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EST. 2015

HBA of Jackson 2024 Home & Garden Show February 23-25

Contributed by Home Builders Association of Jackson

Are you looking to refresh, enhance, re-model, add space or build a new home?

Then here is the event for you! HBA of Jackson and Consumers Energy proudly present the 2024 Home & Garden Show, February 23rd-25th at the American 1 Event Center at Keeley Park.

A Jackson Tradition

HBA of Jackson is celebrating 48 years of Home & Garden Shows by once again showcasing the latest innovations for remodeling and updating the inside and outside of the home at this annual home improvement extravaganza. Join HBAJ and Consumers Energy to gather inspiration for your next home project and connect with exhibitors who can help make your vision a reality.

Make Those Project Dreams a Reality!

Come explore booth after booth and see what's new in home and garden renovation and improvement with over 75 home and garden exhibits filling 97 booths. The Home & Garden Show is an opportunity to explore products and meet some of the area's most trusted experts who are happy to answer questions, share ideas and provide inspiration to help you with all of your home and garden projects.

No matter the size or scope of your project, our local pros will be on-site all under one roof to help! From the front door to the backyard, you'll find it all at the HBA of Jackson Home & Garden Show 2024. Visit our website at JacksonHomeShow.com for a list of the exhibitors who will be available at the show. The site is full of information for show attendees, sponsors, and exhibitors, including, schedule of events, sponsors, 2 for 1 coupon and more.

Friday is Ladies Night!

Exhibitors will have specials for the ladies! Plus... there will be a Wine & Chocolate Tasting from 5:00-7:00 PM with Cherry Creek Winery & Gilbert Chocolates.

Sponsored by Kitchen Shop of Jackson

Tips to Get the Most Out of the Home & Garden Show

Before you leave the house:

1. Think about projects you would like to tackle.
2. Measure and take photos of those project areas.
3. Save money before you enter the show! Clip the buy 1 get 1 free coupon from the ad in this publication or download the coupon from the JacksonHomeShow.com website.

At the show:

1. Take notes and photos. Shop and compare prices, services, and products.
2. Talk to the pros at the Show. Chat with them about things you'd like to do in your home and get ideas for improvements you may not have even considered.
3. Gather information, pricing and take advantage of show-only discounts and special offers.
4. Make appointments. Many vendors will offer promotions for free estimates.

February 23-25, 2024 - American 1 Event Center

- Friday 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (Ladies night 5-7 PM) AND Veterans get in FREE
- Saturday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
- Sunday 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM (Balloons for the Kids by Balloony Bin)

Food onsite every day provided by Crazy Cowboy!

About Home Builder's Association

Home Builders Association of Jackson (HBAJ) is a non-profit advocate for the home building industry including builders, remodelers, property owners, developers and suppliers to the single family and multifamily residential construction industry. Our membership is affiliated with the Home Builders Association of Michigan and the National Association of Home Builders in Washington DC. The Home Builder's Association of Jackson is the voice of the building industry, dedicated to preserving and protecting the American Dream of home ownership. The HBAJ promotes professionalism while providing education and membership support..



2024 2nd Annual
Shamrock Shuffle 5k
Run/Walk
Saturday
March 16 @ 12:30 pm
Horace Blackman Park, W. Michigan Ave., Jackson, MI

Early Bird Special

\$25
PER ENTRY



Scan to register or visit

<https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Jackson/JacksonYMCAShamrockShuffle>

Early bird pricing: \$25 until 2/29, \$30 until 3/15, \$40 on race day (no shirt). Shirts are not guaranteed after March 6, supplies available while they last.

Packet pickup: March 15 from 8am to 2pm at the Jackson YMCA, 127 W. Wesley St., Jackson, MI

Awards: Medals for prizes with embroidered waist bag to the first place in each age group for men and for women.

Proceeds from the Shamrock Shuffle benefit the Jackson YMCA's Strong Communities program. At the YMCA, no one is denied participation due to proven inability to pay. Race proceeds will be distributed to youth, adults, seniors and families to participate in the Y and its programs such as: swim lessons, after-school programs, and chronic disease prevention programs.

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Optimist Park Reshaped with New Playground & Basketball Court

By Aaron Dimick,
City of Jackson
Public Information Officer



Residents are now enjoying new features in a neighborhood park following a big investment from the City of Jackson. Optimist Park was reshaped in 2023 due to the sale of vacant commercial property along

N. West Avenue.

The construction project wrapped up this fall and brought a new basketball court, playground, walkway and parking to this north side park. \$1.5 million from the property sale was used for the park construction project, along with upcoming renovations to the Boos Recreation Center on Jackson's east side.

More fencing, a swing set, and additional landscaping will be added later this spring.



Photo courtesy of the City of Jackson

Keeping All In the Know: Monthly Shop Meetings at Lomar Machine & Tool Company

By Becky Dorian,
Lomar Machine & Tool Company

Lomar is proud of our monthly all-employee shop meetings. Generally lasting less than hour, our meetings are fast paced and full of information. This open communication channel is critical to keeping everyone up to date and informed each month. From HR announcements, Events, Sales, Safety, Finance and improvements a variety of topics are covered by each department ensuring employees well abreast of all that is happening internally.

Lomar appreciates the leadership in our company that is willing to share updates with the entire company and keeping all "in the know"!

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Jackson County Animal Shelter's Adoptable Pets: Ragnar and Sticky Wicket

Contributed by the
Jackson County
Animal Shelter

Ragnar

Meet Ragnar, a three-year-old American Staffordshire mix who came in as a stray. Ragnar has a beautiful, shiny black coat with white markings. His most adorable features are his perky ears and warm brown eyes. Ragnar is housetrained, loves to walk on the leash, and knows some basic commands. He is in tune with his person and wants to please you. Come meet this handsome guy 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.



Sticky Wicket

This pretty girl is Sticky Wicket! Sticky is four years old and solid black with a velvety, soft, long coat. She is super friendly and will come to greet guests. Sticky is currently housed with other cats and gets along fine with everyone. With her squeaky voice, she will vie for your attention and beg for treats in the

most endearing manner. Come meet this gorgeous girl with big gold eyes today at the Jackson County Animal Shelter, 3370 Spring Arbor Rd., Jackson, Michigan. Cat adoption fees are \$60 for one cat and \$80 for two, which includes applicable tests, vaccines, and spaying/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. For more information, visit our website at 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.



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Where Community Comes Together.

Capital Project Sees Transformative Changes Underway

*Contributed by the
Jackson YMCA*

We have been sharing weekly construction updates through email, social media, and posts in the building. This is a recap of the changes and progress so far.

The Jackson YMCA is thrilled to share exciting updates on the progress of its highly anticipated capital construction project that began this month. To accommodate this work, the YMCA has implemented various measures to enhance the overall experience for our members during construction. From temporary relocations to significant space reallocations, these adjustments aim to ensure the safety of our members and staff while providing as many programs and services as possible.

Temporary Relocations and Site Space Allocation

To streamline operations during construction, several staff offices have been temporarily relocated next door on Franklin Street. This strategic move keeps leadership staff close and readily available to members while minimizing disruptions within the construction zone.

Granger Construction has mobilized on-site, adding an office trailer, fencing, and equipment. Signage has been placed to assist members with parking and entry, and a reconstructed sidewalk on Franklin Street ensures safe passage to the new temporary entrance.

Fencing and Parking

Construction fencing has been installed around the front entrance and north parking lot at W. Wesley St., enclosing Granger Construction's workspace. Members can use parking spaces in the south section of the YMCA lot, the City Lot on W. Wesley St., and on Franklin St. Handicap parking is available at the Franklin St. temporary entrance. We kindly ask you to reserve these spaces for those who require them.

Temporary Entrance Weather Barrier

A weather barrier has been installed at the

temporary entrance to maintain a comfortable environment for everyone utilizing the facility during the construction phase.

Facility Access Changes

To maintain access to essential amenities, a new entrance has been created off the small gym, providing access to the free-weight room. Locker room changes have also been implemented, and alternative areas have been designated for families and youth.

Barrier Wall Construction

The construction of a barrier wall in the small gym has been completed to protect members and staff during this demolition phase. With the completion of this, the phase 1 construction area is now encapsulated and inaccessible.

Youth Locker Room Demolition

This week marked the demolition of the boys and girls locker rooms, along with the long hall leading to the pools. Clear guidelines have been posted to assist members during this transition.

Restroom Changes

With the completion of the barrier walls, restrooms on the second floor will no longer be available. Members can use restrooms in the appropriate locker rooms or the Universal locker room.

Large Gym Schedule

A new schedule has been posted to assist members with planning time in the large gym. Some Group Exercise classes that were previously held in the aerobics room have been moved to the large gym or the Summit branch due to construction.

Summit Location Upgrades

The Summit location has undergone upgrades, including the removal of the kitchen, added workspaces for staff, and reinstallation of the membership desk, aiming to enhance fitness class options, provide additional equipment, and offer future on-site customer service.

Main Areas Transformation

Significant progress has been made in transforming the main areas, including the removal of the membership desk, office walls, boxing room, and restrooms. Access holes have been created for debris removal, showcasing the commitment to a comprehensive makeover.

Kids Zone Hours

Kids Zone relocated near the new temporary entrance and had limited hours for the first couple of weeks this month. Now that the move is completed, we have resumed the previous schedule of 8a-7:45p Monday through Friday and 8a-1p on Saturday.

Groundbreaking Ceremony

Save the date for the official Groundbreaking Ceremony on Thursday, February 8, 2024, at noon in the large gym. The YMCA invites members to join in celebrating this significant milestone and expresses gratitude for their continued support throughout this transformative journey. Find more information in this newsletter.

Thank you for your cooperation as we progress through construction. We are very excited and look forward to bringing this transformational YMCA to our community. We remain dedicated to keeping you informed about the developments weekly.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to our staff or email construction@JacksonYMCA.org.

About the Jackson YMCA

The Jackson YMCA is a community-focused organization dedicated to promoting health and wellness through programs and services that nurture the potential of every individual and family in the greater Jackson area. For more information, visit <https://www.jacksonymca.org>.

Jackson YMCA Media Contact: Stefanie Riggs, Executive Director of Development and Community Relations at stefanie@jacksonymca.org or 517-782-0537.



Weather barrier installed at temporary entrance to maintain a comfortable environment.



A view from the wellness center entry, showing the removal of the office and work on removing a stairwell.



Photos courtesy of the Jackson YMCA
A view from the front lobby where you can now see the door to the pool.

Learn to Love Your Hometown

Combat Winter Blues with a Book Exchange

By Val Herr

Have the winter blues started to get to you? Is one of your 2024 goals to read more books? Do you love supporting your local restaurants and wineries? If you answered yes to any of these questions, I have a solution: host a book exchange! It's truly that simple. Find an incredible local gem such as a restaurant or winery (be sure and call ahead), and invite your friends, co-workers, or anyone that likes to read and wants to discover local treats.

Here's how it works: you invite a group of people to bring their used books to exchange with others. You can set a limit - either a minimum or maximum - for each person if you'd like. Have everyone share a little about the books they brought, lay

the books out and let everyone go shopping! This could be a one-time event, or you could host it a few times throughout the year.

If you have books left over, consider donating them to your local school, Jackson District Library, or one of the many "little libraries" all over Jackson.

I can't think of a better way to spend a winter afternoon than sitting around a local establishment, having amazing food and drinks, and sharing a love for reading. Fill your soul, break your routine, support local businesses, love your hometown, cherish the joy of literary discoveries, and create lasting memories with fellow book enthusiasts! Embrace the warmth of community, cultivate meaningful connections, and make your book exchange a delightful tradition that enriches the cultural fabric of your local area.

Adapted from the February 2023 edition.





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Exploring the Fascinating World of Isopods: Nature’s Tiny Marvels in Microhabitats

By Jean McKim,
Imagine Planet

Wow, so many things are happening in the science community right now! Space has been especially busy this past month. The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency landed an unmanned explorer on the moon that is busy obtaining and relaying data. In other space-related news, a commercial rocket was launched but unfortunately did not make it to the moon due to a fuel malfunction. For more information on current events in space exploration, be sure to check out our Space Wall of newspaper clippings when you stop in for a visit.

This month, our theme day is going to be a Science Treasure Hunt on February 17th from 1-5. We will have a checklist of objects and animals to find at Imagine Planet, with a small prize at the end. There will be two levels of difficulty, and volunteers will be available to help. This is going to be a lot of fun, and I hope you can

join us!

This month’s featured animal is our isopods. These are invertebrate animals in the order Crustacea, which includes crabs, lobsters, shrimp, barnacles, and krill. We have terrestrial isopods that live on the forest floor and eat decaying organic matter. They are often called woodlice or roly polys, and they can be found in our own backyards here in Michigan.

Some isopods are bred for cleaning up animal cages in bioactive habitats. They are doing very well in our leopard gecko habitats, and we can show them to you by lifting up water dishes. One group of isopods that we have is commonly called dairy cow isopods because of their similar white and black coloring. These small bugs do not bite and can be kept as pets all on their own. They are available at local reptile shows and pet stores (including Pet Station here in Jackson) and are bought in groups of 10-100. They have to be kept moist, which

we do by spraying water in their habitats daily. There is a reptile show in Saline, and our Jackson show is scheduled to come back in April. Please remember, never get an animal on a whim! Make sure you know what the animal needs, account for its lifespan and size, and try to get domestically bred animals instead of wild-caught ones. However, isopods are easily bred in captivity and are easy to keep, so they might be a good fit. If you have questions, come check out our colonies here at Imagine Planet. Invertebrates are fascinating and diverse animals to learn about.

Our hours are 12-5 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Please call or check our Facebook page for weather-related closings this time of year. Also, keep an eye out for links to local events at the Dahlem Center, Ella Sharp Museum, MSU, and others that we share on our page. We look forward to meeting you!

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College & Career Access Center, February Scholarships

Nick Linblad Memorial Scholarship

Eligibility:

- The Nick Lindblad Memorial Scholarship hopes to honor Nick's memory and his love of music through supporting a student who shares Nick's love of music.
- Any high school senior who has a love for music and has been involved musically throughout high school may apply for this scholarship.
- To apply, share how music has impacted your life, particularly while you were in high school.'

Description:

This scholarship acknowledges the transformative power of music as a universal language that transcends barriers and enriches lives. By supporting aspiring musicians, it aims to cultivate a society that values creativity and expression, fostering empathy, emotional intelligence, and cultural understanding. This initiative seeks to harness the profound impact of music, nurturing a generation that appreciates its significance in shaping a harmonious and interconnected world.

Award: \$3,500

Deadline: February 16, 2024

Application: <https://bold.org/scholarships/nick-linblad-memorial-scholarship/>

Farm Kids for College Scholarship

Eligibility:

To be eligible for the National Farmers Farm Kids for College Scholarship, you must:

- Be a high school senior in the U.S.
- Major in an agricultural field at an accredited college or university

Description:

National Farmers launched scholarship program more than two decades ago to invest in the future of agriculture-oriented young people. Farm Kids for College Scholarship winners have pursued degrees in agronomy, agribusiness, dairy science, animal science, farm business and more. The adventures agriculture provides are many, and the Farm Kids for College contest helps students in their college pursuits at four-year colleges or technical and community colleges.

"Our 2024 Farm Kids for College Scholarship competition application materials are available now, and we look forward to seeing applications from students devoted to lives in agriculture," said Perry Garner, National Farmers national scholarship coordinator.

Vegetarian Resource Group Scholarships

Eligibility:

- Students must be in their Senior year attending high schools in the U.S.

High school seniors planning to earn an agricultural degree from an accredited college or university are eligible, and must submit materials by Feb. 20, 2024. Based upon competitive selection, National Farmers will announce three national scholarship winners April 9, 2024.

Award: \$2,500

Deadline: February 20, 2024

Application: <https://www.nationalfarmers.com/scholarships/>

Students must demonstrate an active role and a strong commitment in promoting a vegetarian/vegan diet and lifestyle (vegetarians do not eat meat, fish, or fowl).

- Students must attend a college or university in the U.S.

Description:

Students must submit an essay, a copy of their transcripts for the last two years of high school, a minimum of three recommendations of which at least one recommendation must come from a teacher, and documentation regarding their passion and promotion of vegetarianism (such as published articles, photos, and newspaper stories).

Applicants will be judged on having shown compassion, courage, and a strong commitment to promoting a peaceful world through a vegetarian diet/lifestyle. Winners of the scholarships give permission to release their names to the media. Applications and essays become property of The Vegetarian Resource Group. We may ask finalists for more information

Award: One award of \$10,000 and two awards of \$5,000

Deadline: February 20, 2024

Application: <http://www.vrg.org/student/scholar.htm>

For the full list of scholarships, head to <https://www.jacksoncac.org/>.

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- Hunt Elementary
- John R. Lewis Elementary
- JPS Montessori Elementary
- Northeast Elementary
- Sharp Park Academy

April 15	5:00 - 6:30 pm
April 16	5:30 - 7:00 pm
April 18	9:30 - 11:00 am
April 22	5:00 - 6:30 pm
April 25	5:30 - 7:00 pm
April 23	5:30 - 7:00 pm
April 24	5:30 - 7:00 pm

- Please arrive early as program will begin promptly!
- Prizes & Food!

- Community partners will be available to serve you!
- Free T-Shirt upon enrollment!



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