



JACKSON AREA COLLABORATIVE KNOWLEDGE SOURCE

**Adventure
Awaits this
Summer at
the YMCA** - page 2



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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

If your business or organization would like to submit an article for FREE for publication please do so by the 3rd Friday of each month.

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Adventure Awaits – Sign Up Today for Summer Camp at the Jackson YMCA

*By Bonnie Gretzner
Jackson YMCA,
Director of Marketing &
Communications*

On June 14, the Jackson YMCA kicks off a summer experience that is much more than just camp.

At YMCA Summer Day Camp, held June 14- Aug. 20, kids will swim, run, play and explore in an environment that helps them learn and grow. Additional safety procedures are in place to ensure kids have a fun, safe summer experience.

School Age Coordinator and camp director Lindsay Wood said, "Jackson YMCA summer camp is an amazing way to explore hundreds of interests right here in our community while gaining skills to be independent in a judgment-free zone."

While every day is an

adventure at YMCA camp, Lindsay said five things that kids can look forward to are:

1. Big Trips: Back on the schedule this year are trips to Michigan's Adventure and Cedar Point. Michigan's Adventure is scheduled for Week 4, while Cedar Point is Week 8.

2. Volunteering at the Animal Shelter: Kids will get an up-close view of the cats and dogs at the Jackson County Animal Shelter and learn how the staff care for the animals each day.

3. Old and new friends: For returning campers, nothing quite matches the thrill of greeting old friends and favorite counselors. Ten counselors are returning this year. And making new friends is often the best part of camp!

4. Water parks: Splashing, sliding and playing at the water parks around the state are some of the most popular activities.

5. Something for everyone: With the many field trips and activities over the 10 weeks, campers are sure to find something they love.

Registration Information

- Register in person or online at JacksonYMCA.org
- The registration fee is \$34 per child.
- Cost is \$149 weekly for members; \$199 for the community; financial assistance is available. Cost includes breakfast and lunch.
- Camp hours are 7 am – 6 pm.
- For more information, call 517.782.0537.



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Shahan Apartments
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Henry Ford Allegiance Health Foundation Provides Grant for Dahlem Wellness Stations

Contributed by
Henry Ford Allegiance Health

A collaboration between Henry Ford Allegiance Health and The Dahlem Conservancy recently added wellness signs along the Dahlem Center’s Nature for All Trail. The 3/8-mile paved trail provides access to outdoor experiences for all visitors, including those using walkers, wheelchairs or strollers. The new signs provide photos and instructions for light exercises, some of which incorporate elements of nature. These signs also include inspirational messages related to the mental health benefits of outdoor exercise.

Suzanne Harmon, Manager, Henry Ford Allegiance Sports Medicine Outreach, says, “This trail is a wonderful resource to families and individuals of all ages who want to enjoy nature while improving their physical fitness.”

Ben Dandrow, Executive Director, Dahlem Center, says, “We are grateful to Henry Ford Allegiance Health for their encouragement, support and beautiful signs. We hope they will be enjoyed throughout the year.”

The Dahlem Center is located in Jackson at 7117 S. Jackson Rd. Trails are open daily sunrise to sunset.

About Henry Ford Allegiance Health

Henry Ford Allegiance Health (HFAH) is a 475-bed health system in Jackson, Michigan. HFAH complements traditional acute care services with primary and community-based to sup-

port patients across the health continuum at every stage of life. With its Level II Trauma Center, Henry Ford Allegiance Health provides comprehensive care for severely injured patients. As a teaching hospital, Henry Ford Allegiance Health continually looks to the future with its Center for Health Innovation & Education and Graduate Medical Education program. Through its Health



Improvement Organization (HIO), HFAH is also a national leader in forming community partnerships that innovatively address wellness and prevention needs across the region. Visit HenryFord.com/Allegiance to learn more.

About Henry Ford Health System

Founded in 1915 by Henry Ford himself, Henry Ford Health System is a non-profit, in-

tegrated health system committed to improving people’s lives through excellence in the science and art of healthcare and healing. Henry Ford Health System includes six hospitals including Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit; Henry Ford Macomb Hospitals; Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital; Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital; Henry Ford Allegiance in Jackson, MI; and Henry Ford Kingswood Hospital – an inpatient psychiatric hospital.

Henry Ford Health System also includes Henry Ford Medical Group: Henry Ford Physician Network; more than 250 outpatient facilities; Henry Ford Pharmacy; Henry Ford OptimEyes; and other healthcare services. Our not-for-profit health plan, Health Alliance Plan – HAP – provides health coverage for more than 540,000 people.

As one of the nation’s leading academic medical centers, Henry Ford Health System trains more than 3,000 medical students, residents, and fellows annually in more than 50 accredited programs, and has trained nearly 40% of the state’s physicians. Our dedication to education and research is supported by nearly \$100 million in annual grants from the National Institutes of Health and other public and private foundations.

Henry Ford Health System employs more than 33,000 people, including more than 1,600 physicians, more than 6,600 nurses and 5,000 allied health professionals. For more information, go to henryford.com.

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Learn to Love Your Hometown

Be Your Own Tour Guide this Summer

By Val Herr

I am so excited to write an article about loving my hometown that does not talk about COVID!



Recently, I had the privilege to give a couple of college students and their advisors a tour of the Ella. The college students were learning about Jackson and what makes our town so spectacular. Their day consisted of:

1. A tour of the Michigan Theatre
2. A tour of the Jackson Symphony Orchestra
3. Lunch at International Dog House
4. A tour of the Ella

I am sure a tour of the Ella and our collec-

tions was the highlight of their day (lol). While we walked around, I was able to share with them that the coat hanger was invented in Jackson, as was the Ritz cracker. They were able to ring the Toy House birthday bell and see history come to life through our objects. We all know that I believe everyone should embrace the town they live in, work to make it a better place, and recognize how special Jackson is. Well, it is just as important to know about our history! If you do not know where we started, how can one mark our progress?

When you have people come in from out of town where do you take them? I know for my family we hit up: Virginia Coney Island, The Blue Julep, Gilbert Chocolates, a drive past Jackson High School, the Cascades, Cherry

Creek Winery, and Ironbark Brewing. I just realized most of my list consists of food and beverages. That is not a bad thing! If you truly want to get to know a town, eat and drink where the locals do. That will tell you more about a town than any website or social media platform.

We do not need to wait for friends or family to come to Jackson to experience the best our town has to offer. It is time to get out of our houses and experience life again. Plan a day where you act like a tourist and visit the locally owned businesses.

Make June memories now that will last a lifetime. Our kids and family members will not remember that we did yard work or chores, but they will remember taking a whole day off to experience their hometown.

Jackson County Animal Shelter's Adoptable Pets: Meet Lucy Mae & Charm

Contributed by the

Jackson County Animal Shelter

The Jackson County Animal Shelter has pets available for adoption!

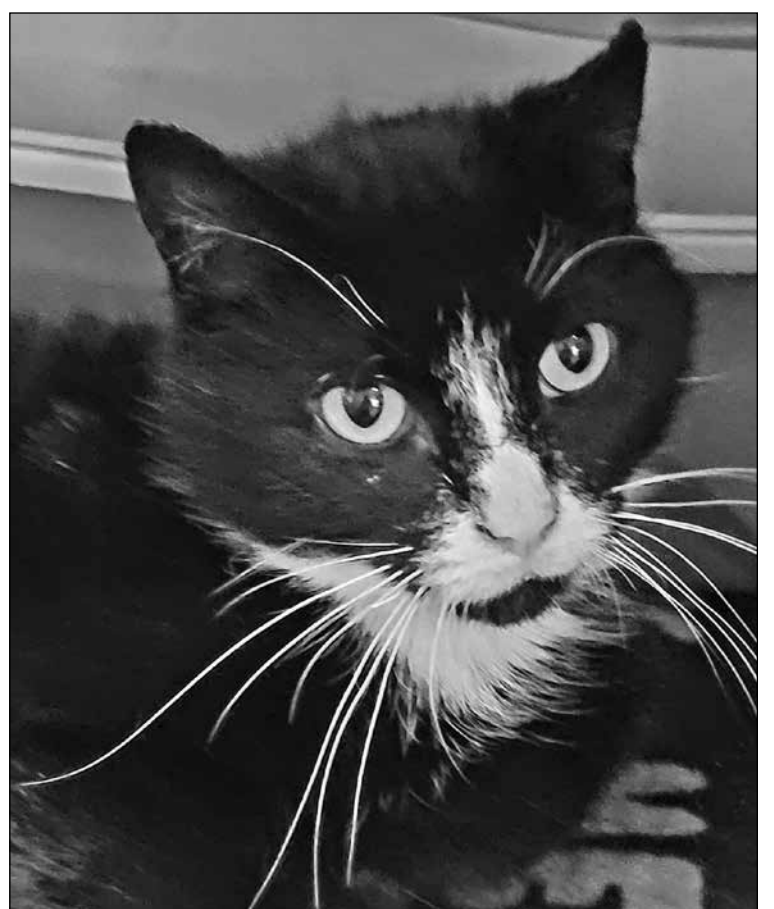
Lucy Mae

Lucy Mae is a 2 year old female Dalmatian mix. She is a sweet, friendly girl who is deaf. Lucy responds to hand signal commands, walks nicely on the leash and is potty trained. A home where someone is with her most of the time would be ideal. She can be anxious, particularly in new situations. 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.

Charm

Charm is dressed in her best tuxedo, ready to celebrate a new home. She was a stray who is 4 years old, mostly black in color with white markings. Charm is timid upon first meeting but will warm up to new friends when she feels safe. Won't you come meet her 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.



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

ADVENTURE AWAITS!

SUMMER DAY CAMP 2021
Jackson YMCA

Register today at JacksonYMCA.org!

AGES 4-14
Sign up for 1 or all 10 weeks!

Guess Who: It's Severus Snake

Contributed by
Imagine Planet

One of the original snakes at Imagine Planet is Severus Snake, our corn snake (*Pantherophis guttatus*). He was donated when he was 10 years old and thanks to proper care then and now, he is 15 years old and still doing great.

Corn snakes are native to the southeastern United States and are most closely related to king and milk snakes. They are not found in Michigan in the wild. They get their name from being found around grain and corn cribs, not because they eat corn! Like all snakes, they are carnivores, and in the corn snake's case, they consume the rodents that eat the corn. For this reason, they are considered a beneficial snake for humans. They are a species of least concern.

In the wild, they usually live around six to eight years, but in captivity are more likely to live between 16 and 20 years old, and can live to an age of 23 years or more.

Wild corn snakes prefer habitats such as overgrown fields, forest openings, trees, palmetto flatwoods, and abandoned or seldom-used buildings and farms, from sea level to as high as 6,000 feet.

Corn snakes are a great beginner snake. They are constrictors, not venomous, grow to from 3 to 5 feet long, are hardy, and are generally docile and curious. They are fairly easy to breed; however snakes sold as pets should be captive bred as they lay eggs, but do not care for them.

Adults need at least a 20 gallon aquarium, although bigger is better. They are escape artists and special care needs to be taken to prevent this, like cage clips. They can even climb trees, right up the bark!

Corn snakes have been selectively bred for color, pattern, and scale shape variations. Color types or "morphs" include blood red, candy cane, blizzard, butter, and sunglow. Pattern morphs include the striking stripe pattern. Some of these snakes have even been bred to have no scales! Severus is an amelanistic morph, meaning there is no black on his body. He is orange with red blotches and red eyes.

If this has sparked interest in corn snakes for you, there are many sources for more information. Corn snakes are readily available at pet stores or shows and most range between \$50



and \$100, depending on how rare the morph is. Use the money you save on the animal and get the best cage setup you can get. In the meantime, come visit Severus here at Imagine Planet or at the Learning Fair July 8th and 9th.

Judge Susan Jordan Joins Jackson YMCA Board

By Bonnie Gretzner
Jackson YMCA,
Director of Marketing &
Communications

Judge Susan Jordan has joined the Jackson YMCA Board of Directors. Jordan, a Jackson County Circuit Judge, was elected at the board's Annual Meeting held in late April.

"Judge Jordan brings a wealth of legal expertise as well personal and practical experience to our board," said YMCA board Chief Volunteer Officer Matt Curfman. "We look forward to having her join our robust and active board of directors. Judge Jordan's unique perspective on Jackson will be an asset to the Y as we work to be a catalyst for change, collaboration and the continued improvement of our community's health and well-being."

Jordan, a native of Jackson and the Presiding Judge in the Jackson County Adult Treatment Court. Her passion is helping people and

families get healthy physically, emotionally, and mentally.

"I aspired to be a part of the YMCA board because I think that movement is medicine; not just for our bodies but also for our minds," said Jordan. "I believe that the YMCA is uniquely situated to make a difference in our community. I love the thought of being a part of that and working towards even more collaborative efforts, focused on the members of our community, especially the youth."

Three of her daughters have taken swim lessons at the Y, and over the years Jordan has participated in group exercise classes with her family. She is currently a member of the Salvation Army Advisory Board and Community Corrections Advisory Board. Named to the Circuit Court bench in 2008 at age 33, she is the youngest woman in Michigan to be appointed.

Chris Ermatinger, Assis-

tant Fire Chief for the City of Jackson Fire Department is rotating off the Y board due to term limits. He will continue to serve on the Y's Facilities Committee.

"Chris has been a tremendous resource for us, always willing to lend his time and expertise," said Jackson YMCA CEO Shawna Tello. "I'm thankful he will remain connected to our Y as a committee member, an advocate and as a role model."

Annual Report

Last month the Y released its 2020 Annual Report, available for download at www.JacksonYMCA.org.

Although 2020 was a difficult year for all, it was rewarding in many ways. The YMCA's Annual Report details how the Y collaborated with community partners, members, volunteers, and staff to deliver the promise of strengthening community, despite the many challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic,

The report also includes a look at the Jackson YMCA capital campaign for a new downtown facility. The campaign has taken in pledges and contributions totaling approximately \$22 million. The Y's volunteer and staff leaders are working to close the \$5M fundraising gap and are targeting a late summer groundbreaking. Visit www.JacksonYMCA.org for details.

About the Jackson YMCA

Since 1896 the Jackson YMCA has worked to provide opportunities for individuals from all walks of life. The Y serves men and women of all ages, religions and economic backgrounds through programs focused on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. The Jackson YMCA moved into its current facility in 1962 and has undergone numerous renovations. Visit JacksonYMCA.org to learn more.

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A Habitat in the City: Habitat for Humanity Making an Impact in Jackson Neighborhoods

By Aaron Dimick,
City of Jackson Public
Information Officer



While many see a boarded up, blighted house on Jackson's northwest side, Sara Napoletano sees potential. "This house means everything for my family. Better living, more space, and new opportunities," Napoletano said. The future first-time homeowner and her five children attended a groundbreaking event in May to celebrate the start of construction on their new home.

This fresh start for a Jackson family is made possible by Greater Jackson Habitat for Humanity. The local organization bought the home on Hibbard Avenue from the City of Jackson for a rehabilitation project. Habitat is looking forward to transforming the property from an eyesore back into a family home. "Building inside the City Limits is where we see the biggest need, and where we see the biggest opportunity," said Wendy Clow, Executive Director of Greater Jackson Habitat for Humanity.

With rising construction costs in mind, Clow says rehabs of existing houses means they can make projects more affordable. "It's a way for families with modest household incomes to afford modest-priced houses," Clow said.

Another strategy to keep construction costs down is buying vacant lots owned by the City. In April, Habitat also broke ground on DeLand Pointe, a residential development that will bring six single family homes to a neighborhood south of Downtown Jackson. Located on one City block bound by Franklin, Mechanic and Mason streets, future residents of these homes will be close to all that Jackson has to offer. Clow says connectivity is another benefit to doing projects in the City. "When we put families in houses, it's important that they are in neighborhoods where they have access to the things they need," Clow said.

The DeLand Pointe project is the result of a collaboration between Habitat, the

Community Action Agency, and City of Jackson. City Manager Jonathan Greene says he's inspired to see a community collaboration to make lives better for local families. "Rebuilding Jackson is going to take the teamwork of our residents, community partners, and City government. It's exciting to see these efforts underway and to consider what we can do in the future," Greene said.

Construction on the DeLand Pointe project will take place in the coming years, with full completion expected

in 2023. Napoletano is looking forward to moving into her home by the end of the

year. "It's in a quiet neighborhood with other families, plus I am close to a lot of the

places I need to go. I thank Habitat for this opportunity," Napoletano said.



ADVENTURE AWAITS!

Summer Day Camp | 2021

Summer is a time for kids to be kids. And day camp at the Jackson YMCA is the place to make every precious summer day a great one!

Days will be filled with:

- Fun camp activities to engage brains
- Opportunities to explore, develop new skills and try new things
- Plenty of physical activity and games to keep bodies active

Campers develop new friendships and have tons of fun in a safe environment that will include:

- Physical distancing
- Face mask and hygiene protocols
- Small group sizes

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY

June 14 - August 20

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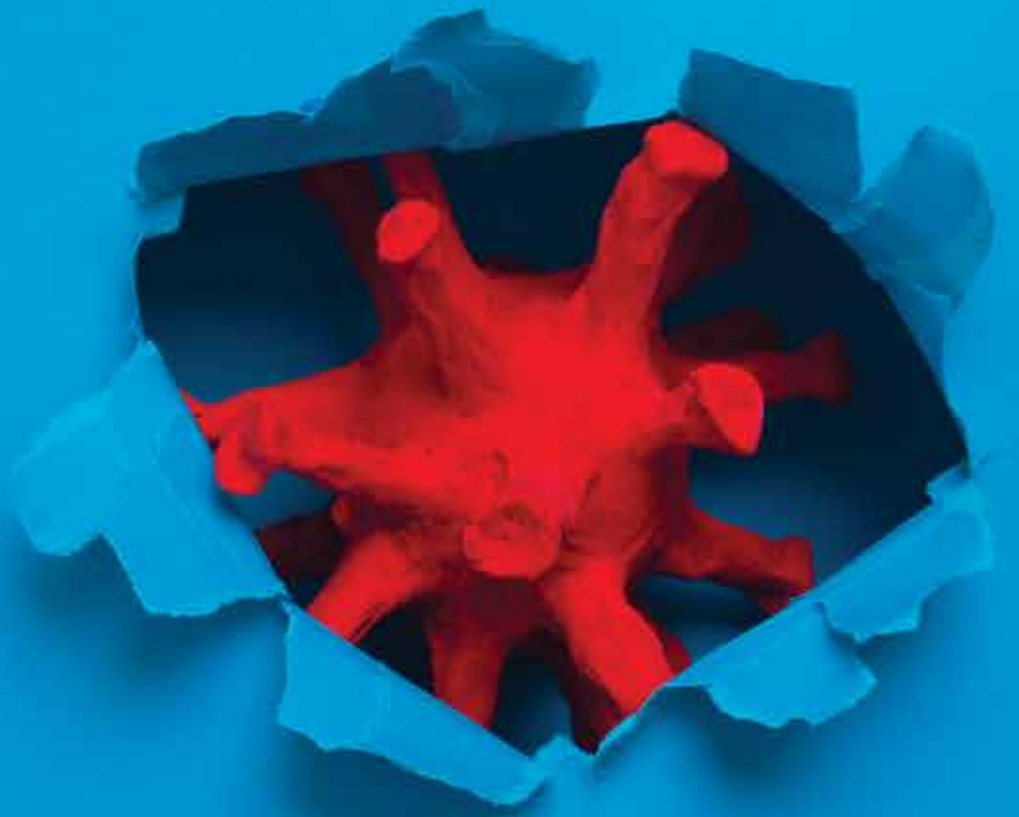
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All Michiganders 12 and up are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 Vaccine.

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to schedule your vaccine today!



Center for
Family Health

*By Claire Hayes,
U of M SPH Dietetic Intern,
Community Action Agency*

Eat a Healthy Diet to Help Decrease Lead Absorption

- Milk and milk products, such as yogurt and cheese

-

- Dried fruit, such as raisins and prunes
 - Beans and lentils
- Vitamin C helps the body absorb iron better, but also may help with getting rid of lead. Foods rich in vitamin C include:
- Citrus fruits, such as oranges and grapefruit
 - Other fruits such as kiwi, strawberries and melon
 - Tomatoes
 - Potatoes
 - Peppers

- Breakfast: Iron-fortified cereal with low-fat or fat-free milk, topped with raisins
- Snack: Orange slices
- Lunch: Lean hamburger on an iron-fortified bun with red bell pepper strips
- Snack: Low-fat or fat-free yogurt topped with fruit
- Dinner: Chicken with brown rice, a spinach salad and a glass of low-fat or fat-free milk
- Snack: Peanut butter on whole-grain crackers

An advertisement for the iHeartRadio app. The top half features two radio station logos: K105.3 Jackson's Hit Music on the left and The Power Cow 95.9 on the right. Below these logos is the text "Your favorite radio stations. In your pocket." in a bold, black font. The bottom half is divided into two colored squares: a light blue square on the left containing the Google Play logo and the text "Google Play", and a dark blue square on the right containing the App Store logo and the text "App Store".



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College & Career Access Center, July 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.

ABC Humane Wildlife Control & Prevention, Inc. Academic Scholarship

Eligibility:

- a student currently enrolled at a college or university recognized by the U.S. Department of Education in the United States.
- studying or planning to study the fields of science (excluding social sciences i.e. economics), engineering, mathematics, or technology.
- a person who identifies as female
- if the applicant or the applicant's parent/legal guardian is employed by ABC Wildlife, Inc. at the time of award, the student is not eligible for the scholarship. Eligibility of finalists will be verified before winners are selected. Applicant must include "Women in STEM Scholarship" in the subject line of the submission email. (submission to be sent to grants@abcwildlife.com)

Description:

This scholarship was created by Urban Wildlife Manager Rebecca Fyffe, an entrepreneur who is unique in her industry as a female business owner, as only 3% of pest control & management firms are owned by women. Fyffe credits her business acumen and cutting-edge research-based methods to her STEM background and wishes for more women to have the opportunity to engage STEM programs and science-based education.

Award: \$1,000

Deadline: July 1, 2021

Application: <https://abcwildlife.com/abc-humane-wildlife-control-prevention-inc-academic-scholarship>

American Legion Baseball Scholarship

Eligibility:

- Attach a copy of his official high school transcript.
- Have graduated from high school.
- Be on a current roster (American Legion National Baseball Electronic Registration Form) with National Headquarters.
- Be part of a team affiliated with an American Legion post.
- Have three letters of testimony attached to application.

Description:

In 2016, The American Legion awarded \$22,000 in scholarships to deserving players. Each Department Baseball Committee may select a player from their Department to receive this scholarship. The American Legion will award several scholarships this year depending on the number of applicants and interest earned from the trust fund.

Award: \$500-\$5,000

Deadline: July 15, 2021

Application: <https://www.legion.org/scholarships/baseball>

GenTex Scholarship Program

Eligibility:

- Student in good standing and enrolled at an accredited college or university
- Declared STEM major.
- Open to international students.

Description:

GeneTex believes in accelerating scientific advancement and the notion that the genesis of future discoveries begins with the support of young scientists now. The GeneTex Scholarship Program will award a \$2000 (USD) scholarship to students pursuing a STEM undergraduate or graduate degree. The scholarship will be awarded to one student twice a year.

Award: \$2,000

Deadline: July 16, 2021

Application: https://www.genetex.com/upload/website/marketing_material/download/genetex_Scholarship_Form_EN_19062518_102.pdf

National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) Foundation Rural Scholarship

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be enrolled in a CACREP-accredited counseling master's program.
- Applicants must reside in a rural area as defined by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).
- Applicants must be currently enrolled for the fall 2021 semester and be in good standing in a CACREP-accredited counseling master's-level program. Applicants must have taken courses during the spring 2021 semester. Applicants may not have a pending status, deferred status, or other future start date for coursework.
- Applicants are expected to graduate by December 2022 (within three years of the date of the scholarship funding).
- Eligible applicants must not have an anticipated academic program completion date before May 2021, which will be verified in writing by their academic department prior to the awarding of funds.
- Applicants must commit to becoming board certified by applying for the National Certified Counselor (NCC) certification prior to graduation and to completing the application process.
- Applicants must commit to providing mental health services in a rural area within one year of graduation and for the duration of a minimum of at least two years post-graduation.

Description: These scholarships provide financial support to students who are currently enrolled in a Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)-accredited counseling master's program, live in a rural area, and commit to serve rural populations within one year of graduation for the duration of a minimum of at least two years post-graduation. Five scholarships in the

amount of \$8,000 are available.

Award: \$8,000

Deadline: July 31, 2021

Application: <https://www.nbccf.org/programs/scholarships>

Avonte Oquendo Memorial Scholarship for Autism

Eligibility:

- Either you or a close family member has been diagnosed with a form of autism, including Asperger syndrome, and
- Applicant must be an enrolled student at an accredited college, university, or vocational school, or be accepted to begin school at an accredited college, university, or vocational school in the semester for which the application is being offered.
- Additionally, applicants should submit an essay on one of the topics listed below with a minimum of 500 words and maximum of 1,000 words.

1. Tell us about a time that you have had to overcome an obstacle as a person with autism that other people would not have had to face.

2. Explain how your loved one's autism has affected you and how you have adapted to help them.

3. Answer this question: What do you feel is the biggest obstacle holding back people with autism today?

Description:

The Perecman Firm, P.L.L.C. was touched by the story of 14-year-old Avonte Oquendo, an autistic boy who went missing after he wandered away from school in 2013. The outpouring of support and assistance that accompanied the search for Avonte was unprecedented. Although Avonte tragically did not make it home alive, we want to show the same support for the autistic community in memory of this extraordinary young man.

Award: \$5,000

Deadline: July 31, 2021

Application: <https://www.perecman.com/avonte-oquendo/autism-scholarship/>

Michael Moody Fitness Scholarship 2021

Eligibility:

- Be United States citizens or legal residents living or claiming residency in one of the 50 United States, Washington, D.C. or Puerto Rico.
- Be current high school senior, undergraduate, or graduate students who plan to enroll full-time in an accredited 2-year or 4-year college or university in the United States for the entire 2021-2022 academic year.
- Demonstrate ambition and self-drive as evidenced by outstanding achievement in school, and participation and leadership in school activities and work experience.
- Demonstrate interest in pursuing a career and enrolled in the following majors: Athletic Training, Psychology, Biology, Kinesiology, Nursing, General Medicine, Dentistry, Behavioral Sciences, Personal Training, Physical Education Teaching and Coaching, Health and Physical Fitness, Exercise Science, Sports and Recreation Management, Health Sciences, Physical Therapist, or another related major.

Description: The Michael Moody Fitness Scholarship is awarded to a high school Senior, undergraduate, or graduate student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement, participation and leadership in school activities and work experience, and interest in pursuing a career in health and fitness related fields. The student may use the money for education-related expenses, including tuition, fees, books, supplies, room, and board..

Award: \$1,500

Deadline: until 1,000 applications submitted or until August 1st, 2021 (whichever comes first)

Award: \$1,500

Deadline: until 1,000 applications submitted or until August 1st, 2021 (whichever comes first)

Application: <http://www.michaelmoodyfitness.com/student-scholarship-chicago/>

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

LIVE LOCAL COMMUNITY COVERAGE



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STEM Activities go Virtual Over Summer Break to Keep Kids Engaged with Learning

*Contributed by
the Jackson Area*

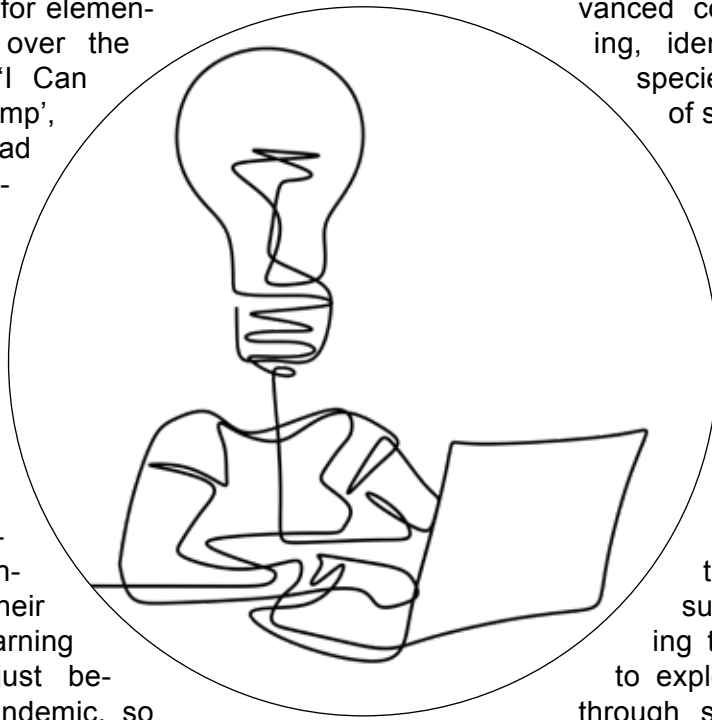
Manufacturers Association

A collaboration between several Jackson County organizations aims to keep kids of all ages engaged in learning all summer long through several different virtual activities.

I3: Invent, Innovate, Imagine! is designed for K-12 youth throughout Jackson, offering access to top quality, hands-on STEM activities in a virtual setting. The program is made possible by the Jackson Area Manufacturers Association (JAMA), the Jackson County Intermediate School District (JCISD), The Shop Rat Foundation, INNOVATE Albion, the Jackson District Library, and Spring Arbor Univer-

sity's Engineering Department. "JAMA usually offers a STEM camp for elementary students over the summer, like 'I Can Make It! Camp', but COVID had us reimagining what we can do virtually instead," said Amanda Loveland, Youth Program Director for JAMA. "We didn't want our kid-dos to disengage from their usual, fun learning opportunities just because of a pandemic, so we asked partner organizations to come together and offer some hands-on

STEM activities on a virtual platform."



Students of all ages can participate in live Zoom

sessions that cover basic robotics, intro and advanced coding, engineering, identifying invasive species, the science of sound, and more.

They will be provided with the materials ahead of time so they can participate in the virtual activities.

"We recognize how challenging it was for students and their families last summer not having the opportunities to explore and engage through summer camps," said Kelly Burr Kofflin, Executive Director for The Shop Rat Foundation. "It

was important to us, and our partners, that we do what we could to eliminate the barriers that we've faced through the pandemic and provide safe, accessible and fun learning experiences to our community youth."

JCISD Science Consultant Bill Montgomery hopes to make this pilot program a regular offering to area students. "We are looking forward to the kids having some STEM fun this summer and taking the feedback from participating families to help this grow into our annual programming."

Sessions begin June 21. Registration and a complete schedule can be found at i3jackson.com.

Recruit Specialized Staffing Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

*Contributed by
the Jackson County
Chamber of Commerce*

The Jackson County Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House to celebrate Recruit Specialized Staffing's Jackson location on June 1st from 1pm-3pm.

Located at 1030 Laurence Ave. in suite 6, Recruit Specialized Staffing is an expert in matching local candidates to top employers in Jackson and across the country. Recruit Specialized Staffing also has offices in Livonia, Okemos, and Warren.

"Working in the staff-

ing industry for close to 20 years, we are excited to get back to the Jackson community, the community I was born and raised in. We are excited to showcase our beautiful location, where We Work For You," said Joe Brandeberry, President of Recruit Specialized Staffing.

The Open House will feature boxed lunches from Nite Lite and a K105.3 live remote. The ribbon will be cut at 2pm with The Chamber's Ambassadors assisting.

"We are excited and proud to have Recruit Specialized Staffing in Jackson and as a proud mem-

ber of The Chamber. The Brandeberry's commitment to serving our community is admirable and should be celebrated," Said Chamber President & CEO Craig Hatch.

The Jackson County Chamber of Commerce is an association of businesses and non-profits committed to strengthening their businesses and the Jackson Community. With a proud history reaching back to 1909, the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce supports its members through promotion, advocacy, collaboration, networking events and education.

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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!

VIKINGS

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

“Get Grinched” at the 2021 JSO Holiday Ball

Contributed by the
Jackson Symphony Orchestra Guild

On December 4, 2021, the Jackson Symphony Orchestra Guild will present the 40th Annual JSO Holiday Ball. The gala is the organization’s signature fundraising event. The goal of the evening’s festivities is to raise significant dollars to support the Jackson Symphony Orchestra’s array of education and entertainment offerings.

Proceeds from the Holiday Ball help provide scholarships for music education, programming for all ages, and world class entertainment in Jackson and the surrounding areas. On October 9, 2021, the JSO will launch its 2021-22 Season, “Reuniting Through the Joy of Music.” The Symphony’s Signature Series and the Music on Tap schedule represent opportunities for everyone to come together, enjoy live music and dance into brighter days.

At this year’s Holiday Ball, Dr. Suess’s tale of a misunderstood outcast who discovers the true meaning of Christmas will serve as the backdrop for a whimsical evening of dining, dancing, bidding and cele-

brating. “Get Grinched” is about 2 things: growing community members’ hearts for the JSO and having a spectacular time doing it!

JSO Guild Board member and Holiday Ball Chair Dea Talmage said, “We are thrilled to offer guests the option of in-person or at-home attendance. We will be following safe social gathering practices at the Country Club, but we understand that a big party isn’t for everyone quite yet. Either way, we know that the Grinch’s underlying message of acceptance and generosity will resonate with guests. We anticipate a lot of interest and participation!”

With current restrictions, in-person attendance will be limited to 120 guests. Sponsorships are currently being secured. To learn more about the sponsorship levels and secure your table now, contact Susan Riley at 517-414-4699 or at susan.t.riley@morganstanley.com. Individual ticket sales dates will be announced in late summer. In the meantime, mark your calendars for December 4, 2021 and plan to “Get Grinched” in support of the JSO.

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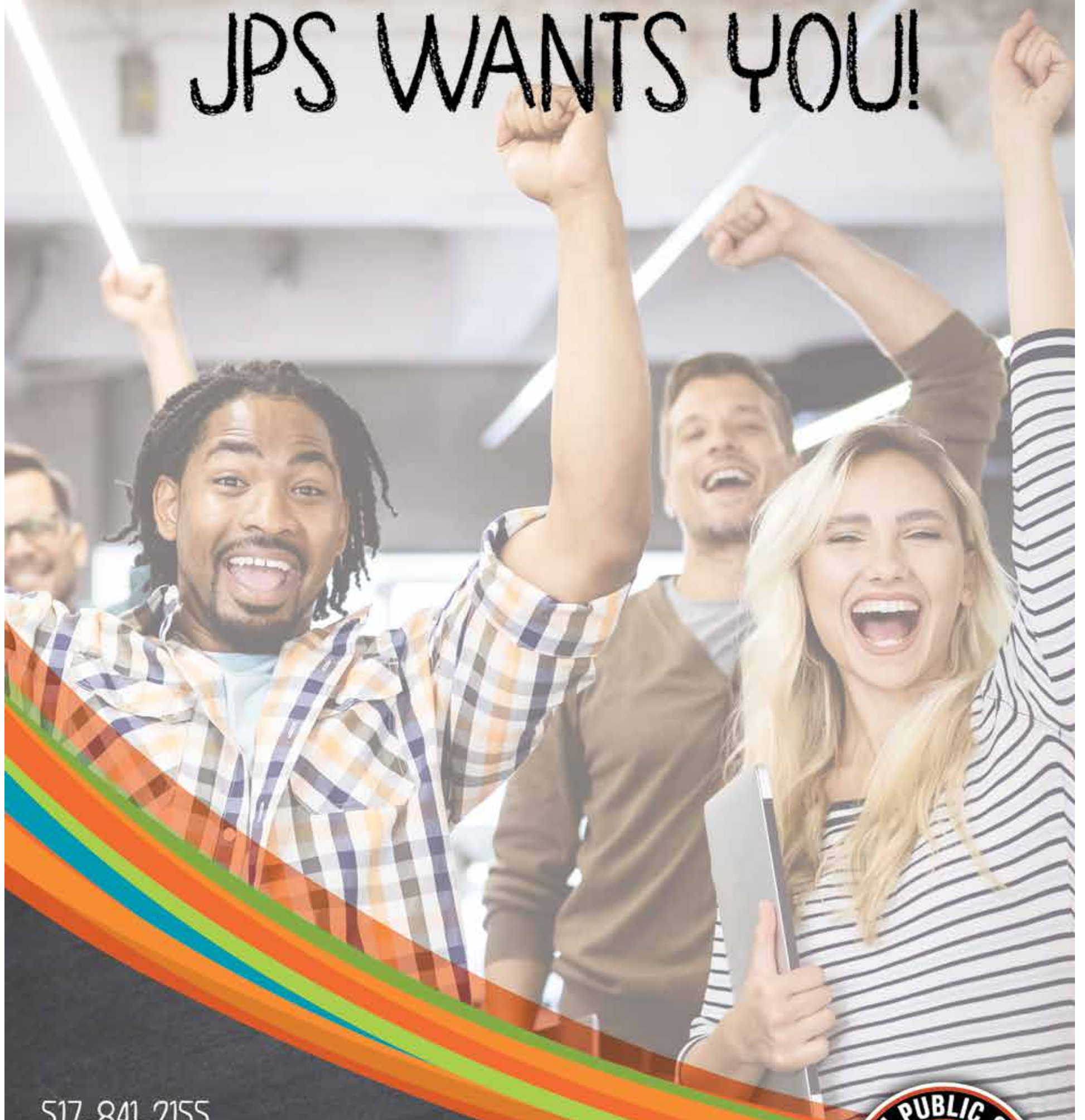
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