholarly writing contest for grades K-12. The theme for the essay is "What does the Second Amendment mean to you?" Essays will be judged in two categories: Senior (grades 9-12) and junior (grades 8 and below).

**Eligibility:** The contest is open to all students enrolled, or who will be enrolled, in an elementary, junior high, or high school during that academic year, including homeschooled students in an equivalent grade level, who have not previously received a prize in their category. For example, a previous winner in the junior category, who is now eligible for the senior category, may submit an entry.

**Award:** \$100-\$1,000

**Deadline:** December 31, 2024

## Path to Pro Scholarship Program

**Description:** The Home Depot Foundation works to improve the homes and lives of U.S. veterans, train skilled tradespeople to fill the labor gap and support communities impacted by natural disasters. The Foundation has pledged to invest \$50 million in training the next generation of skilled tradespeople and bridging the opportunity gap through its Path to Pro program. We want to help create the next generation of skilled trade leaders by providing scholarships to further your education.

### Eligibility:

- Be a high school senior, high school graduate or have a GED equivalent.
- Plan to enroll, or be enrolled, in an approved trade-related program at an accredited two-year school (technical/vocational school or college) in the United States.
- Not be an employee or dependent of an employee of the The Home Depot. Employees of The Home Depot and their dependents are eligible to apply for a scholarship from The Home Fund.
- Focused on Carpentry, Electrical, HVAC, Plumbing, or Construction Management

**Award:** \$2,500

**Deadline:** December 31, 2024

*For the full list of monthly scholarships, please visit the College and Career Access Center's website at [jacksoncac.org](http://jacksoncac.org).*

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