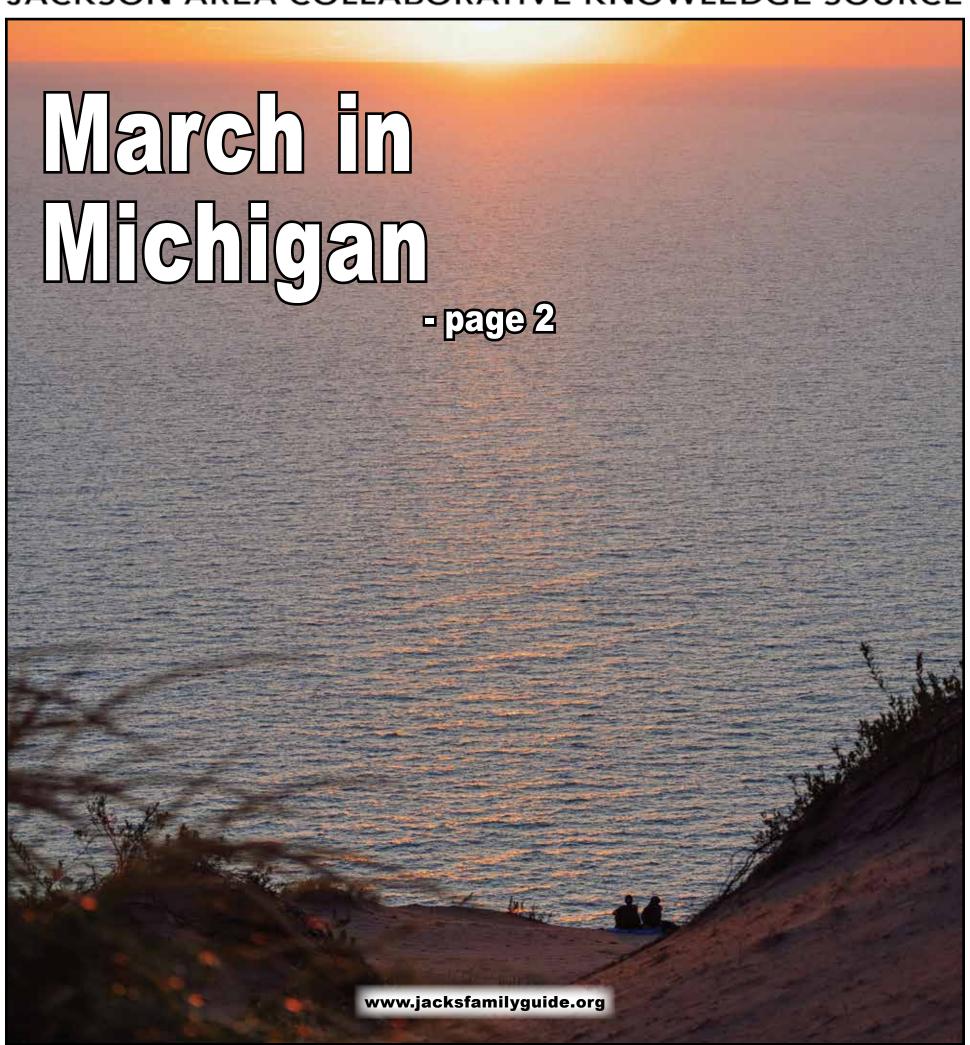


JACKSON AREA COLLABORATIVE KNOWLEDGE SOURCE





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page 2 J.A.C.K.S. Spotlight

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

Stefanie Riggs *Publisher*

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If you or your business would like to submit a FREE article or learn about advertising, send an email to jacksfamilyguide@gmail.com.

It is the responsibility of the submitting business or organization to obtain the proper photo release. The Jackson Area Collaborative Knowledge Source is a collaborative guide. Stories and articles published herein are not written by us.

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EST. 2015





March 16 @ 12:30 pm Horace Blackman Park, W. Michigan Ave., Jackson, MI

> \$30 PER ENTRY

0

Scan to register or visit https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Jackson/JacksonYMCAShamrockShuffle

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

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

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

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

OUR MISSION:

To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy Spirit, Mind, and Body FOR ALL.

The Best of March in Michigan

An OpenAI Project

As winter begins to loosen its grip and the promise of spring lingers in the air, March in Michigan offers a treasure trove of activities and events to enjoy. Whether you're a nature enthusiast, a foodie, or a culture seeker, here are some fantastic things to do in Michigan this March.

Maple Syrup Festivals

March marks the start of maple syrup season in Michigan, and there's no better way to celebrate than by attending one of the state's many maple syrup festivals. From pancake breakfasts smothered in fresh maple syrup to guided tours of sugar bushes and demonstrations of syrup-making techniques, these festivals offer a sweet and educational experience for the whole family. Be sure to check out events like the Shepherd Maple Syrup Festival or the Maple Sugar Festival at Fenner Nature Center for a taste of Michigan's liquid gold.

Outdoor Adventures

As the days grow longer and the temperatures begin to rise, March is the perfect time to get outside and explore Michigan's natural beauty. Whether you prefer hiking along scenic trails, biking through picturesque countryside, or simply taking a leisurely stroll in a local park, there are countless opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors. Visit iconic destinations like Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore or Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore for breathtaking views of Lake Michigan and beyond.

St. Patrick's Day Celebrations

Join in the festive spirit and celebrate St. Patrick's Day in true Michigan style. From parades and pub crawls to Irish dance performances and traditional music sessions, there are plenty of ways to honor the Emerald Isle's patron saint throughout the state. Don your best green attire, raise a pint of Guinness, and revel in the craic with fellow revelers at events like the Detroit St. Patrick's Day Parade or the Irish on Ionia celebration in Grand Rapids.

Wine Tasting Tours

Indulge your senses and embark on a wine tasting tour of Michigan's renowned wine country. With over 150 wineries scat-

tered throughout the state, there's no shortage of options to explore. Traverse the scenic vineyard-lined roads of the Leelanau Peninsula or the Old Mission Peninsula and sample a diverse array of award-winning wines, from crisp Rieslings to robust Cabernet Francs. Many wineries also offer special events and tastings to coincide with March's arrival, making it the perfect time to discover your new favorite vintage.

Spring Skiing and Snowboarding

While winter may be winding down, there's still plenty of snow to enjoy on Michigan's slopes. March often brings some of the best skiing and snowboarding conditions of the season, with longer days and warmer temperatures creating the perfect combination for hitting the slopes. Whether you're a seasoned pro or a first-time enthusiast, Michigan's ski resorts, such as Boyne Mountain and Crystal Mountain, offer a variety of trails and terrain parks to suit all skill levels.

Visit Cultural Attractions

Expand your horizons and immerse yourself in Michigan's rich cultural heritage by visiting museums, galleries, and historical sites across the state. From the world-class art collection at the Detroit Institute of Arts to the fascinating exhibits at the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation, there's no shortage of opportunities to learn and explore. Take advantage of special events and exhibitions happening throughout March to gain a deeper understanding of Michigan's diverse history and culture.

Birdwatching

As the days grow warmer and migratory birds begin their journey northward, March is an excellent time for birdwatching in Michigan. Grab your binoculars and head to one of the state's many birding hotspots, such as Pointe Mouillee State Game Area or Tawas Point State Park, to spot a wide variety of avian species. Keep an eye out for waterfowl, songbirds, and raptors as they return to their breeding grounds after wintering in warmer climates.

Grab your coat, lace up your boots, and embark on an unforgettable March adventure in the Great Lakes State.

Cover Photo by Mark Olsen on Unsplash.



Exciting Progress Unfolds at Jackson YMCA Construction Site

Contributed by the Jackson YMCA

In the heart of Jackson, a flurry of activity surrounds the construction site of the Jackson YMCA, where significant progress is evident in this ambitious project. With each passing day, the vision for a revitalized facility that better serves the community edges closer to reality.

While much of the ongoing work remains concealed from view, the unmistakable sounds of progress resonate throughout the building. The removal of concrete walls and staircases, though not visible to guests, signifies significant strides in the renovation process.

One of the most noticeable changes has been to the front facade, where it has undergone a remarkable transformation. The removal of windows and structural elements marks the beginning of the evolution towards the new architectural design.

Additionally, work on the parking lot side of the building has been underway. Bailey Excavating has been hard at work removing asphalt in preparation for the foundation work of the new addition. Crews have been busy removing the remainder of the black fencing around the parking lot. While this work progresses, leadership emphasizes the importance of safety and asks that visitors note that the remaining chain-link fence encompasses the construction work area and is clearly marked for no entry. Even if the gates are open, this area is not for public use. As with all construction sites, safety is the top priority, and cooperation

in respecting the boundaries of the construction zone is requested.

Furthermore, the construction team is proud to announce several key milestones:

- A new sewer line has been initiated and is set to be ready for switch-over by Thursday of next week.
- The crane necessary for various construction tasks has been delivered and will be up and running by March 5.
- Asbestos abatement in the former boys' and girls' locker rooms has been successfully completed and has passed testing, ensuring the safety of all occupants.
- Electricians have begun the installation of new lines for future RTUs (Roof-Top Units), laying the groundwork for enhanced heating and ventilation systems.
- The boiler in the basement has been successfully removed, with the storage tank slated for removal by March 7.
- Rebar installation on the north face for new concrete has been completed, marking progress towards structural enhancements.

Please remember to utilize available parking in the YMCA lot off Franklin Street and the City lot on Wesley Street. Additionally, be mindful of the 2-hour parking limit enforced on Franklin Street and refrain from parking in neighboring lots out of respect for local businesses.

As the Jackson YMCA project progresses, the community eagerly anticipates the completion of this transformative endeavor, poised to redefine health and wellness in the heart of Jackson.









Photos courtesy of the Jackson YMCA

KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

Young Five Kindergarten & Kindergarten Tuesday • April 16 • 8:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Wednesday • April 17 • 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Paragon Charter Academy 3750 McCain Road, Jackson, MI Call 517-750-9500 for an appointment.

PARAGON CHARTER

Jackson County Animal Shelter's Adoptable Pets: Rex and Wednesday

Contributed by the Jackson County Animal Shelter

Rex

Meet Rex, a cheerful two-year-old American Staffordshire mix surrendered by his previous owner. He has a tan and white coat and stunning blue eyes. Fit and eager to become your

trusted walking companion, Rex is motivated by treats and strives to please. Training him in basic commands and leash etiquette won't be time-con-

suming, as he's quick on the uptake. Come meet this happy guy as he bounds out of the cage to greet you. 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.

good years left and is looking to spend them with a new family. Come meet this lovely gold-eyed girl 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 neces-

sary medical procedures may slightly postpone an adoption. While visiting the shelter is always recommended, you can also submit an

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







Wednesday

This pretty girl is Wednesday, a twelve-year-old long-haired calico who came in as a stray. Although she initially faced a flea issue, it's now resolved, and her beautiful haircoat is growing back. Wednesday is a friendly feline who enjoys treats and attention from her humans. This elegant-looking gal has many



Up and Away: Keep Your Children Safe Around Medication

By Anna Weide, Community Action Agency

How often do children inadvertently get into medication? Each year, around 35,000 children access medication and are hospitalized. Children are curious and, while exploring, tend to try to put everything in their mouths. It's essential for your children's safety that medications are stored safely and correctly to avoid any mishaps. It is also essential to seek treatment should children get into any medications, as the effects may be severe.

Keeping medications out of reach and out of

sight of children can significantly reduce adverse outcomes. One way to achieve this is by utilizing a lockbox. If this is not accessible to you at the moment, consider moving medication to hard-to-reach areas such as high shelves in secure cabinets. Another precaution that should be taken is to ensure that medications are put away directly after use, including daily medications. When medications are put away, double-check that the safety caps are entirely on and secured. When inspecting the safety cap, confirm it has clicked, indicating that it is locked in place. It is also a good idea to speak to houseguests about safe

medication storage practices by asking them to keep their personal belongings that contain medications (e.g., coats, purses, etc.) out of reach.

Even if a medication has a safety lock, children may be able to get into it. If a child does manage to get their hands on medications, immediate action must be taken. You should call poison control at 800-222-1222. Having this number preprogrammed into your phone may save you added stress should you need to utilize it. You should also seek medical treatment through your primary care physician, if available, or visit the nearest emergency room.









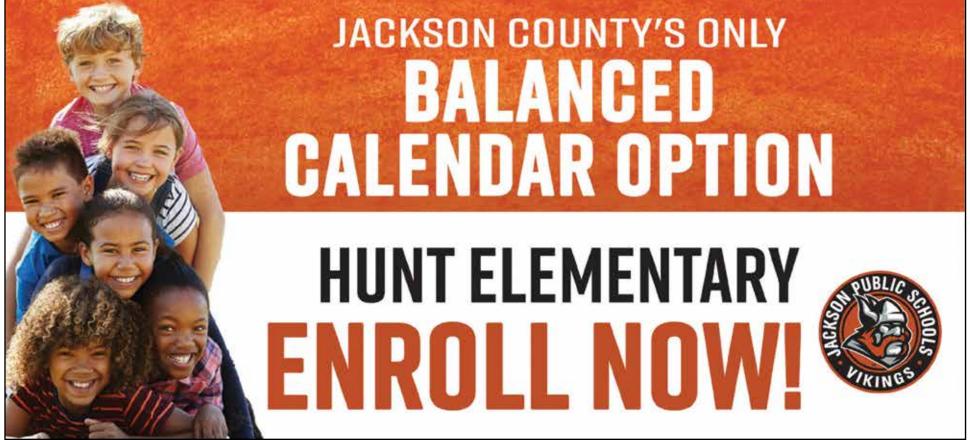


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Jackson YMCA Breaks Ground on Long-Awaited **Transformational Facility Renovation**

Contributed by the Jackson YMCA

In a momentous occasion on Thursday, February 8th, the Jackson YMCA marked a significant milestone with its long-awaited groundbreaking ceremony. This event, a culmination of years of planning and dedication, was met with celebration as members, donors, partners, dignitaries, and community members came together to witness the initiation of a transformative journey.

The ceremony commenced with opening remarks from Shawna Tello, Chief Executive Officer of the Jackson YMCA, who expressed gratitude and excitement for the project ahead. Reverend Michael Cain of Southside Church, a past Y board member, delivered a blessing, setting a tone of hope and unity for the endeavor.

Acknowledging presence of esteemed officials. Shawna Tello highlighted the support received from governmental repre-

sentatives. Tim Walberg, U.S. House of Representatives for District 5, and Kali Fox, Regional Manager from U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow's Office, offered their comments, emphasizing the significance of community initiatives like the YMCA.

tured insights from partners integral to the project. Dr. Mark Smith, Sr. Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of Henry Ford Health, and Tony Hollow, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Jackson County, shared their perspectives, underscoring the collaborative effort driving the reno-

vation forward.

The event also fea-

to a close, Scott McIntosh, Chief Volunteer Officer of the Jackson YMCA Board of Directors, delivered clos-

"It almost doesn't seem real. It's been a long journey. There have been challenges along the way that we never thought we would come up against. It's been reassuring to see the continued support of our investors, our volunteers, our community, and to know that when the time was right, this would, in fact, happen."

- Shawna Tello, CEO

ing remarks, reflecting on the journey leading to this momentous day.

The highlight of the event was the symbolic shovel ceremony, symbol-

As the ceremony drew izing the commencement of construction and the realization of a vision long held by the community. Following the formal pro-

ceedings, major donors, government officials, board members, and the public were treated to tours of the construction site's phase 1. Granger Construction graciously guided visitors through the premises, offering insights into the planned renovations.

An unforgettable moment occurred the following day, on Friday, February 9th, as the iconic "Y" at the building's front entrance was removed. This action, while symbolic, marked a tangible

step towards the new and improved facility envisioned by the YMCA.

CEO Shawna Tello expressed her gratitude for the unwavering support received throughout the journey. Reflecting on the challenges faced over nearly a decade, she remarked, "It almost doesn't seem real. It's been a long journey. There have been challenges along the way that we never thought we would come up against. It's been reassuring to see the continued support of our investors, our volunteers, our community, and to know that when the time was right, this would, in fact, happen."

As the Jackson YMCA embarks on this new chapter, the groundbreaking ceremony stands as a testament to the power of collaboration, perseverance, and community spirit. With the support of its members, partners, and stakeholders, the YMCA looks forward to realizing its vision of a vibrant, inclusive, and accessible facility that will serve generations to come.

Learn to Love Your Hometown

What's New in Brooklyn, MI

By Val Herr Have you heard of Cho-



ate Mar-Marketplace located at 102 N. Main Street.

This new business is several businesses in one. It offers indoor niche shopping, a café, pottery painting, and more yet to come. Stores include The Spellbound Owl, a unique boutique is open Tuesday through where you can find something magical. Crockery Painted Pottery is where you can paint pottery. It was founded to create a businesses also offers fun and easy drop-in experience for all skill levels. Grazing Thyme is the new-

est business to join Choate Marketplace. They are a one-of-a-kind, unique ketplace? café and boutique that of-Choate fers Musgrove Coffees, teas, grab-and-go lunches, a grazing table, and charcuterie boards. You can order customized charcuterie boards as well.

Come out to Brooklyn and spend an afternoon eating lunch, creating art, and shopping. This is the perfect way to support local and support small businesses.

Choate Marketplace Thursday, 11 am to 7 pm, and Friday and Saturday, 11 am to 5 pm.

Each of these unique special events. Be sure to follow them on Facebook to learn more about them.



Photo courtesy of Val Herr



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Join Imagine Planet for the **Great American Total Eclipse**

By Jean McKim, Imagine Planet

An excerpt from a previous newsletter from July of 2017:

"The big event in science this summer is the All-American Total Eclipse of the Sun on August 21st. This will be visible all over the United States although here in Michigan we will be seeа partial ing eclipse. Solar eclipses cur when the Moon lines up perfectly tween the Sun and the Earth and blocks the Sun's light from reaching Earth (it casts a shadow). At Imagine Planet we will have information about how to view a solar eclipse (NEVER LOOK DIRECTLY AT THE SUN!) and what exactly is happening. "

This spring it is happening again! On Monday, April 8, 2024 another total solar eclipse is occurring,

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the Great American Total Eclipse, but this time the sun will be between 95 and 99% obscured here in Michigan. The next solar eclipse that will be able to be seen in Michigan will be

in 2099! We will be hosting

a SAFE SOLAR ECLIPSE

VIEWING EVENT at Imag-

ine Planet that day from 12

to 5 p.m. There will be so-

lar eclipse activities as well

as a solar viewer box and

glasses to watch. DON'T

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2508 Spring Arbor Road • Jackson

LOOK DIRECTLY AT THE SUN even if it is dark. It cause permanent damage to your eyes.

Let's hope for good weather on April 8 here in Jackson. Even if the weather isn't good we will still have our eclipse

> event with activities and learning experiences. Come join

> > us at 730 Tomlinson that day. It will be interesting to see if the animals react

Ella Sharp Museum also has a special exhibit Space, A Journey to Our Future right now!! Check it out! They are

closed on Monday and Sunday, check out their hours on their website or Facebook.

Imagine Planet is open 12-5 pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Photo by Jongsun Lee on Unsplash.

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College & Career Access Center, March Scholarships

Frame My Future **Scholarship Contest** 2024

Eligibility:

- Intend to enroll as a full-time student at a U.S. college or university in the 2024-2025 academic year.
- · Be a legal resident of the 50 United States and the District of Columbia, including APO/FPO addresses (excluding Puerto Rico and other U.S. Territories).
- Not be employed by Church Hill Classics. Employees of Church Hill Classics/diplomaframe.com, its parent, subsidiary and affiliated companies, advertising and promotion agencies, website providers or other parties involved in any aspect with the creation, production, operation, execution, and fulfillment of the Contest and their immediate family members (parents, siblings, children, and spouse) and/or those living in the same household (whether related or not) are

not eligible to win.

· Be a success-driven student looking to achieve your dreams!

Description:

- must be your own work and must convey the theme, This Is How I Frame My Fu-
- · Finalists will be selected based on the creativity of the full entry, including the entry image and accompanying description (maximum of 500 characters).
- Your entry piece MUST be in a JPG/JPEG format or PNG file format.

Award: \$2,000 and a custom diploma frame (5 Winners)

Deadline: March 15, 2024 @ 11:59 p.m. ET

Application: https://www. diplomaframe.com/contests/fmf-scholarship-2024

Carol Hines Memorial Scholarship Program Eligibility:

To be eligible for CMP

scholarships, juniors must:

- be a U.S. Citizen.
- be of good moral char-
- · have achieved a mini- The original creation mum 3.0 cumulative grade point average.
 - be a graduating high school senior.
 - demonstrate acceptance to a university, college or trade school leading to diploma or trade certification.
 - demonstrate marksmanship competition experience.

Description:

MP Scholarships are one-year awards that may be used to fund any accredited secondary education or vocational program. CMP Scholarships may also be used to pursue post-secondary education during the upcoming school year.

The scholarships are paid to the scholarship recipient but must be countersigned by the financial aid offices of the college where the student is enrolled. The check may be used to pay fees or expenses not covered by other awards or grants.

Award: \$1,000-\$5,000 Deadline: March 31, 2024

Application: http://thecmp.org/communications/ cmp-scholarship-program/

Army Nurse Corps Association (ANCA) **Education Fund**

Eligibility:

Students currently enrolled in an accredited baccalaureate or advanced degree program in nursing. nurse anesthesia, or related healthcare field who:

- · Are serving or have previously served in any branch, and at any rank, of a component of the US Army (Active Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve)
- · Are not currently receiving funding by a component of the US Army, (e.g., schol-

arship ROTC students and students receiving full GI Bill benefits are not eligible)

- · Have received an Honorable Discharge (as applicable).
- Has parent(s), a spouse, or child(ren) serving, or has served, in a component of the U.S. Army.

Description:

One of the Army Nurse Corps Association's major initiatives is the Scholarship Program. Its purpose is the support of nursing education through scholarship funding to worthy students who are US citizens in an accredited baccalaureate or graduate nursing or anesthesia program.

Award: \$3.000

Deadline: March 31, 2024

Application: https://e-anca.org/Scholarships

For the full list of monthly scholarships, please visit the College and Career Access Center's website atiacksoncac.org/



Sponsored by: Jackson County Master Gardener's Association Jackson College: Bert Walker Hall, 211 Emmons Rd., Jackson, MI 49201 Saturday, April 6, 2024 | 9 am - 3 pm

Deadline for registration is March 20 | No ticket sales at the door Call 517.795.7708 for more information

> (JCMGA MEMBERS) (NON-MEMBERS)

> > Dress is business casual



2024 Kindergarten & Young Fives Round-Up

Join us at one of our JPS Elementary Schools!

- **Cascades Elementary**
 - **Dibble Elementary**
 - **Hunt Elementary**
 - John R. Lewis Elementary
 - JPS Montessori Elementary **Northeast Elementary**
 - Sharp Park Academy
- Please arrive early as program will begin promptly!
- Prizes & Food!

- 5:00 6:30 pm April 15
- April 16 5:30 - 7:00 pm April 18 9:30 - 11:00 am
- April 22 5:00 - 6:30 pm
- April 25 5:30 - 7:00 pm
- 5:30 7:00 pm April 23
- April 24 5:30 - 7:00 pm
- Community partners will be available to serve you!
- Free T-Shirt upon enrollment!













For More Information Please Call 517-841-2147