



JACKSON AREA COLLABORATIVE KNOWLEDGE SOURCE

A Weekend of Blues & Balloons

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Welcome to J.A.C.K.S. —

Jackson Area Collaborative Knowledge Source. This community resource guide is designed to improve the lives of children and strengthen families in the Jackson community by providing fun and useful information.

**Learn more at
www.jacksfamilyguide.com**

Stefanie Riggs
Publisher
jacksfamilyguide@gmail.com

Morgan Riggs
Managing Editor

Evan Zigler
Distribution

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Jackson Blues Festival Partners with the Hot Air Jubilee

The annual Jackson Hot Air Jubilee is back this year after a year hiatus due to the pandemic. The event is scheduled for Friday, July 23 to Sunday, July 25 at Ella Sharp Park.

This county tradition that began in 1983 has something for the entire family. While the main events are the launches and night glows that occur over the weekend, there are other activities to enjoy such as an Auto Show, Kid Kingdom, and live music.

In addition to the balloon launch this year, the Jackson Blues Festival partners with the Hot Air Jubilee to bring Blues bands to the entertainment stage on Friday, July 23. First up, The Boa Constrictors, Nicky T & The Snake Charmers and Jackson native Sonny Moorman returns. The stage will also host rock and country bands, Saturday, July 24. Kung Fu Diesel, Michael May and the Mess Arouds, and country band the Big Riggs Band.

As of now, the scheduled flight times are as follows:

FRIDAY 7/23

- Morning Launch - 6:30 A.M.
- Blues Festival - 4:30 P.M.
- Evening Launch - 7:00 P.M.
- Night Glow - Dusk

SATURDAY 7/24

- Morning Launch - 7:00 A.M.
- Rock & Country Bands - 4:30 P.M.
- Evening Launch - 7:00 P.M.

- Night Glow - Dusk

SUNDAY 7/25

- Morning Launch - 7:00 A.M.

The Hot Air Jubilee is in need of more than 50 volunteers to make the festival happen. If you are willing to help, visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/> to sign up.

A common question each year is if rides in the hot air balloons are available. While they are not during the Hot Air Ju-

bilee, private flights may be available before or after the event with one of the pilots. For pricing or scheduling, contact one of the pilots below:

- Captain Cutty & Crew
- Hot Air-Time Bal-



looning, LLC

- Indy Hot Air
- Magic Cloud Balloon
- Maveryx Balloon Team
- Shining Light Balloon Team

**Jackson Hot Air
Jubilee Mission**

The mission of the Jackson Hot Air Jubilee is to contribute positively to the Jackson community by providing affordable, quality, family entertainment featuring the beauty, color and excitement of hot air balloons and other unique, one-of-a-kind attractions to the Jackson, Mid-Michigan and enthusiast communities. The Jackson Hot Air Jubilee accomplishes this by providing a financially sound event with the help of local volunteers and loyal sponsors.

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Who Qualifies:

- Children age 3 or 4 by December 1
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5 Reasons to Snack on Almonds this Summer

(BPT) - As we head into the warmer months, we can always look forward to those seasonal staples - from staying cool in the pool to indulging on snow cones for that sweet summer feeling. How do we continue to munch on our favorites without that guilty feeling of overindulgence on unhealthy snacks? Cue, almonds - the light, buttery-flavored snack that satisfies those summer cravings with its tasty, beneficial attributes. Registered Dietitian Marisa Moore shares reasons why almonds are the perfect snack to grab, carry and enjoy all summer long - minus the guilt!

1. Almonds are versatile
Sip, crunch or spread, almonds are the blank canvas your summer was vibin' for. The nutty, earthy flavor pairs well with other foods and they pack a crunch that's hard to match. "When I think of almonds, I imme-

diately think of versatility," says Marisa. "I can crunch on whole almonds as a snack, make a creamy almond butter-based dip or sip on a frosty almond milk smoothie."

2. They're handy
Almonds are a pantry staple. Marisa shares she likes to keep a jar on her desk or office shelf for an easy and nourishing snack whenever she needs one. Some of Marisa's favorite pairings include almonds with chocolate, fresh peaches or cheeses. "I snack anytime I'm hungry - between meals or simply when I want a little pick-me-up during the day," she explains.

3. Help keep your energy levels going
There's nothing like those summer nights. Many look forward to those evening outings; however, many find there's not enough energy for them. Considering this, you need to consume

foods that not only fuel you up, but also make you feel good. "Just one ounce of almonds has 6 grams of power-packed protein, 4 grams of fiber, 13 grams of unsaturated fat and only 1g of saturated fat," shares Marisa.

4. They fit your schedule
Finding a wellness routine that fits within your schedule can be tricky at first. "On busy weeks, having a few meals and snacks ready to go are my saving grace," Marisa shared. "I think it's most important to listen to your body and find an eating routine that matches your energy needs. Whether you eat at a usual breakfast hour or if your first meal is a bit

later, it's a personal choice." The following is a general B/L/D plan Marisa likes to incorporate into her daily routine:

Breakfast: Greek yogurt or oats with seasonal fruit, almond butter and maple syrup to top it off.

Lunch: Veggie-packed omelet with fresh fruit.

Snack: "I love watching almond milk swirl through the tea as I make my iced chai lattes. It's pleasantly spicy, cool and creamy - the perfect summer sip!" Marisa exclaims.

Dinner: A roasted vegetable flatbread or fish tacos accompanied with beans and rice.

5. They're rich in antioxidant vitamin E

Vitamin E is an antioxidant that helps protect cells from damage, boost the body's immune system and widen blood vessels to keep blood from clotting within them. That said, almonds include 50% of your daily value of vitamin E! "I love a snack that does double-duty," says Marisa. In addition to the 6g of protein, good fats and fiber, a recent study looked at almonds and wrinkles - beauty from the inside out.

Follow @californiaalmonds and @RDMarisaMoore for more inspiration on how to snack this summer!

The Lowdown On Balloon Rides

Balloon rides are not offered during the Hot Air Jubilee. However, there are some pilots you can contact before or after the event to set up a hot air balloon ride.

Captain Cutty Balloon Rides

Pilot - Ray Pini
www.captaincutty.com
(586)739-7310

Firewalker Balloon Adventures

Pilot - Pat Rolfe
Battle Creek Area
(269) 968-0368

Hot AirTime Ballooning

Pilot - Al Smith
Jackson Area
(517) 522-4761

Indy Hot Air

Pilot - Jack Semler
Northern Indiana
(317) 374-3538

Magic Cloud Balloon Co.

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Battle Creek Area
www.bcballoonrides.com

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maveryxballoonteam@gmail.com

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We are grateful for the contributions from the following organizations; thanks to them, our summer campers will have a great time this year!





Joe & Kim Genco
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JacksonYMCA.org

Learn to Love Your Hometown

Fall in Love with the Falling Waters Trail

By Val Herr



The dog days of summer are upon us! That means time spent at the lake, picnics, park visits, and hitting the trails for a little hiking. Jackson County is fortunate to have a wide variety of trails and I encourage you to visit several this summer. This month, I am narrowing it down to my personal favorite: the Falling Waters Trail.

Having lived just off the trail for years, I can share from personal experience what an amazing place it is. This trail is paved so it is ideal for a walk, bike ride, or stroller usage. With an expansive width, you do not have to

worry about congestion while pushing your stroller or pulling a wagon. It's 10.5 miles long and has many access points along the way. From Jackson County's website:

"The Falling Waters Trail has Native American History-The earliest recorded inhabitants of the Falling Waters Trails were the Pottawatomie natives, who had major encampments near the trail, as well as burial sites and council grounds. The name, Falling Waters Trail, honors the Pottawatomie village of the "Kitch-ti'ki-pi" or Big Springs. Jackson County is headwaters to four Michigan rivers and the Land of Falling Waters was the Native American name for this area."

Don't have a bike but want to take a bike ride? Falling Waters Trail provides a solu-

tion! You can purchase a day pass from the kiosk with a credit card (\$6 for 3 hours). The bicycle kiosk is located at the east end of the Falling Waters Trails, 3720 Weatherwax Dr.

Here are a few trail rules and courtesies:

- The trail is open every day dawn to dusk
- Please pay attention to and follow trail and traffic signs
- No horses or motor vehicles
- Please pick up after yourselves and pets
- Stay on the right side of the trail

Over the years I have met people on the trail that come from out of town to enjoy this scenic spot. It is truly a gem in Jackson. Pack up the family and a picnic lunch and enjoy all that Jackson has to offer!

Jackson County Animal Shelter's Adoptable Pets: Meet Tyson & Shoga

*Contributed by the
Jackson County Animal Shelter*

The Jackson County Animal Shelter has pets available for adoption!

Tyson

This big pup Tyson is just happy about life. He likes being outside but sticks close to his people. Tyson is a beautiful orange and black brindle with white markings. He is an 8 month old, 43 lb, American Staffordshire mix. Come meet him and be part of his fun energy. Dog adoptions require an application, online link <https://www.co.jackson.mi.us/DocumentCenter/View/8193/Dog-Adoption-Application-PDF>. Availability date is when the dog becomes JCAS property; any necessary medical procedures may delay an adoption. A meet & greet with your dog is mandatory. A cat room walk-through is available to test reaction. Dogs will go to approved applicants; the adoption fee is \$150 medium/large dogs, \$250 puppies/small dogs which includes vaccinations, microchip, and sterilization.

Shoga

Shoga is a one year old, domestic shorthair Calico. Her pretty orange, white and black markings are accentuated by her big gold eyes. She gets along well with other cats and is a mellow, friendly girl. Won't you come meet Shoga 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.

Visiting the shelter is always best, but other resources include: Online cat application: <https://www.co.jackson.mi.us/DocumentCenter/View/8194/Cat-Adoption-Application-PDF>, fax to: 517-780-4750 or email to: animalshelter@mijackson.org. See our website for more information at: mijackson.org/579/Animal-Shelter. Find us on Facebook or view all pets on Petango.com - Shelter Details Current Shelter Hours: M, Tu, W, F, 10:00-4:30, Thu 10-7, Sat 10-4.



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AGES 4-14
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Jackson YMCA

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Jackson YMCA Completes Schematic Design and Adjusts Build Timeline

By Bonnie Gretzner
Jackson YMCA,
Director of Marketing &
Communications

The Jackson YMCA has finalized the design and released updated renderings of the exterior of the planned new downtown facility. The Y's architect/engineers Bergmann PC completed design work on a roughly 75,000-square-foot new facility.

The Y is in the final phase of a campaign to raise funds for a healthy living campus in the heart of downtown. The YMCA, celebrating its 125th year of service in Jackson, has raised more than \$22 million in pledges and contributions.

"The new two-story YMCA will feature contemporary multipurpose rooms for youth and adult programs, improved accessibility throughout the facility with elevator access to all program areas, and a dedicated youth learning lab space," said CEO Shawna Tello. "Working in collaboration with partners like Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Y will be able to meet the needs of a broader cross-section of our community as well as the high expectations of members, partners and program participants."

Bergmann's design of the new facility, overseen by the YMCA's volunteer-led Building and Design Committee and Y staff, will allow the YMCA to offer:

- Licensed after-school care
- Science and math-related activities in the new STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) lab
- Youth, middle school, teen, and adult program-



ming, along with community rentals in the multi-purpose and intergenerational rooms.

Many program spaces in the new facility will be named in recognition of the major donors that are supporting their development and delivery. Assigned naming rights within the new facility include the Consumers Energy Foundation/Aquatics Center; Dawn Foods Corporate Giving/Gymnasium; Richmond Brothers Inc./Y Main Street; Henry Ford Allegiance Health/Wellness Center; American 1 Credit Union/Lobby & Welcome Area; TRUE Community Credit Union/Teen & Intergenerational Room and County National Bank/Outdoor Play Area.

The Y's Building and Design team continues to work with Bergmann and Gro Development Inc., a leader in design and development of YMCAs, to develop the branding, fit and finish of the new facility. The Y's Capital Campaign committee's efforts to identify philanthropist, funders and local foundations willing to support the YMCA and invest in its potential are ongoing.

Following completion of schematic design, YMCA campaign leadership and members of the Building and Design Committee met with Granger Construction

Co., the project's construction manager. Senior Project Manager Jeff Havranek said COVID-19 and the global pandemic have impacted and continue to affect availability and prices of commercial construction materials, supplies and labor.

"The lead time for structural components, in particular steel joists and metal decking, have extended from what was about 12-16 weeks up to what is now 40-plus weeks," said Havranek, noting the rise in steel, lumber and drywall prices due to the current shortage in materials. Havranek added requisite materials ranging from structural and roofing materials, drywall and more would not be available in time to begin construction during this calendar year.

In response to the construction industry market conditions, the Y has adjusted its construction timeline. Based on the expected closure of the fundraising gap and resolution of supply chain issues, Granger is expected to begin site work in the first half of 2022, with construction typically running between 12-16 months.

"The YMCA is proud of and grateful for the tremendous progress we've enjoyed in the past year. While we made major strides in

said Tello.

"As the recipient of unprecedented generosity, the Y's volunteers and staff will be patient and good stewards of the dollars already given to us. In the months ahead we'll look to close the funding gap and continue to work with our design and construction professionals to navigate these challenging times in the building industry."

For more information, visit www.JacksonYMCA.org.

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New Community Gardens Bringing Fresh Produce to Jackson City Neighborhoods

By Aaron Dimick,
City of Jackson Public
Information Officer



It's a small patch of land that's about to make a big difference in Jackson. "We hope this garden will get folks excited about some fresh produce," said Payge Lindow, Farm Manager for Grow Jackson. Over the summer, this 1/4 acre at the Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center will be transformed into a community garden to feed local families.

It's an effort from Grow Jackson, a new non-profit created by Jacob Inosencio. "Our mission is to end food insecurity and hunger in Jackson though increased access to fresh food," Inosencio said. Earlier this spring, the group started work on shaping community gardens at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Downtown Jackson and the MLK Center on Jackson's south side. Grow Jackson's founder and board president says when he approached the City about a garden project, they offered land at the recreation center. "The City is helping us with irrigation for the garden and future programming through the MLK Center," Inosencio said.

A wide variety of produce is set to grow in the

MLK garden over the summer. "We want this to be a one-stop shop for people to get produce, such as kale, broccoli, tomatoes, peppers, onions, berries, and lettuce greens, along with corn, beans, squash, and herbs," Lindow said. The garden is also supported by Consumers Energy and Henry Ford Allegiance Health. Once fruits and vegetables are ready for harvesting, Grow Jackson is planning on opening a farm stand at the MLK Center, where produce will be offered at low costs and to families using food assistance programs. "We have a commitment to helping Jackson's neighborhoods, so what we grow here is for the community," Inosencio said.

They estimate the garden has the potential to feed around 60 families a week. With only two grocery stores in the City Limits, Grow Jackson is mindful of the challenges some residents face getting healthy food. "A lack of fresh food in low-income areas is not because of a lack of desire, it comes from systemic issues. We are trying to be intentional in fighting that problem," Inosencio said.

MLK Center Director Antonio Parker says he is enjoying watching the garden sprout up. "This is an awesome thing for Jackson. I am looking forward to seeing our neighbors come here to get fresh produce

when they need it," Parker said.

Those interested in donating or volunteering with Grow Jackson can visit their website, growjackson.org. They are also active on Facebook and Instagram. Once Grow Jackson sees the fruits of their labor in the gardens, they hope to help Jackson residents start their own urban farms. "When you have that control over what you're putting in your body or feeding your kids, that's a huge thing for mental health and to empower the community," Lindow said.



Pictured: Payge Lindow, Farm Manager and Jacob Inosencio, founder of Grow Jackson.



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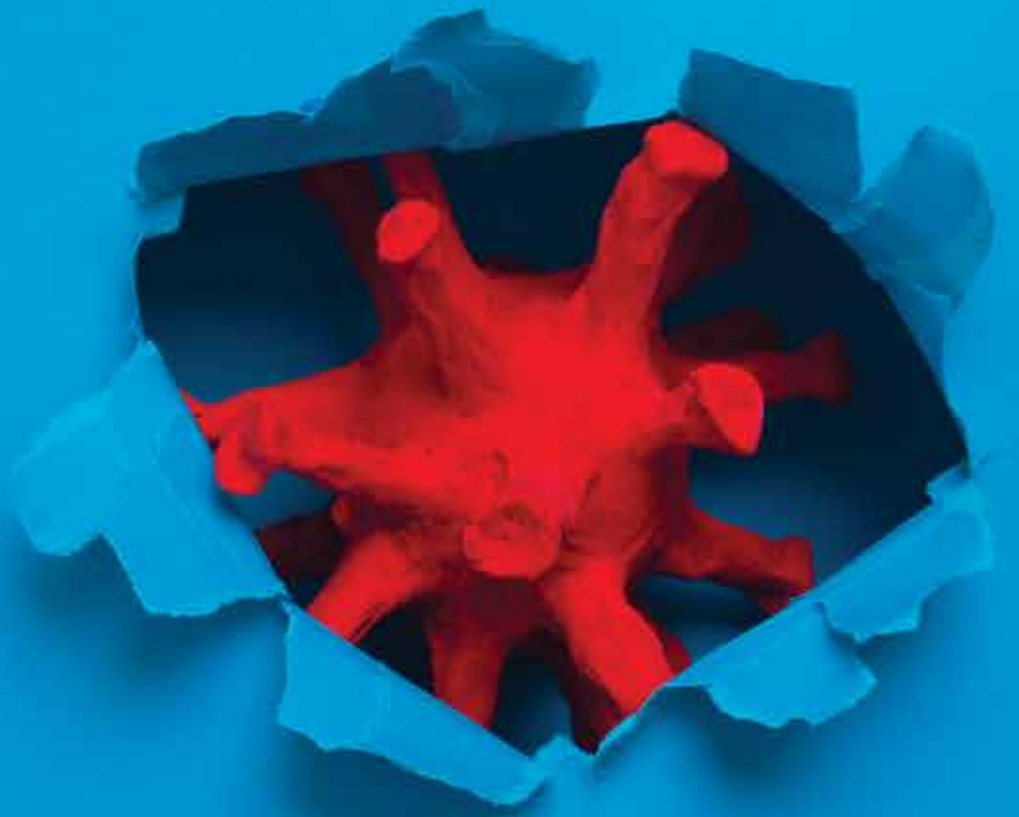
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Center for
Family Health

Get Outside with Your Children this Summer!

*Contributed by
Community Action Agency*

There is nothing quite like getting outside to enjoy nature and fresh air. While time outdoors is important for all, children need this time to explore their surroundings as they are natural scouts, seeking to learn and play at every turn.

This summer, set some boundaries and let them explore! Jackson County has a variety of beautiful parks and playgrounds, so get outside and see what you can find. Ask children questions to get them thinking while they are interacting with nature. Ask what things feel like, how things move, what they hear, and smell. Here are a few ideas to get you started on some great outdoor adventures!

Exploring shadows: Look at

shadows and measure them or trace the outline. See if they change over time or observe how they move. You



are utilizing math skills to do this!

Sorting rocks: Collect rocks and compare them. Build language

with questions like "Which one is bigger? Which is smoother? What colors do you see?"

Creating collages: Bring out the creativity. Find items that catch your eye and glue them onto paper.

You can even make people or houses out of these items!

Smelling flowers: Get your nose ready. Smell different flowers and plants to see which is your favorite. Describe how they smell. Do they smell sweet? Tart? Sour?

Watching clouds: Grab a blanket and lay on your back. Look up into the sky and describe what you see. Use your imaginations and let your mind run wild. Clouds can create some really neat things!

Investigating animals: Find a quiet spot to sit. Use your senses to look for animals. How do the animals move? What do they sound like? Why do you think they are that color? What do you think they eat?

Try some of these ideas or brainstorm ideas of your own for a fun & educational summer!



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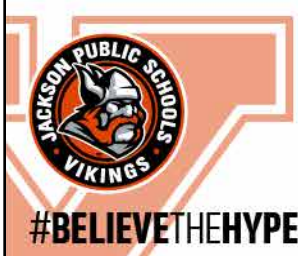
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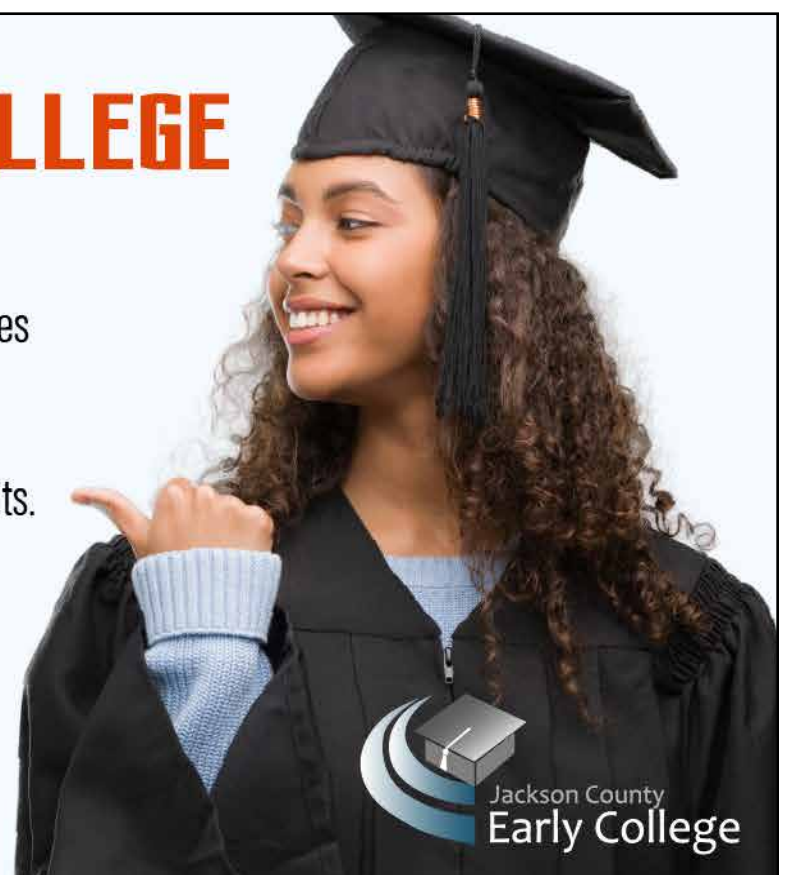
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College & Career Access Center, August Scholarships

Contributed by College & Career Access Center

The College & Career Access Center is grant funded; receiving financial support from local, state, and private donors. Each month scholarship information is made available for area students in addition to other services such as advising, outreach initiatives, and one-on-one help with post-secondary planning.

Patsy Takemoto Mink Education Foundation Scholarship

Eligibility:

- a woman, at least 17 years of age
- a low-income mother, with minor children
- pursuing a vocational degree/certificate; or first associate's degree; or a first bachelor's degree; or first professional/master's/doc-toral degree
- enrolled in a not-for-profit, accredited institution during the 2021-2022 academic year.

* annual family income less than \$20,000 for a family of 2; less than \$24,000 for a family of 3; less than \$28,000 for a family of 4)

Description:

Established in 2003, the Patsy Takemoto Mink Education Foundation aims to carry on some of Mink's most ardent commitments: educational access, opportunity, and equity for low-income women, especially mothers; and educational enrichment for children

Award: Five awards of up to \$5,000

Deadline: August 1, 2021

Application: <https://www.patsyminkfoundation.org/education-support-application>

The Horror Writers Association (HWA) Scholarships

Eligibility:

These Scholarships are open to all applicants who are studying toward a career as a professional writer. Membership in HWA is not a requirement.

Description:

Applicants must fill in and submit the Application Form designed for that purpose; the Application Form must be published at www.horror.org but may be also be made available in any other way the HWA sees fit. The Applicant must outline how the Scholarship Funds would be spent (an 'Education Plan') and how that would benefit the applicant's career development and submit this Plan as a separate document uploaded with the Application. They may also consider: the quality and potential shown in each applicants' written work to date; the likelihood that the applicant's career would benefit from further writing education; the likelihood that the applicant is committed to the horror genre; the likelihood that the applicant will contribute to the development of the genre, including increasing and/or broadening our readership; the applicant's financial need; and the broad interests of the HWA and the horror genre.

Award: \$1,250- \$2,500 (3 awards)

Deadline: August 2, 2021

Application: <http://horrorscholarships.com/general-application-info/>

Universities Space Research Association (USRA) Scholarship Awards

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be full-time undergraduate students attending a four-year accredited college or university that offers courses leading to a degree in science or engineering.
- Applicants must be within two (2) years (juniors and seniors) of earning a bachelor's degree in a field of science or engineering, including science education, by the time the award is received.
- Applicants must have a Cumulative GPA of 3.50 or greater.
- Applicants must be US cit-

izens or lawful Permanent Residents.

- Previous USRA scholarship winners are not eligible.
- Non-US students attending USRA Member Universities located outside the United States are also eligible to apply. Applicants must be citizens of the country in which the university is based.

Description:

The USRA Scholarship Awards provide college scholarship awards to students who have shown a career interest in space science research, aeronautics-related sciences, or space science education.

Application requirements:

- A completed application form. Only completed application forms will be considered.
- Two letters of recommendation with at least one from a professor, mentor, or school official at the college level.
- An official college transcript showing two or more years of college credits including GPA.
- A one page (< 600 words) statement stating the applicant's past accomplishments and education and career goals in the field of space research, aerospace related engineering, or space science education. Please include the applicant's name at the top of the page.
- A half-page (< 325 words) description of particular examples of extra-curricular activities that demonstrate leadership or having a broader impact. These may include K-12 activities, community outreach, mentoring, a space science or engineering club/organization, advancing diversity in STEM with regard to gender and/or minorities, or other ways of giving back to the community. Note that the quality and impact of the activity are more important than the number of activities. Limit is no more than three examples. Please in-

clude the applicant's name at the top of the page.

Award: 4 individual scholarships, up to \$5,000

Deadline: Application due August 11, 2021. Recommendation letters due by August 18th.

Application: <https://www.usra.edu/educational-activities-and-opportunities/usra-scholarship-awards>

The Kaplan Group Business Scholarship

Eligibility: The Kaplan Group offers scholarships to undergraduate or graduate students who...

- are pursuing a business or law-oriented degree program. Fields of study include: MBA, Finance, Accounting, Law, Management, Entrepreneurship, Economics, and Business Administration.
- are attending or will be attending any accredited 2 year or 4-year college or university in the U.S. - including graduate programs.
- maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5

Description:

For over 20 years, The Kaplan Group has had extensive experience solving problems and negotiating B2B transactions for clients large and small. Now, we want to give back. We see value in continuous education and helping students grow. Because of this, The Kaplan Group is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to any undergraduate or graduate student pursuing a business or law-oriented degree program.

This scholarship award is based on a 600-word essay. Visit the website for details on the 3 options of essays for this year. Submit your essay along with information detailed on scholarship page by deadline.

Award: \$1,000

Deadline: Sunday August 15, 2021

Application: <https://www.kaplancollectionagency.com/scholarship/>

Mesothelioma Scholarship

Eligibility:

- Any student who has lived with and fought against any type of cancer, not limited to mesothelioma, is welcome to apply. We also encourage any students who have watched a family member or close friend go through the experience of fighting cancer.
- Must be enrolled at a two-year, four-year, community, or junior college, or in a graduate degree program on a full-time basis.
- All college students in the United States are eligible.
- Must be in good academic standing at their institution with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher.
- Also qualifying are high school and gap-year students planning on attending any of the programs mentioned above.

Description:

Mesothelioma.net is now offering qualifying college students the chance to win a scholarship for detailing their personal experiences either living with cancer or watching a loved one battle cancer. We hope to offer this financial assistance to help one deserving student meet his or her academic goals. The main component of your application for this scholarship will be an essay, between 500 and 800 words, detailing your personal experiences with cancer. Tell us your story, how cancer has impacted your life, how you overcame adversity, how it shaped your future and goals, and how it has changed your outlook on life. Please also tell us why this scholarship is important for you.

Award: \$2,000

Deadline: August 15, 2021

Application: <https://mesothelioma.net/scholarship/>

Visit the College & Career Access Center today in the Jackson Crossing! For the complete list of scholarships please visit www.jcisd.org/CCAC.

LIVE LOCAL COMMUNITY COVERAGE



WWW.JTV.TV



Service to the Customer Above All Else Prevails as Ambs Call Center Earns the 2021 ATSI Award of Excellence

By Jennifer Cronkhite,
Ambs Call Center

Ambs Call Center is humbled to accept the exclusive ATSI 2021 Diamond Plus Award of Excellence for best answering service. This annual award is presented by the Association of TeleServices International (ATSI) an industry trade association for telephone answering service providers. Now an 18-time winner overall and 11 consecutive year winner, Ambs Call Center was presented with the award at ATSI's 2021 conference in Kansas City, MO.

Call centers from across North America and the United Kingdom take part in the

Award of Excellence program. Wherein, independent judges make random test calls to participating call centers.

These 'secret shopper' calls occurred over a six-month period and took place for the second year in a row during the global pandemic. Each call is scored on several criteria, including:

- Courteousness of call center agent
- Speed of calls answered
- Information accuracy
- Knowledge of account
- Overall impression of call

"The ATSI Award of Excellence is essential to our

members and their employees to continually evaluate the service levels they are providing to their clients. It enables them to identify areas of greatness, as well as places that need attention. We've had members that have participated in the program for decades and look forward to winning their awards each year," says ATSI President Tifani Leal.

The award started 25 years ago as a means to improve the overall quality of the call center industry by setting expectations and measurements to ensure a successful call handling experience.

"Service to the customer above all else is one of our

core values at Ambs Call Center. I am beyond proud of our team's dedication to our clients. Being able to celebrate the 2021 ATSI Award of Excellence with our team is an absolute thrill. Especially considering all the challenges we've faced with the pandemic," says Aaron Boatin, President of Ambs Call Center.

About Ambs Call Center

Ambs Call Center provides HIPAA-compliant virtual receptionist and phone answering services across North America. Ambs Call Center operates call centers in Grand Rapids and Jackson, Michigan, and

Tampa, Florida. They serve clients across the United States and Canada. They provide a wide range of live telephone answering services to businesses. Service offerings include virtual receptionist, appointment scheduling, receptionist service, telephone answering service, help desk, employee reporting service, customer service, and order taking. Their health care division focuses on medical answering service, patient satisfaction and physician referral, and class registration. Processing over 10 million contacts annually, Ambs Call Center is family-owned and has been in business since 1932.

Visit Over 37 Different Kinds of Animals at Imagine Planet

Contributed by
Imagine Planet

We are often asked the question, "how many animals do you have?". This is a difficult question to answer in terms of how many individual animals we have because the cockroach number varies with babies. A simpler question to answer is "how many kinds of animals do we have?". Here goes....

We have the following bird animal ambassadors: a blue-and-gold macaw, a lesser sulfur-crested cockatoo, blue-fronted Amazons, a Mexican red-headed Amazon parrot, cockatiels, parakeets, a sun conure, a laughing dove, zebra finches, and a canary.

Our mammals include sugar gliders, chinchillas, degus, rats, ferrets, and rabbits.

Our reptiles include bearded dragons, blue-tongued skinks, leopard geckos, a crested gecko, a mourning gecko, a Senegal chameleon, various aquatic turtles, a sulcata tortoise, a ball python, a corn snake, a king snake, a milk snake, a bull snake, a green tree python, a

western hognose snake, and a Children's python (named after Mr. Children).

Amphibians include a marbled salamander,



axolotls, and a White's tree frog. As for invertebrates, we have a tarantula and Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches. We have numerous fish as well.

So, to answer the question, we have over 37 different kinds of animals here at Imagine Planet from five continents.

As you can imagine, it has been a long year, with the care for all these animals falling to my immediate family. I'd like to give a shout-out to John, Allan, Ian, and Christina McKim for going above and beyond. If you would like to volunteer at Imagine Planet, please call 734-358-9893- we can use all the help we can get! We are also looking for a larger space (1500-3000 ft.) here in Jackson, which we can lease, that is on the bus line, accessible, and within our budget. If you have any leads, please share them with us.

Imagine Planet is open now Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 12 pm to 5 pm. Appointments are appreciated, and calling first is highly recommended. As of this writing, we are still asking visitors over 5 years old to wear a mask while visiting Imagine Planet. Thank you for your consideration.

COMING SOON TO JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS!

John R. Lewis Elementary School, located at 154 W. Clark Street in South Jackson will be opening their doors to students in the Fall of 2021. A Y5-5th grade neighborhood school, with outstanding academic and social opportunities for its students, will soon be a part of the Jackson Public School District.

This newly renovated state-of-the-art building will include safe & secure entrances, 21st century learning furniture and technology. Children will receive the strong educational and emotional foundation necessary for their future success, where all students will be high achievers.

Enroll at John R. Lewis Elementary today! For more information visit us online at jpsk12.org/lewis or call 517-841-2600.

John R. Lewis is proud to be a part of the Jackson Community!

154 W. CLARK STREET, JACKSON, MI 49203

JOHN R. LEWIS ELEMENTARY

JOHN R. LEWIS ELEMENTARY
154 W. CLARK STREET
JACKSON, MI 49203
517-841-2600
WWW.JPSK12.ORG/LEWIS

Pleasant Lake Pines is Now Hosting Wedding Ceremonies!

Contributed by
Pleasant Lake Pines

Pleasant Lake Pines - a locally owned Christmas Tree Farm since 1998 - is now available to host wedding ceremonies!

In addition to the breathtaking ceremony space, these amenities are included to make your special day a breeze:

- Set up and break down of ceremony chairs and arbor
- Ceremony coordination for your guests
- Portable bathroom
- Tractor & trailer with seating
- Handcrafted arbor

- Parking
- 1-hour rehearsal (day prior)
- 2.5 hours of property use the day of the ceremony

The 2021 ceremony pricing is \$1,200 with a 150 guest maximum capacity. Prices are subject to change at any time, and a reservation is not complete until a signed rental agreement has been submitted with a 50% non-refundable retainer. Please note that chair rental pricing is separate.

To learn more about the ceremony space and availability, head to <https://www.pleasantlakepines.com/wedding-ceremonies>.



Start your Career Today!



Classes include

- Medical Assistant
- Phlebotomy Technician
- Certified Nurse Aide
- Welding
- Auto Collision
- Photography



The Jackson Area Career Center's Adult Career Education program offers exceptional courses to help you reach your career goals, build your professional skills, or satisfy your leisure pursuits. Our Adult Career Education evening classes allow you to fit a program into your busy schedule.

Accredited programs

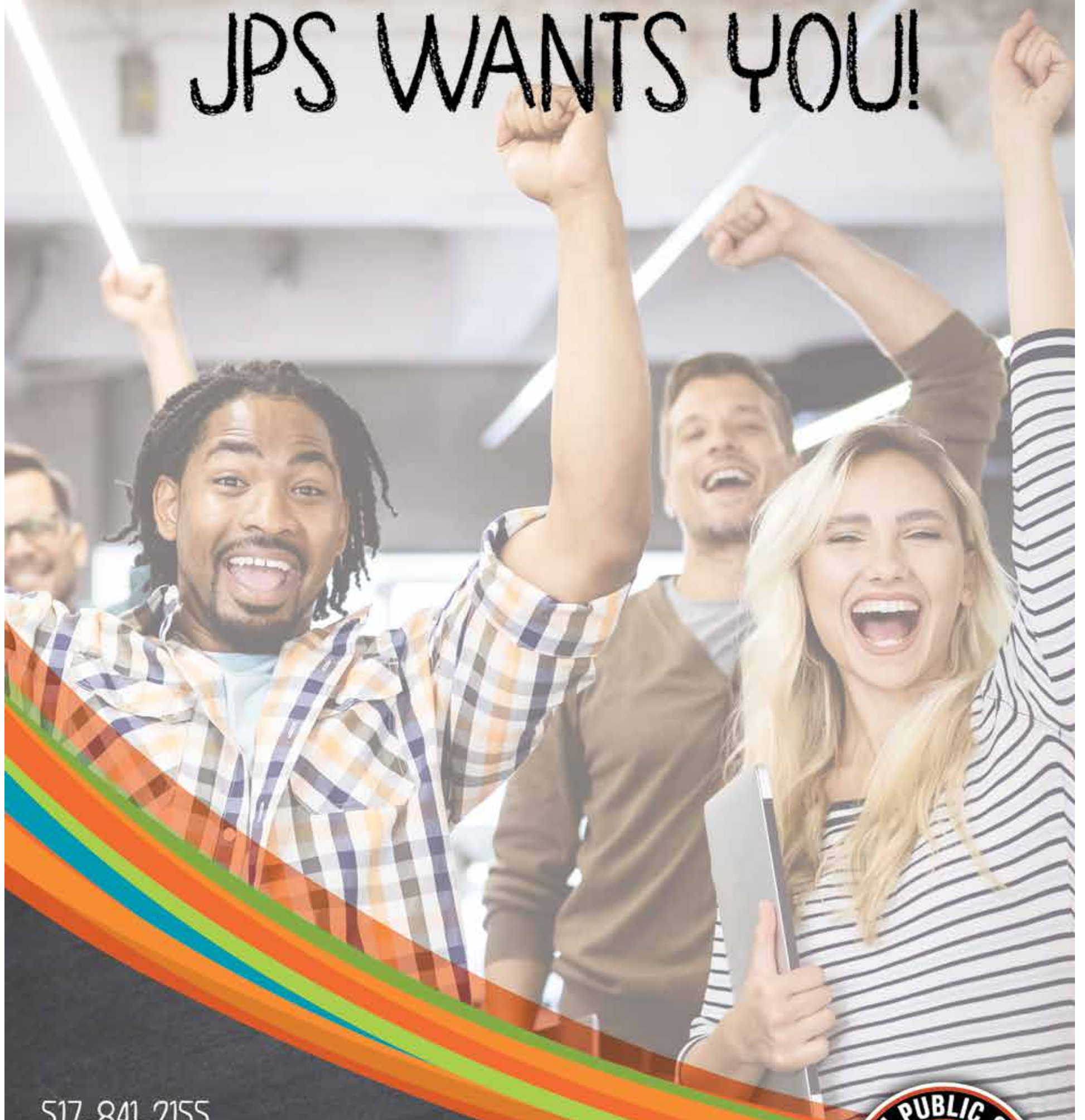
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to enroll today.

Return to learn.

CALLING ALL TEACHERS, JPS WANTS YOU!



517-841-2155

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45-12TH GRADE

\$10K SIGN-ON BONUS!
STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS!



BASED ON
COMPLETION OF
CONTRACTUAL
AGREEMENT