

FREE

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

JACKSON AREA COLLABORATIVE KNOWLEDGE SOURCE

## Art, Beer, and Wine Festival

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Welcome to J.A.C.K.S. —

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

Learn more at  
[www.jacksfamilyguide.org](http://www.jacksfamilyguide.org)

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EST. 2015



Nine Years in Jackson

By Stefanie Riggs,  
Publisher

As we commemorate nine wonderful years of publishing, the Jackson Area Collaborative Knowledge Source (J.A.C.K.S.) is proud to reflect on our journey of highlighting the positive stories and accomplishments within our community. Founded with the vision of being a beacon of good news and community collaboration, J.A.C.K.S. has become a vital resource for residents, organizations, and businesses alike.

Recognizing Excellence:  
The Nike Award

Our dedication to uplifting the Jackson community has not gone unnoticed. We were honored to have received the prestigious Nike Award after our first year in print, from the Jackson Business and Professional Women's Organization. This award celebrates women-owned businesses making significant contributions to the community, and it is a testament to the hard work and passion that drive our publication. Being recognized by such a respected organization underscores the impact J.A.C.K.S. has had on the lives of many in our area.

A Collaborative Effort

J.A.C.K.S. thrives on the collective effort of our community. Unlike traditional newspapers, we are a strictly collaborative resource guide. Every article we publish is contributed by local organizations, businesses, and individuals who are passionate about sharing their stories and expertise. One such contributor is Val Herr, who has been a dedicated monthly columnist since our inception. Val's insightful and inspiring columns have been a cornerstone of our publication, embodying the spirit of community engagement that J.A.C.K.S. stands for.

Gratitude and Invitation

We owe our success to the incredible support from our community. To our readers, contributors, and advertisers, we extend our deepest gratitude. Your unwavering support has enabled us to continue sharing the positive happenings in Jackson.

We invite others to join our collaborative effort. If you have a story to tell, expertise to share, or a press release to publish, we welcome your contributions at no cost. Your participation

helps us maintain the rich tapestry of stories that make J.A.C.K.S. a cherished part of Jackson's community fabric.

Supporting the Cause

Our guide is supported by advertising, offered at a minimal cost that has remained unchanged for the past nine years. This approach ensures that we can continue to provide a platform for community voices without financial barriers. Advertisers not only gain visibility but also contribute to a cause that celebrates and uplifts our community.

As we look forward to the future, J.A.C.K.S. remains committed to being a source of inspiration and collaboration. We are excited to continue our journey with the support of our wonderful community. Here's to many more years of sharing all the good things happening in Jackson, MI!

Thank you, Jackson, for your trust and participation. Let's keep the positive stories flowing!

For more information on how to contribute or advertise, please visit our website or contact us directly. Together, we can continue to make a significant difference in our community.



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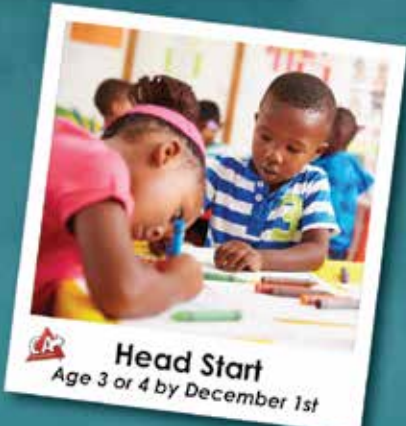
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[greatstarthillsdale.com](http://greatstarthillsdale.com)



*Learn to Love Your Hometown*

# Get Out and Get Involved this Summer

*By Val Herr*

I've been following the story of the Rose Parade being canceled and how passionate people are about this iconic event. I have fond memories of watching my boys march in the parade over the years. For many people, this event marks the end of the school year and the official start of summer. While it's clear that many people feel the same way, I wonder how many people serve on the committee that worked to put this parade together. How many people worked to find groups to march in the parade? To everyone who did, thank you. Thank you for the countless hours you volunteered for our community. This is just one of Jackson's iconic summer events that rely on volunteers. If you want to ensure that this event and others happen in the future, please volunteer. Volunteering doesn't mean you can't enjoy the event; it means you get to enjoy it in a different way. Here are a few iconic Jackson events that need YOU this summer and for years to come!



### Ella Sharp Museum's Art, Beer and Wine Festival - Saturday, June 8

This is Ella's largest fundraiser, and volunteers are needed. This year's volunteers get:

- Membership to the Ella Sharp Museum
- Admission to the festival
- T-shirt + tasting glass
- Invite to our Chill & Cheers: Volunteer & Staff After Party

And good news! You can hand-select your task/shift by heading over to <https://bit.ly/SignUpGeniusArtBeerWine2024>. There are still slots left, and this is a great way to meet new people and get involved!

### Hot Air Jubilee - July 19 and 20

The Hot Air Jubilee is dedicated to uniting the community through a family-friendly event that celebrates the beauty of hot air balloons. In addition to needing volunteers to work the weekend, they are also looking for locations for balloons to compete and land. If you are interested in supporting this event visit their site at <https://www.hotairjubilee.com/> or by volunteering to provide at competition location by visiting <https://bit.ly/HotAirBalloonCompetitionLocations>.

### Civil War Muster - August 24 and 25

This event is the largest, longest-running Civil War event in the Midwest. This year's event will feature the Battle of Deep Bottom (aka Strawberry Plains), battlefield earthworks, 73rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regimental Brass Band, Camp Chase Fife & Drum Core, historical lectures, hands-on student activities, and group walking tours!

The Saturday night "All American Military Ball" will once again be held at the beautiful Cascade Falls. At this unique 1860s period dance, people from across Michigan come together to join hands for a nineteenth century grand gala. Keep an eye out for more event updates and new additions as we get closer! Here is a link to their volunteer form: <https://bit.ly/JacksonCivilWarMusterVolunteer>. Different time slots are available to fit your schedule!

Don't let what happened to this year's Rose Parade happen to these other events. Do your part, get involved, and ensure these events are here for future generations.



## 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/](https://jacksonsymphony.org/jackson-symphony-guild/).





# Jackson County Animal Shelter's Adoptable Pets: Zofia and Oreo Cookie

Contributed by the Jackson County Animal Shelter

## Zofia

Zofia is a 2 year old, American Staffordshire mix who came in as a stray. She is a medium size pup at about 48 lbs. Zofia is housetrained, likes to go outside for walks and knows some basic commands. When she first comes out of the kennel, she has the zoomies and loves to run in the play area.

After a bit of that she settles into some affection from her human. As a young dog she is curious and willing to learn new things. Dog adoptions require an application, which you can find online here. The availability date is when the dog becomes JCAS property; however, any necessary medical procedures may cause a slight delay in the adoption process. A manda-

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



Jackson County Animal Shelter

## Oreo Cookie

This majestic guy is Oreo Cookie, and as the name implies, he is black and white. Oreo was surrendered when his owner passed away. He is 14 years old and has unique markings on his medium-length hair coat. Although he is very calm and friendly, he is missing his person and hoping to find another loving family to cherish him.

Oreo does great with the other cats he is housed with and often is just an observer. Stop by and meet him today at the Jackson County Animal Shelter, 3370 Spring Arbor Rd., Jackson, Michigan. Cat adoption fees are \$60 for one cat and \$80 for two, which includes applicable tests, vaccines, and spaying/neutering. Any

necessary medical procedures may slightly postpone an adoption. While visiting the shelter is always

recommended, you can also submit an online cat application here, fax it to 517-780-4750, or email it to [animalshelter@mijackson.org](mailto:animalshelter@mijackson.org). For more information, visit our website at [mijackson.org/579/Animal-Shelter](http://mijackson.org/579/Animal-Shelter). Find us on Facebook or view all pets on Petango.com-Shelter Details. Current Shelter Hours: Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri 10:00-4:30, Thu 10-7, Sat 10-4:30.



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Where Community Comes Together.



# United Way of South Central Michigan Weighs In On Latest ALICE Report

*Contributed by United Way of South Central Michigan*

The Michigan Association of United Ways, in collaboration with United For ALICE, Consumers Energy Foundation and local United Ways statewide, released an updated report on financial hardship among Michigan households. ALICE stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed – individuals earning above the Federal Poverty Level yet struggling to afford basic expenses. The latest report, titled “ALICE In The Crosscurrents,” includes data from 2021-22.

Jen Hsu-Bishop, Executive Impact & Equity Officer for United Way of South Central Michigan (UWSCMI), shared local and six-county regional findings:

- 41% of households in the region fall below the ALICE Threshold, which is the income level needed to be financially stable. The number of households in poverty remained relatively stable at 13%, but those in the ALICE category – above poverty but below the threshold – increased by two percentage points, to 28%.

- Financial hardship affects different demographic groups differently. Black (61% below the ALICE Threshold), Hispanic (47%) and multi-racial (46%) households are more likely to fall below the ALICE Threshold than White (38%) households. Likewise, single-headed households with children, those headed by adults under age 25, and those headed by adults 65 and older are also more likely to struggle financially.

- The cost of living is outpacing income. A single adult in the region must earn \$2,378 every month to cover the most basic of needs. That equates to a full-time

hourly wage of \$14.27. A family of four, with two adults and two children, needs \$6,329 every month to meet those basics. That’s a full-time hourly wage of \$37.97. These are paycheck-to-paycheck survival budgets, where one unplanned expense can send a household into poverty.

“To be financially stable, which means being able to cover basic needs plus build some savings, a single adult in our region needs \$4,104 every month. That’s a full-time hourly wage of \$24.62,” said Hsu-Bishop. “A four-person family

needs \$10,952 monthly, or \$65.71 an hour, to be financially stable.”

Chris Sargent, President & Executive Officer of United Way of South Central Michigan (UWSCMI), offered the following insights and perspective on local and regional ALICE data:

“The new ALICE report paints a sobering picture of financial hardship in our local communities. That’s a picture of real people – people we rely on every day. ALICE includes neighbors, fam-

ily members, the local barista and fast-food cashier and personal care aide. ALICE spans all races, all ages, all ethnicities and all abilities. They’re hard-working people, sometimes even holding down two or more jobs, but living paycheck to paycheck.

“While these numbers are troubling, they barely begin to describe life for ALICE. Individuals and families are making impossible choices every day. Food or rent? Medical care or child care? Heat and light at home, or gas in the car? No one should have to make those kinds of decisions. As caring communities, we cannot be okay with this.

“Our United Way has made a firm commitment to addressing the needs of financially struggling people in our communities, with an intentional focus on populations with the highest rates of ALICE. We’re doing this through initiatives and partnerships that improve conditions so ALICE households can move from survival to stability; that fill gaps and reduce disparities in meeting basic needs; and by building a stronger United Way that’s equitable, efficient and reflects a community of care.

“We’re hopeful that a future where every person is valued, thriving and connected for the common good is achievable. Getting there will take a collective, concerted effort. We invite our communities to join us to accelerate that journey.”

A summary of the Michigan findings can be downloaded from this link. Those interested in working with United Way of South Central Michigan on ALICE initiatives can learn more at [unitedforscmi.org](http://unitedforscmi.org). More details from the latest ALICE report, including additional local and regional data, are at [unitedforalice.org/michigan](http://unitedforalice.org/michigan).

## About UWSCMI

United Way of South Central Michigan brings together the people, ideas and resources to lead with our communities and create a flourishing, equitable life for all. We are committed to addressing the most pressing social issues locally and regionally; championing equity, diversity and inclusion by embedding equity and antiracism throughout our work; and engaging partners in our communities to drive lasting impact. We envision strong, caring communities where every person is valued, thriving and connected for the common good. Website: [www.unitedforscmi.org](http://www.unitedforscmi.org).



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“Our United Way has made a firm commitment to addressing the



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# Progress on Structural Work Leads Way for Topping-Out Ceremony at Month End

*Contributed by the Jackson YMCA*

This past month, the Jackson YMCA capital project has seen substantial progress with the completion of the demolition work. The interior walls are 95% complete, and the drywall installation is 90% com-

plete. As a result, the interior spaces are taking shape, bringing the design to life.

A significant portion of the structural steel is in place, including the completion of the basement steelwork. This milestone provides a solid foundation for the first and second-floor steelwork,

visible from Wesley St.

Throughout June, considerable crane work will be seen as the frame of the new addition is erected. A special event to mark the completion of the steel assembly has been scheduled for Friday, June 28. The Jackson YMCA and Grang-

er Construction will host a beam signing and topping-out ceremony. We invite you to celebrate the placement of the final beam with us, a momentous occasion symbolizing the progress made and the collective effort invested in this project. The beam will be available

to sign weeks prior to the event inside the YMCA.

We will continue to share updates as construction progresses and milestones are reached. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to us at [construction@jacksonymca.org](mailto:construction@jacksonymca.org).

# Lomar: A History of Innovation

*By Becky Dorian, Lomar Machine & Tool Company*

Lomar Machine and Tool Company is proud of our patented machines and tools. One such machine is the S1138 Rotary Endforming System. This product has been instrumental in increasing productivity within automotive fluid conveyance system

production lines. The flagship machine is installed in many Tier 1 automotive suppliers throughout North America. Lomar has a history of innovation and customer focused success that is contributing to a strong manufacturing environment in our community. Pictured to the right is the machine with designer, founder, and patent holder Jim Geisman.







# SWIM LESSONS

MAKE A SPLASH THIS SUMMER

Summer Lessons  
OPEN FOR REGISTRATION  
[JacksonYMCA.org](http://JacksonYMCA.org)

Session dates:  
June 10-July 9 & July 15- August 8





Contact  
[emily@jacksonymca.org](mailto:emily@jacksonymca.org)  
517.782.0537





# Starting Healthy Habits with Active Play

By Krista Robak,  
Community Action Agency

Now that summer is here, it's a great time to start thinking about good activity habits. Beginning early in a child's life using play time as active time, can promote lifetime habits.

**For an Infant**

- Placing your child on their tummy allows them to kick, reach, and stretch. These activities are important to build muscles that will help them sit up and crawl.
- Talking and playing with your baby promotes a healthy relationship.

**For a Toddler**

- As toddlers love to dance, jump, walk and run, these are all physically activities

- to promote.
- Try and limit screen time to under two hours a day.
  - Inside and outside play time promotes healthy habits as they grow.

**For a Preschooler**

- Learning and activity can go hand in hand.
  - Being outdoors helps promote health habits in the future.
  - Try and limit all screen time to less than two hours a day.
- As your family spends time together, using play time as activity time helps promotes healthy habits!
- "Active Time: Healthy Tips for Families".  
National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness.*

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# College & Career Access Center, June Scholarships

### David Hudak Memorial Essay Contest for Free-Thinking Students of Color

**Eligibility:**  
Open only to Black, Indigenous and Students of Color ages 17-21, who are either high school seniors graduating in spring 2024 who will be attending a North American college or university in fall 2024, or who are currently enrolled in a North American college or university. If you will be graduating from college in the spring or summer 2024, you remain eligible to enter this contest.

**Description:**  
This contest is offered to provide support and acknowledgment for freethinking students of color, as a minority within a minority.

This contest is offered to provide support and acknowledgment for free-thinking students of color, as a minority within a minority. People of Color refers to all racial groups that are not white. Specifically, any person who is not considered white, including African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, Asian-Americans and others. FFRF offers other essay contests open to all students in your age group. Students may only enter one FFRF contest annually.

Applicants must submit a 350-500 word essay with the topic "How does religion hinder racial equality and civil rights".

Award: \$200-\$3,500  
Deadline: June 1, 2024  
Application: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3YK936Q>

### Big Sun Scholarship 2024

**Eligibility:**  
• All student athletes are eligible regardless of the sport they are engaged in.  
• The student must be a high school senior or be attending a post-secondary institute.

**Instructions:**  
Please send us a short essay (500 - 1,000 words) answering the following questions:

- How did your participation in sports during your high school years influence you?
- Has your participation influenced your career goals?
- Has your participation influenced how you relate to your family?

All essay submissions should be sent to: [athleticawards@bigsunathletics.com](mailto:athleticawards@bigsunathletics.com)  
Award: \$500  
Deadline: June 19, 2024  
Application: <http://www.bigsunathletics.com/>

### Navigate Your Future Scholarship

**Eligibility:**  
• Be a senior in high school planning a career in the general aviation field.  
• Be enrolled or accepted into an aviation-related program at an accredited college or university.  
• Submit the letter of acceptance from the college or university.  
• Be able to demonstrate an interest in pursuing a career in general aviation

**Instructions:**  
Interested students must complete an application and submit it along with an original certified high school transcript showing rank in graduating class, a letter of recommendation, a personal statement discussing career goals in general aviation, education plan, flight training goals and two or more reasons why you should be chosen for this scholarship.

Award: \$2,500  
Deadline: No later than the last Friday in June (June 30, 2023)  
Application: <http://nata.aero/scholarships/Navigate-Your-Future-Scholarship.aspx>

### Central Intelligence Agency: CIA Stokes Undergraduate Scholarship Program/ Internship

**Eligibility:**  
• U.S. Citizen  
• 18 years of age by September 15, 2024  
• 1500 SAT (1000 Math & Critical Reading, 500 Writing) or 21 ACT scores or higher  
• 3.0 out of 4.0 scale high school or college GPA or higher  
• Financial need as demonstrated by the gross annual household income ceiling of \$120,000 (if the applicant has not been listed as a dependent for the previous tax year, the gross annual household income ceiling is \$50,000 or less)  
• Meet the same employment standards as permanent employees, successfully completing both security and medical processing

- Ability to work at least one 90-day tour, up to two 90-day tours
- Available to work in the Washington, DC area during your periods of employment

**Description:**  
The Program is a financial needs-based scholarship program that offers students unmatched experience in a diverse and inclusive environment. The winning candidates will be given up to \$18,000-\$25,000 per the calendar year for tuition, mandatory fees, and books.  
\*\*Because the CIA invests in scholarship recipients, accepting an offer means continued employment with the Agency for a specified timeframe. You are required to work at the Agency after college graduation for a period equal to 1.5 times the length of the college sponsorship you received from CIA. Students who leave earlier are required to reimburse the US government for their tuition.

All positions require relocation to the Washington, DC Metropolitan area during summer work tours.  
Award: Maximum of \$18,000 plus other benefits, STEM field positions up to \$25,000.

Deadline: June 30, 2024  
Application: <https://www.cia.gov/careers/jobs/undergraduate-scholarship-program/>

### Automotive Hall of Fame Scholarships

**Eligibility:**  
• Submit a completed application form indicating a sincere interest in an automotive career.  
• Provide an official transcript of all academic work.  
• Submit two letters of recommendation supporting your automotive interests.  
• Submit a letter of acceptance for an associate, bachelor, or master's program.  
• Be accepted at an accredited college, university or trade school within the

United States at the time of application.

- Students attending a technical training school may also apply (trade school should equal a two-year associate program).
- Students must be a United States citizen or in the United States on a Student Visa.
- Must be enrolled full-time and have a 3.0 GPA or higher.

**Description:**  
The program has specific scholarships for incoming freshmen and upper-level undergraduate students. All scholarships are based on financial needs and with the usual minimum GPA requirement of 3.0.

Award: Varies  
Deadline: June 30, 2024  
Application: <http://www.automotivehalloffame.org/scholarships/>

*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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