

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

JACKSON AREA COLLABORATIVE KNOWLEDGE SOURCE

## Lomar Celebrates 50 Years in Jackson

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# Lomar Celebrates 50 Years in Jackson: A Milestone of Gratitude and Growth

*By Becky Dorian,  
Lomar Machine and Tool Company*

2026 welcomes in a very special milestone for Lomar Machine and Tool Company, our 50th anniversary! For five decades, Lomar has been shaped by a strong work ethic, hands-on craftsmanship and a focus on solving customer challenges. As we reflect on this journey, gratitude is the word that rises above all others.

Lomar was founded in 1976 by Jim Geisman, whose vision was rooted in quality, integrity, and hard work. From the very beginning, Jim believed in building reliable machines, standing behind his work, and fostering strong relationships with customers and employees alike.

That foundation continues to guide Lomar today.

For the past 30 years, Lomar has been led by Ron Geisman, whose steady leadership has helped shape the company into what it is now. Under Ron's direction, Lomar has grown, adapted, and innovated while remaining true to the values it was built on. His commitment to employees, customers, and the community has played a key role in sustaining the company through changing industries and generations.

Reaching 50 years in business would not be possible without the incredible team members, past and present, who bring skill, dedication, and pride to their work every day. Their skills, creativity, and commitment form the backbone of Lomar's

success. Many have spent years—some decades—growing alongside the company, contributing not only their expertise but also their loyalty and heart.

We are equally grateful for our customers, both near and far. From local partners to businesses across the country and around the world, our customers place their trust in Lomar to deliver dependable solutions. That trust motivates us to continually improve, innovate, and serve with excellence. Long-standing relationships and new partnerships alike have helped shape who we are today.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the Jackson Community. Jackson is a wonderful place to do business—

one where collaboration, strong values, and a dedicated workforce thrive. The support of local organizations, suppliers, and neighbors has allowed Lomar to grow and succeed over the years. We are proud to operate here and grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the local economy and community.

As we celebrate our 50th anniversary this year, we do so with appreciation for the past and excitement for the future. We remain committed to investing in our people, supporting our customers, and continuing to grow right here in Jackson.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of Lomar's journey over the last 50 years. We are honored to be here—and thankful for the road ahead.



*Photo contributed by Lomar Machine and Tool Company*

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Hometown Eats

# February 2026: AKA Sushi

By Val Herr



Admittedly, I was dead set against ever trying sushi. Just the thought of it made my stomach hurt. Then my wonderful husband planned a date night, and I found myself at AKA Sushi. AKA is located at 1801 North West Avenue in Jackson. I quickly became overwhelmed by the menu. The amazing wait staff came to my aid, asked what I liked and didn't like, and made suggestions. Then I faced my fear and tried sushi.

I was pleasantly surprised by the wonderful freshness of the food. While I didn't love everything I tried, I found several favorites, including a California Roll and a Makai 7. These are now my go-to sushi rolls.

I have tried sushi at other places, but none compare to AKA. They are consistently wonderful and offer a rotating menu featuring new and unique sushi rolls.

Supporting locally owned restaurants sometimes means going outside your comfort zone. It's okay to try new things. It's okay not to love everything you try. The most important thing is to support local and try new places. We can easily fall into comfortable ruts and eat at the same places, ordering the same food. I challenge you to eat at one new restaurant this month. You might discover a place you love and food you didn't think you would like.

AKA earns my first 5-star rating.



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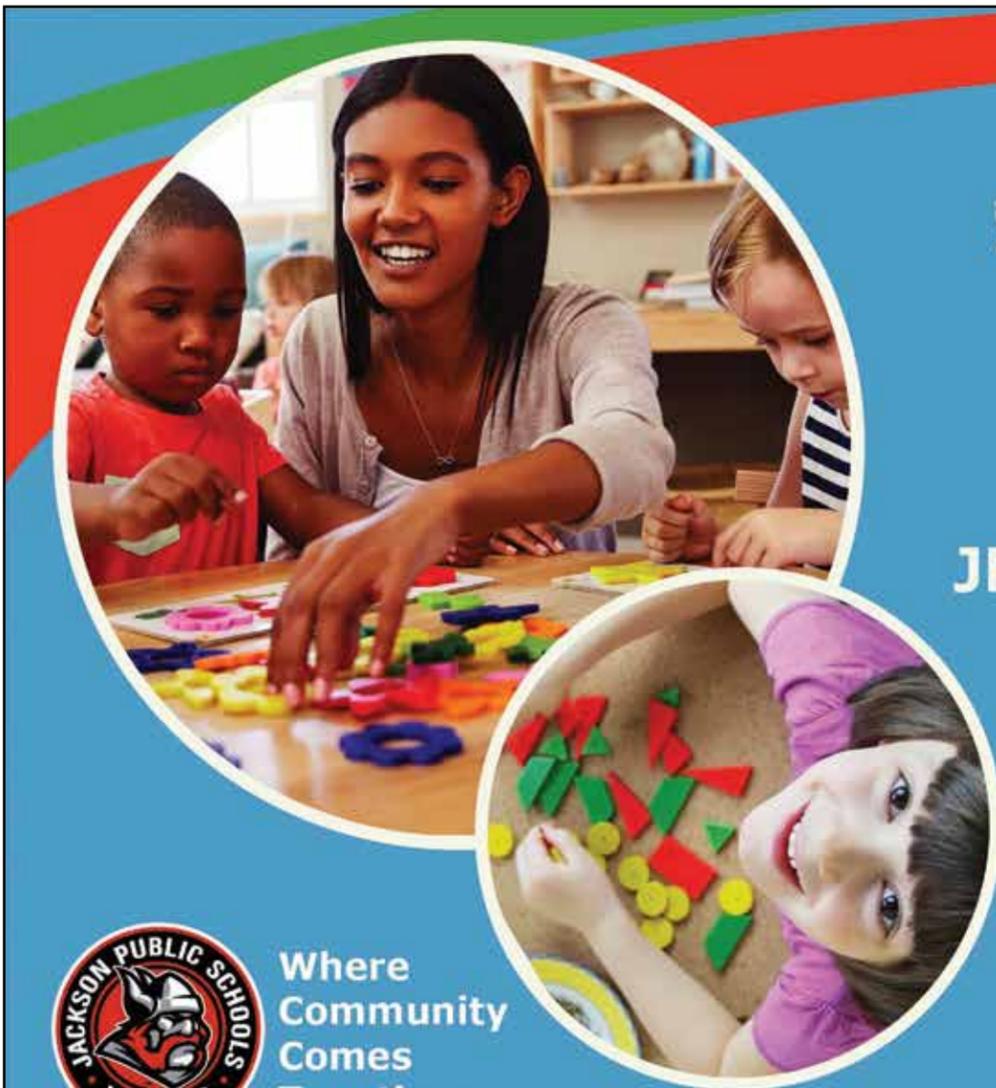
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# Jackson County Animal Shelter's Adoptable Pets: Norman & Jamie

Contributed by the Jackson County Animal Shelter

### Norman

Norman is a seven-year-old American Staffordshire mix who came in as a stray. He is a laid-back, easygoing guy who walks nicely on a leash and is fully potty trained. Norman gets along with most other dogs and showed little interest in cats during a cat room walk-through. Weighing about seventy-eight pounds, he is a solid, gentle companion who would be happiest lounging by your side or curling up for a nap. Come meet this mostly black pup with white markings at the Jackson County Animal Shelter.

Dog adoptions require an approved application: <https://www.co.jackson.mi.us/Dog-Adoption-Application>. A meet and greet with your dog is mandatory, and a cat room walk-

through is available. Dogs are adopted to approved applicants. Adoption fees are \$150 for medium and large dogs and \$250 for puppies and small dogs, which includes vaccinations, a microchip, and sterilization. Availability dates reflect when the dog becomes JCAS property,



and required medical procedures may delay adoption.

### Jamie

Jamie is a four-year-old tabby with white markings who came in as a stray. She is a sweet, quiet girl who enjoys gentle attention and visiting with people. At about nine pounds, she is on the smaller side, with striking large green eyes that are hard to miss.

Jamie was initially shy but has been steadily coming out of her shell and growing more comfortable in the shelter environment.

Jamie is available for adoption at the Jackson County Animal Shelter, located at 3370 Spring Arbor Road in Jackson, Michigan. Cat adoption fees are \$60 for one cat and \$80 for two, which includes applicable testing, vaccinations, and spay or neuter. Necessary medical procedures may slightly delay adoption. Visiting in person is encouraged, but applications are also available online: <https://www.co.jackson.mi.us/DocumentCenter/View/1894/Cat-Adoption-Application-PDF>. Applications may be faxed to 517-780-4750 or emailed to [animalshelter@mijackson.org](mailto:animalshelter@mijackson.org). Visit [mijackson.org/579/Animal-Shelter](http://mijackson.org/579/Animal-Shelter), find us on Facebook, or view available pets on Petango.



# Cascades Humane Society's Pet of the Month

Contributed by Cascades Humane Society

Lola is a five-year-old female Aussie with a bright personality and a whole lot of heart. She's at that wonderful age where puppy energy meets growing maturity, making her a fun and engaging companion. Affectionate and people-oriented, Lola enjoys being part of the action and is eager to bond with her humans. She would love an active home where she can stay busy, feel included, and enjoy daily life alongside her family.

Lola is spayed, microchipped, and up to date

on vaccinations, so she's ready to head straight into her next chapter. As an Australian Shepherd, she'll thrive with regular exercise, mental stimulation, and a family who enjoys training,



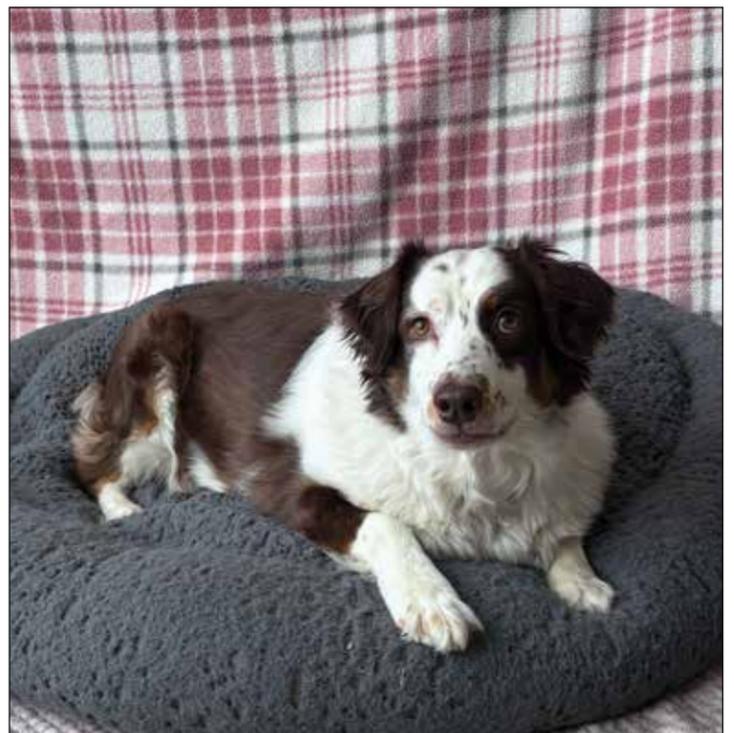
playing, and exploring together.

Lola's adoption fee is \$360. If you're looking for a smart, energetic dog with a loving spirit who's ready to be your new best friend,

Lola could be the perfect match.

### 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](mailto: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

# Michigan Winter: The Science of Potholes

By Jean McKim,  
Imagine Planet

Why is Michigan so perfect for making potholes? There are two main factors: temperature and precipitation.

Potholes occur for the same reason rocks break down in nature. This process is called weathering, and in northern states the main cause of weathering is ice wedging. Erosion is a term used for the movement of sediment or broken-down rock. Ice wedging happens because of a fascinating quirk of water. As water turns from a liquid to a solid and freezes, its volume increases. Most materials shrink as they get colder, but when water freezes, it expands.

This property is rather spectacularly exhibited when you leave pop cans in your car in very cold temperatures. The expanding water breaks the can open. I have even seen the bottoms of pop cans blow right off. I am not suggesting anyone perform this experiment, as it can get very messy. An experiment that can be performed any time of the year is simply putting a cup half full of water in the freezer. Mark the water level with a marker, then

measure how much the cup is filled once it freezes. You can also try putting packed snow in a cup and checking to see how much water it becomes once it melts.

So what does this have to do with potholes? When water from precipitation gets into cracks in the road or cracks in rocks and then freezes, it expands and makes those cracks larger. Then even more water gets in the next time. When this cycle of freezing and thawing happens repeatedly, the cracks grow much larger. This is the power that reduces rock to rubble. It is also the power that reduces roads to an obstacle course.

Why is Michigan so good at making potholes? Our temperatures fluctuate around the freezing point of water, and we receive plenty of precipitation. Antarctica is not a good place for ice wedging because it is too cold and too dry. This winter so far has been a perfect storm of temperatures and rain freezing and thawing back and forth. Be prepared for many deep potholes this year.

Please check our Facebook page or call 734-358-9893 to check on any closings due to weather. Drive safely!



2026  
**Shamrock Shuffle** 5k  
Run/Walk



**Saturday**  
**March 14 @ 12:30 pm**

Horace Blackman Park, W. Michigan Ave., Jackson, MI

**\$25**  
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Scan to register

The Jackson YMCA is proud to present the 2026 Shamrock Shuffle 5k Run/Walk! Kick-off St. Patty's Day early with a brisk run or walk through downtown Jackson.

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Early bird pricing: \$20 until 1/15, \$25 1/15 to 2/28, \$30 2/28 to 3/13, \$40 on race day (no shirt).  
Shirts are not guaranteed after March 5, supplies available while they last.  
Packet pickup: March 13 from noon to 6pm at the Jackson YMCA, 127 W. Wesley St., Jackson, MI

Proceeds from the Shamrock Shuffle benefit the Jackson YMCA's FOR ALL 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 programs like swim lessons, after-school programs, and chronic disease prevention programs.  
**OUR MISSION:** To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy Spirit, Mind, and Body FOR ALL.



## JACKSON SYMPHONY GUILD NEEDS YOU!

This organization works exclusively for the benefit of Jackson Symphony Orchestra, giving time and talents toward promoting music in the Jackson community. Our volunteers include people with a wide range of abilities who strive to raise funds through dues and proceeds from the Annual Holiday Ball.

For membership and volunteer information visit [jacksonsymphony.org/jackson-symphony-guild/](http://jacksonsymphony.org/jackson-symphony-guild/).





# Your 2026 Credit Score Playbook: The Biggest Changes (and What They Mean for You)

Contributed by  
**TRUE Community  
Credit Union**

If you have been hearing that credit scores are changing, you are not imagining it. 2026 is shaping up to be a transition year for how lenders evaluate borrowers, especially for mortgages. Fortunately, most of the habits that help your credit stay healthy are not changing.

### The Big Shift: New Scoring Models

Mortgage lenders can now use newer models, like VantageScore 4.0, which consider additional information – such as rent, utilities, or telecom payments. This can help more people, especially those with limited or “thin” credit histories, have a score on record. It does not guarantee loan approval, however it gives lenders a fuller picture when evaluating applications, and it highlights how credit scoring is evolving to include a wider range of financial behaviors. Lenders are also adopting FICO 10, which looks beyond a single snapshot to your credit patterns over the past two years. This means consistent habits matter more than short-term fixes.

### Other Changes to Watch in 2026

Credit scoring isn't just getting a facelift – it is evolving in ways that could impact how you borrow and manage debt. Here's what else is on the horizon:

- **Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL) Reporting:** BNPL plans will start showing up on credit reports. This can help build credit if you pay on time – however, missed payments could hurt your score.
- **Medical Debt Is Fading Out:** Paid medical collections and debts under \$500 are disappearing from reports, reducing surprise deductions for many borrowers.
- **Stronger Consumer Protections:** Updates to the Fair Credit Reporting

Act will speed up dispute timelines, require better documentation for errors, and strengthen identity theft safeguards.

### What's Staying the Same

The fundamentals of credit health are not changing. No matter which scoring model a lender uses:

- On-time payments still matter most.
- Lower balances relative to your limits (a.k.a. credit utilization) remain important.
- Length of credit history still plays a role, so older accounts often help.
- New credit and how often you apply still factors into your score.

A credit mix that reflects a variety of credit types (like credit cards, installment loans, or a mortgage) can positively impact your score.

### How to Prepare

**1. Monitor Your Credit Reports:** Check your reports regularly to catch mistakes or fraud early. Use AnnualCreditReport.com for free yearly reports from all three bureaus and set alerts for new accounts or major changes.

**2. Confirm Which Scoring Model Your Lender Uses:** Scores vary by model, so ask your lender whether they use FICO, VantageScore, or both. Knowing this helps you understand differences and focus on the right credit habits.

**3. Strengthen the Controllable Factors:** You are not able to choose the scoring model, however you can pay on time, aim to keep utilization below 30%, and maintain older accounts. Automate minimum payments to avoid late fees and protect your score.

**4. If You're Planning to Buy a Home, Start Early:** Credit is only part of the mortgage equation – debt-to-income, employment, and down payment matter too. Aim to budget and debt plan 6–12 months ahead

to show stability and avoid surprises.

**5. Get Connected:** TRUE Community Credit Union offers budgeting tools, workshops, or savings programs to help you get started. You can learn more at TRUECCU.com. For broader guidance – debt management or big fi-

nancial goals – our partners at GreenPath offer free financial counseling with NFCC- and HUD-certified experts to help you review your finances and support you in taking the next step forward.

TRUE Community Credit Union is a member-owned financial coopera-

tive dedicated to helping people achieve their most important life milestones by offering competitive savings, checking, loan, and digital banking services with a people-first mission focused on creating legacy-defining moments for the communities it serves across Michigan.



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# Sometimes We Have to Wander to Understand Home

By Victoria Beaman

Lately, I've been thinking about how often we're encouraged to move on quickly—from moments, from places, even from feelings. There's always a next thing waiting: the next task, the next goal, the next version of ourselves we're supposed to become.



But some of life's most meaningful lessons don't arrive when we rush forward.

They arrive when we wander.

Wandering has a bad reputation. It sounds unproductive, unfocused, inefficient. Yet wandering is often how we learn what truly matters—especially for children, who experience the world not as a checklist, but as a landscape to explore.

In a healthy home, wandering looks like:

- lingering bedtime conversations
- long walks with no destination
- stories that don't hurry to the point

These are the moments where nervous systems soften and imagination stretches its legs.

## What Gentle Stories Teach Us (and Our Kids)

Children don't always need stories about winning, conquering, or becoming "the best." More often, they need stories that mirror how they already move through the world—curious, observant, and learning as they go.

Psychologically, gentle narratives help children:

- process uncertainty safely
- build emotional resilience
- understand that meaning often comes after experience

A story doesn't need high drama to be impactful. Sometimes it just needs room to breathe.

## A Small Character with a Big Lesson

While working on a children's picture-book series, I created a character named Golfie—a tiny golf ball who accidentally rolls away from home and sets off across moonlit fairways, tall grass, and quiet greens.

Golfie doesn't realize at first that where he came from was magical.

He only understands it after he's traveled, explored, and learned to trust himself in unfamiliar places.

His journey isn't about escaping home.

It's about discovering its value.

In many ways, Golfie reflects something we all experience—sometimes we have to leave the familiar to recognize how special it was. And sometimes, the adventure itself is what gives us the eyes to see clearly when we return.

## Why This Matters at Bedtime

Bedtime is one of the few moments left in the day when we're not required to optimize, perform, or achieve. It's a natural pause—a soft landing.

Stories read slowly, without urgency, help children:

- settle their bodies
- organize their thoughts
- feel safe enough to drift into rest

And for adults reading aloud, they offer something too: permission to slow down alongside them.

## A Quiet Invitation

Golfie's adventures became a small series of picture books I created for young children—stories meant to be read gently, revisited often, and felt more than explained. They're about wandering, wonder, and the quiet realization that home can be more magical than we ever knew.

Each book is filled with gentle learning experiences with search and find magical hidden symbols.

If you're looking for stories that honor curiosity, calm, and emotional warmth, Golfie might feel like a soft fit for your family.

Sometimes the journey teaches us the magic we missed at the beginning.

And sometimes, coming home is the greatest discovery of all.

You can find Golfie books for sale on Amazon. Just search The Magical World of Golfie.

Golfie Gets Lost

Golfie and the Secret of the Tall Grass

Golfie Saves Christmas Sparkle

Golfie and the Whispering Fairway

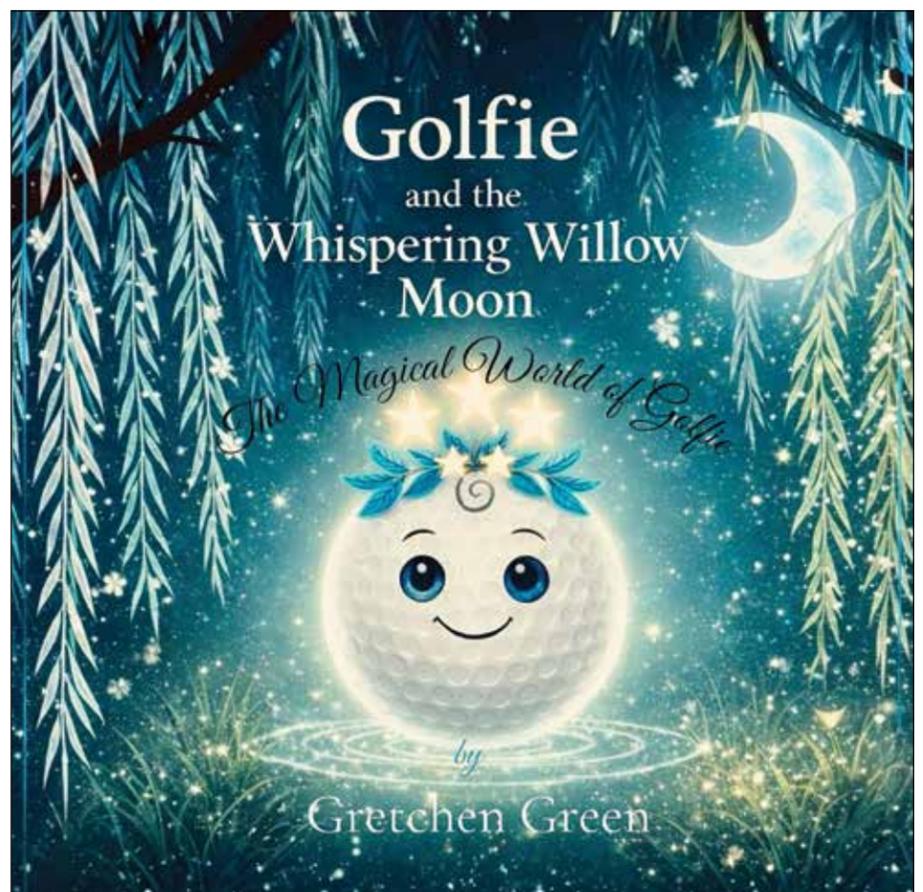
Golfie and the Whispering Willow Moon

Golfie and the New Kingdom

And coming soon!!!

Golfie Meets Princess Poppy Lilyhop and...Plops!

XXOO Victoria



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# College & Career Access Center, February Scholarships

## Jackson Community Foundation - Competitive Scholarship

**Description:** Apply to 30+ scholarships with just one application. Eligibility requirements vary from minimum GPA, area of study, new graduate or returning learner, financial need, etc. If you meet the eligibility requirements for any of our scholarships, you will automatically be added to that scholarship's pool of candidates saving your time searching which scholarship you should apply for.

**Required Documents:**

- 1 Letter of Recommendation
- Transcript
- Proof of FAFSA completion

**Award Amount:** Varies

**EARLY BIRD Deadline:** February 2, 2026 by 5 PM (Chance to win \$1,000)

**Regular Deadline:** February 11, 2026 by 5 PM

## AI Glick Scholarship - Henry Ford Jackson Hospital

**Description:** Made possible by the AI Glick Scholars Endowment Fund, Henry Ford Jackson Hospital (HFJH) is proud to offer scholarships for eligible Jackson County residents pursuing a career in health-care. These scholarships provide financial assistance

for continued education and career training, creating a pathway for recipients to become future members of the dedicated care team at HFJH.

**Eligibility:** To be eligible, the applicant must be a current resident of Jackson County who meets the following criteria:

- Currently enrolled in a college or university pursuing a relevant degree for one of the applicable programs/positions;
- A 2026 graduating high school senior; or Jackson County Early College student completing their 13th year during the time of application submission; or
- An adult learner/returning student with a high school diploma or GED.

**Application Requirements:** Incomplete applications will not be considered, so please ensure you submit all required items, which include:

- Online application 2026 Henry Ford Jackson AI Glick Scholarship Application
- Email the following items to hfjhglickscholars@hfhs.org:
  1. Unofficial Transcripts (non-PowerSchool)
  2. Essay
  3. Letter of Recommendation
  4. FAFSA – Proof of your

Student Aid Index (SAI) **Award Amount:** The scholarship covers the recipient's last dollar tuition and tuition related fees each semester. The scholarship also provides recipients a \$500 bookstore credit each semester they are in attendance, to be used toward required books and course materials at their college or universities bookstore.

**Deadline:** February 13, 2026

## Farm Kids for College Scholarship

**Description:** National Farmers launched the Farm Kids for College Scholarship program over 20 years ago to support young people pursuing agricultural careers. Winners have studied fields like agronomy, agribusiness, dairy science, and more. The program helps students at both four-year colleges and technical/community colleges. The 2025 scholarship application is now open for high school seniors planning to pursue an agricultural degree at an accredited institution. Perry Garner, the national scholarship coordinator, encourages applications from students committed to agricultural careers.

**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

**Award Amount:** \$1,000, \$1,500, or \$2,500

**Deadline:** February 17, 2026

## Cancer Unwrapped Teen Writing Scholarship

**Description:** Our national Teen Writing Contest is celebrating 20 years this year! Our contest is an opportunity

for 9th-12th graders to share their experience with cancer-whether it's a personal diagnosis or that of a loved one.

**Eligibility:** Open to students grades 9-12 who are impacted by cancer and live in the United States.

**Award Amount:** \$1,000  
**Deadline:** February 27, 2026

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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• Dibble Elementary	April 14	5:30 - 7:00 pm
• Cascades Elementary	April 15	5:30 - 7:00 pm
• Hunt Elementary	April 16	5:30 - 7:00 pm
• Sharp Park Academy	April 20	5:30 - 7:00 pm
• JPS Montessori Elementary	April 22	5:00 - 6:30 pm
• Northeast Elementary	April 23	5:30 - 7:00 pm

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