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Celebrating Moms

- page 2

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Learn more at
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EST. 2015

Learn to Love Your Hometown

Celebrate Mom in Jackson

By Val Herr

Mother's Day is May 14. For those of us



lucky enough to still have our moms around, this is a wonderful opportunity to create memories. This year give your mom and yourself the gift of time. Here are a few ways you can celebrate mom:

Have a Picnic in the Park

Get takeout from your mom's favorite restaurant and enjoy it in one of Jackson's amazing parks! Find a list of parks co.jackson.mi.us/1162/Parks.

Take an Art Class Together

Spend time together and create something that will last a lifetime. Jackson School of the Arts is offering *Intro to Watercolor – The Botanical Garden for Teens and Adults*. Learn more about the class or register now at jacksonarts.org/classes-programs/adults.

Brunch at the Manor House

Mother's Day Brunch at the beautiful Cascades Manor is a stunning and memorable event. Call 517-784-1500 or visit facebook.com/events/1408443773316501. Reservations are required.

Painting for Paws

Unleash your inner artist at the Painting for Paws - Mother's Day Sunflowers at the Cascades Humane Society. Learn more at chspets.com/events/painting-for-paws-mothers-day-sunflowers-2.

Creating Beauty Outdoors

How about time spent planting flowers? Check out Beck's Flower Shop's selection of annuals and perennials at becksflower-shop.com.

Take a Pizza Making Class

Tiki Sam's Pizza hosts pizza making classes! Supplies, aprons, instruction, and more are included. Find more info at facebook.com/tikisampizza.

However you choose to celebrate your mom this Mother's Day, enjoy time together!

The History of Mother's Day

"Mother's Day is a holiday honoring motherhood that is observed in different forms throughout the world. The American incarnation of Mother's Day was created by Anna Jarvis in 1908 and became an official U.S. holiday in 1914.

Did you know? More phone calls are made on Mother's Day than any other day of the year! These holiday chats with Mom often cause phone traffic to spike by as much as 37%," (history.com/topics/holidays/mothers-day).



A Tea Party - Just in time for Mother's Day!

Guests will enjoy delicious teas and hors d'oeuvres, a fun activity, and a silent auction!

Reserve a table for 8 - \$350
Sponsor a Table - \$500
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Jackson County's FREE Museum Day Brings 10 Museums to the Public for 2023

*Contributed by the
Jackson County
Chamber of Commerce*

After much anticipation built over a long winter, Jackson County's FREE Museum Day is back for 2023! Ten participating Jackson County museums will be open to the public, free of charge, on Saturday, May 13, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for Jackson County's Free Museum Day. Some locations will host an "open-house style" reception and self-guided tours, while others are hosting child-friendly activities, historical demonstrations, and providing guided tours. There will surely be something for everyone at each stop along the way. Museum Day makes for a great day out with your partner, friend, or a fun adventure for the whole family. This special event is a great way to explore Jackson County's rich history and something the community looks forward to

each year. Check out the 2023 Museum Day participants below!

Ella Sharp Museum
Location: 3225 Fourth St.,
Jackson, MI 49203
Contact: 517-787-2320

The Mann House
Location: 205 Hanover St.,
Concord, MI 49237
Contact: 517-930-3806

**Grass Lake Area
Historical Society &
The Coe House Museum**
Location: 371 W. Michigan
Ave., Grass Lake, MI 49240
Contact: 517-748-1078

**Conklin Reed Organ
Museum & Heritage Park**
Location: 121 Tefft St.,
Hanover, MI 49241
Contact: 517-563-8927

Lost Railway Museum
Location: 142 West
Michigan Ave.,
Grass Lake, MI 49240
Contact: 517-522-9500

**Cambridge Junction
Historic State Park &
Walker Tavern**
Location: 13220 M-50,
Brooklyn, MI 49230
Contact: 517-930-3806

**Tompkins Historical
Stewart Museum**
Location: 10138 Tompkins
Rd., Rives Junction,
MI 49277
Contact: 517-962-3398

**Waterloo Farm
Museum & Dewey
School Museum**

Location: 13493 Waterloo
Munith Rd.,
Grass Lake, MI 49240
Contact: 517-596-2254

**Ye Old Carriage Shop
Auto Museum**
Location: 3537 Henderson
Rd., Spring Arbor, MI 49283
Contact: 517-750-4300

**Michigan's Military
Heritage Museum**
New Location in Jackson:
311 N. Wisner St., Jackson,
MI 49201
Contact: 517-926-6696

Each museum will offer a unique on-site prize drawing during the event.

For more information about Museum Day, attractions, events, and hotels in Jackson County, visit ExperienceJackson.com/MuseumDay. Maps of participating museums can be found online as well. Museum Day is proudly promoted by Experience Jackson and participating museums, with support from Jackson District Library.

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Jackson County


FREE MUSEUM DAY



SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023 10 AM - 4 PM

PARTICIPATING MUSEUMS

Cambridge Junction Historic State Park & Walker Tavern 13220 M-50, Brooklyn, MI 49230	The Mann House 205 Hanover St., Concord, MI 49237
Ella Sharp Museum 3225 Fourth St., Jackson, MI 49203	Tompkins Historical Stewart Museum 10138 Tompkins Rd., Rives Junction, MI 49277
Grass Lake Area Historical Society & Coe House Museum 371 W. Michigan Ave., Grass Lake, MI 49240	Waterloo Farm Museum & Dewey School Museum 13493 Waterloo Munith Rd., Grass Lake, MI 49240
Conklin Reed Organ Museum & Heritage Park 121 Tefft St., Hanover, MI 49241	Ye Old Carriage Shop Auto Museum 3537 Henderson Rd., Spring Arbor, MI 49283
Lost Railway Museum 142 West Michigan Ave., Grass Lake, MI 49240	Michigan's Military Heritage Museum 311 N. Wisner St., Jackson, MI 49201

ExperienceJackson.com/MuseumDay



Museum Day support provided by
Jackson District Library.

Jackson County Animal Shelter's Adoptable Pets: Scarlett and Lulu

*Contributed by the
Jackson County
Animal Shelter*

Scarlett

Scarlett is a solid gray, 5-year-old American Staffordshire mix who came in as a stray. She is a sweet, happy girl who just loves to be loved on. Scarlett would be an excellent walking partner or couch snuggler. She is a medium-sized dog that is slightly underweight, but always happy to receive snacks. Dog adoptions require an application that can be found at 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, and a cat room walk-through is available to test reaction.

Dogs will go to approved applicants; the adoption fee is \$150 for medium/large dogs and \$250 for puppies/small dogs, which includes vaccinations, microchips, and sterilization.

Lulu

Lulu is a stunning seal point, 9-year-old Siamese. Lulu's owner passed away,

considered a senior cat, but she has many years to enjoy with you. Meet her today at the Jackson County Animal Shelter at 3370 Spring Arbor Road. The adoption fee is \$60 for one cat and \$80 for two, including applicable tests, vaccines, and spaying/neutering. Any necessary medical procedures may slightly postpone an adoption.

Visiting the shelter is always best, but you can complete an online application at co.jackson.mi.us/DocumentCenter/View/8194/Cat-Adoption-Application-PDF. Completed applications can be faxed to 517-780-4750 or emailed to animalshelter@mijackson.org. See our website for more information at jacksoncountyanimalshelter.org, and stay up to date by following us on Facebook. Current shelter hours are M, Tu, W, F, 10:00-4:30, Thu 10-7, Sat 10-4.



and she is looking for a new home and best buddy. She was previously in a home with another cat and a dog. Lulu is coming out of her shell at the shelter and warming up to new friends. She is somewhat reserved and timid initially, but as typical with Siamese, she is inclined to bond strongly with one person. Lulu's adoption fee is just \$35 because she is



5 Tips for Fostering Dogs

Family Features - More animals are staying in shelters now than before the pandemic, according to a report from Shelter Animals Count, and just over half (53%) of dogs in shelters are adopted. However, the report also found that fostering dogs is a proven way to help pets find new homes.

For those looking to support rescue dogs in need, the PEDIGREE® brand and its FOSTERVERSE™ program offer tips for a positive fostering experience and show how you can help end pet homelessness. To learn more and get involved, visit Pedigree.com/Fosterverse.

Learn the Dog's Background

Every dog has a unique personality and set of needs, which is why it's important to learn as much as you can before fostering a dog. Try to gather detailed information from the rescue organization or animal shelter before bringing the dog home, including age, breed, health conditions, dietary needs, energy level, and even likes and dislikes. Learning about your foster dog's background ahead of time can help you prepare and ensure a smooth transition to your home.

Prepare Your Household

Spend time making your home as dog-friendly and safe as possible by keeping electronics, cleaning supplies, sharp objects, and other potentially dangerous items out of the way. This may mean taking a look at items in your home

from the dog's eye level to see what might be within reach. If you will be introducing a foster dog to other pets in your household, try to provide ample space to allow for slow introductions. Also, consider looking for ways to designate spaces and belongings (like beds) between your

pup good habits in preparation for adoption can increase the likelihood of finding a forever home.

Market Your Foster Dog

Spread the word in your community in person and on social media that you are fostering and helping find a forever home for your four-legged friend. A survey from AdoptAPet.com revealed the simple act of sharing information on social media about adoptable pets at local shelters can save a pet's life, with 8 out of 10 (84%) organizations reporting that sharing pet content online increases the likelihood of pets being adopted. Help get the word out and show your community members why they should consider adopting your foster pup.

Try Virtual Fostering

While many people might want to foster a pup, there are many factors that may not allow them to foster pets in real life. That's why the PEDIGREE brand is bringing fostering opportunities to the Metaverse for anyone who owns a digital property in Decentraland, offering a new platform for dog adoption. Users may interact with dogs they meet in the FOSTERVERSE program and learn about their backgrounds and adoption status, as well as ways to support dogs in need across the country. Dog lovers can choose to adopt a dog they meet virtually through AdoptAPet.com or donate to PEDIGREE Foundation to help similar adoptable pets in need across the country.



Photo by James Barker on Unsplash

pets so they can have comfortable places to retreat and rest.

Train for Eventual Adoption

Once your foster dog has adjusted to the new environment, consider gradually implementing routines. These routines may include activities like obedience training, physical exercise, house training, and crate training. Teaching your foster

Help Others Soar to New Heights by Supporting Soar Café and Farms

*By Chelsea Woods,
Soar Café and Farms*



Soar Café and Farms was founded in 2017 by Michelle Cochran. The mission of Soar is to make a way to heal, empower, and employ women survivors of human trafficking, sexual abuse, and trauma. This is done by providing safe and supportive housing, the opportunity for personal and financial independence, and a strong community of advocates and partners. Soar's model proves that with

the right support system, women can overcome and rise.

I have been working at Soar since June of 2021 as the nighttime residential manager. Through my almost two years with Soar, I have learned so much. I have been on the beautifully difficult side of the healing journey with women. I've held them while they cried, and I've prayed with them and helped them forgive themselves and others. Transforming your life is not an easy task; it costs your old life in exchange for your new one, but it is so worth it. I've learned the importance of a good support system and what that can do for someone. At Soar, we set the bar high for our

ladies, but we give them the ladder to reach it as well. They are more than capable of transforming their lives; they just need the resources to do so.

There are many ways that you can help Soar. We are always in need of paper products as well as cleaning supplies. We also love to have people from the community volunteer at the house as coaches or mentors for the girls. We love having people from the community interact with our ladies as it shows them the support they have outside of the house. One final way to support the house is by coming to a Community Dinner Night. Every other Tuesday, we have someone

from the community come to the house to share a meal with us and our ladies. We all cook together or order out, but spending time listening to the ladies share their stories and what is going on in their lives right now is an incredible opportunity that you would not want to miss.

Coming up, we have our annual Healing Handbags Event, where we will be serving dinner and auctioning off designer purses retailing for \$100 or more. The event is Friday, May 12, and begins at 5 pm. For more information about donations, volunteering, or to get tickets to our purse auction, please visit our website at soarcafeandfarms.com.

Join Lomar Machine and Tool Company in Celebrating National Skilled Trades Day on May 3

*By Becky Dorian,
Lomar Machine
& Tool Company*

Here in Jackson, we are a community that proudly produces a vast and rich number of products that support life locally and globally. At the heart of the many manufacturing plants within our neighborhoods are the incredibly talented, skilled tradesmen and women. On May 3, we recognize these efforts in celebration of National Skilled Trades Day. These gifted individuals have long been creating the vibrant manufacturing industry that has been critical to Jackson's growth and stability throughout the years.


Lomar would like to send our sincerest appreciation to all of the brilliant

tradespeople here in Jackson. We recognize and appreciate your outstanding intellect, commitment, talent, and abilities. Throughout our 47-year history, Lomar has been proud to sponsor the finest apprentices, interns, and skilled employees who continue to learn and grow year after year. Your commitment has allowed us to serve and provide solutions to various worldwide customers in the automotive, aerospace, agriculture, furniture, medical, and military industries at a state-of-the-art capacity. Thank you!

On May 3, and throughout the year, please take the time to acknowledge a hard-working, skilled tradesperson in your life!




Jenna Burk, Lomar Machine & Tool Company



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Stop Summer Slide

By Kristin Klug,
Children's Programs Manager,
Community Action Agency

A study conducted by the American Educational Research Association in the Fall of 1996 showed that students lose significant knowledge in reading and math over summer break, which tends to have a snowball effect with skill loss each year. You can support your child's learning and retention by setting up simple routines during summer break.

Read

Try to find 20 minutes each day to read to or with your child and encourage older children to read independently. Take advantage of the Jackson District Library Summer Discover program, which is a free annual reading initiative you can sign up for to win prizes for reading. Go to myjdl.com to see the calendar of events through the library for free family fun. Another fun way to focus on reading and math skills is to cook with your children. By following a recipe, children will be reading and measuring, while learning an important life skill.

Get Out

One way to keep minds stimulated is to find new environments and activities to participate in. Check out joininjackson.com to find a list of kid and family-friendly activities that take place in Jackson County throughout the year. Jackson County is home to many lovely parks and biking and hiking trails. Get outside with your kiddos for exercise and a change of scenery. Create a list to seek and find different items while you are walking.

Get Creative

Limit screen time and instead encourage children to play board games or use their imagination and creativity to make up their own games. Collect items from around the house and challenge children to build a fort or think up an invention to solve a problem around the house. Find other ways to encourage problem-solving and critical thinking skills to keep those mental muscles in shape through the summer.

A quick online search will offer many other ideas to stop summer slide and create easy and fun activities to encourage learning every day.

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- Families experiencing homelessness





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Get Active with the Walk, Roll, and Stroll Jackson Program this Spring and Summer

By Aaron Dimick,
City of Jackson
Public Information Officer



A popular program that has residents walking, rolling, and strolling through parks is returning to Jackson this year. The Jackson Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with AARP Michigan, invites residents of all ages and abilities to participate in the free Walk, Roll, and Stroll Jackson summer series.

The events are scheduled for May 2, May 23, June 6, June 20, July 11, and July 25, with registration starting at 6 p.m. and the program commencing at 6:30 p.m. Participants will go on a non-competitive 3-mile route through local parks.

The events will be split between Ella Sharp Park and Cascades Park, with the first Tuesday event listed each month, May 2, June 6, and July 11, at Ella Sharp and the second

Tuesday, May 23, June 20 and July 25, taking place at Cascades.

For the Ella Sharp events, participants should meet in the soccer fields parking lot off Birchwood Drive. When the program is at Cascades, participants should meet at the pavilion off the S. Brown Street parking lot.

The events are returning this year after a successful program in 2022. “These events are a fun and easy way to get active this spring and summer,” said Julie Weisbrod, the City’s Active Aging Coordinator. “We thank AARP for this continuing partnership to get our residents walking, rolling, and

strolling through parks.” Door prizes will be awarded to children and adults at the completion of each event, with a grand prize awarded on July 25. Schedules will be available at each event or on the 5th Floor of City Hall, 161 W. Michigan Ave. For more information, please call the Jackson Parks and Recreation Department at 517-788-4040 or 517-240-1223.

“These events are a fun and easy way to get active this spring and summer.”
- Julie Weisbrod



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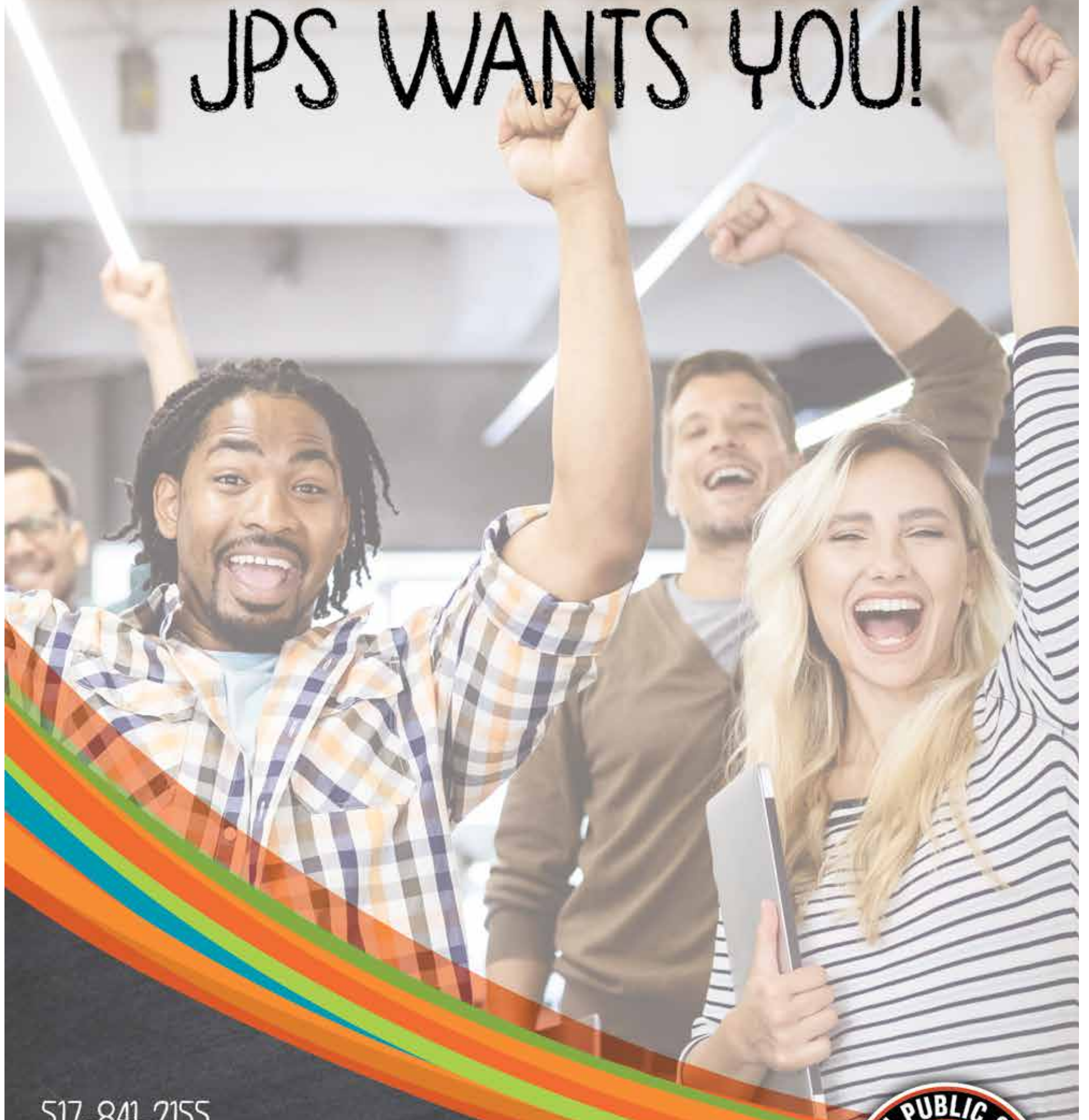
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College & Career Access Center, June Scholarships

David Hudak Memorial Essay Contest for Freethinking Students of Color

Eligibility:

- Open only to freethinking students of color ages 17-21
- High school Seniors graduating in Spring 2023 who will be attending a North American college or university in Fall 2023, or who are currently enrolled in a college or university.

Description: This contest is offered to provide support and acknowledgment for freethinking 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. Applicant must submit a 400-600 words essay with the topic "Living and Thriving Without Religion".

Award: \$200-\$3,500

Deadline: June 1, 2023

Application: <https://ffrf.org/outreach/ffrf-student-scholarship-essay-contests>

2023 CURE - Cancer Support Scholarship: Youth Education Assistance for Cancer Survivors

Eligibility:

- The scholarship is designated for students who were diagnosed with cancer and whose disease and related treatments place significant financial burden on them and their families.
- Scholarship recipients must furnish a letter of confirmation by a licensed physician as proof of their cancer diagnosis. Please note that this documentation will be required following the award notification and should not be submitted with the application.
- Applicants must be a US citizen residing in the USA.
- The recipient must demonstrate academic achievement through evidence of working to one's potential and be accepted for admission at an insti-

tution of higher education, e.g., college, community college, university or vocational school. All grades must be substantiated by official documentation.

- Applications must include a one-page essay regarding your diagnosis and the challenges that you and your family faced due to cancer and cancer-related treatments. Include information regarding your goals and future ambitions. Provide an official school transcript and three (3) letters of recommendation from non-family members. All listed submission materials and application information must be included for the application to be reviewed.

Description: CURE – Cancer Support Scholarship was created by the Lep Foundation for Youth Education for students diagnosed with cancer (a public charity providing financial assistance to survivors of childhood & adolescent cancers seeking to further their education).

Award: \$5,000

Deadline: June 1, 20223

Application: http://www.lepfoundation.org/_files/ugd/16bf33_ed23175a315445ee-b610e33dafcb4df8.pdf

Automotive Women's Alliance Foundation Education Scholarship

Eligibility:

Scholarships are awarded to female, North American citizens, with a passion for a career or advancement in the automotive and its related industries. While AWAf members and family members are encouraged to apply, we also encourage applicants who are not affiliated with the organization to apply. To be eligible for a scholarship, applicants should be already accepted to or enrolled in an accredited collegiate program, with a 3.0 or higher GPA, and a citizen within North America.

Description: Scholarships are awarded quarterly to the women that solicit passion and drive for the automotive industry. It is our hope that with these scholarships, we can lessen the burden on students and allow them to focus on gaining knowledge and de-

velopment in automotive-related fields and thus enhance their potential career path and the future of the industry.

Award: \$2,500

Deadline: Postmarked by June 5, 2023

Application: <https://awafoundation.org/Scholarships>

Duck Brand Duct Tape "Stuck at Prom" Scholarship 2023

Eligibility:

The Contest is open to any participant who meets the following requirements:

- An "Eligible Participant": is a legal resident of, and physically located in, the United States, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and all U.S. territories and possessions (excluding Maryland, Vermont, Colorado, Arizona, Tennessee, North Dakota)
- Or, is a legal resident of, and physically located in, Canada (excluding the Province of Quebec)
- Is 14 years of age or older.

Coronavirus update: Our Duct Tape® fans mean the world to us and we're committed to keeping you safe. So, this year no need to wear your one-of-a-kind creation to prom — get crafty at home and share your Duct Tape® prom wear virtually. Need more information? Check out our updated Stuck at Prom® Contest rules for details. Create and wear your original & unique prom wear using Duck® brand duct tape and/or Duck® brand crafting tape.

Description: It's the coolest scholarship contest around, that's what. Students are challenged to create and wear their own prom outfits made entirely from Duct Tape for the chance to win scholarship cash! Head to the entry form. Then, submit at least one high-resolution photo of you decked out in your Duct Tape® prom outfit plus all the required entry info during the contest entry period. If you're under 18 years. old, don't forget to get your parent's permission.

Award: \$500 up to \$10,000

Deadline: June 8, 2023

Application: <http://stuck-at-prom.com/>

Abbott & Fenner Business Consultants Annual Scholarship

Eligibility:

The A&F Scholarships are available to all high school juniors and seniors as well as all students currently registered in any accredited post-secondary institution.

Instructions: To apply for this scholarship, you will need to write an essay on the topic below. The essay should be between 500 and 1000 words. Your submissions must be sent to us by email at: scholarships@abbottandfenner.com. Describe your educational career and life goals. Explain your plan for achieving these goals. Include your degree/major, why you selected it, and how this degree/major will help you achieve your post-secondary goals.

Award: \$1,000

Deadline: June 10, 2023

Application: <http://www.abbottandfenner.com/scholarships.htm>

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 Undergraduate Scholarship Program

Eligibility:

- U.S. Citizen
- 18 years of age by April 1 of your Senior year
- 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
- 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 time frame. 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, 2023

Application: <https://www.cia.gov/careers/jobs/undergraduate-scholarship-program>

Make Way for the Milk Snake

By Jean McKim,
Imagine Planet

Imagine Planet is participating in the Nascar Foundation's Nascar Day Giveathon, spanning 75 hours of giving online from May 16th at 5 pm to May 19th at 8 pm. Stay tuned to our website and Facebook for more information. We will have some neat Nascar stuff to win!

Our big news this month is that Poseidon, our Pueblan milk snake, has returned to being on display. We wrote about him in our June 2022 article, but this time we will be comparing him to other milk snakes.

All milk snakes have bands or banded blotches and are native to North and South America. There are 25 subspecies, which are geographical in nature. The eastern milk snake lives here in Michigan and the eastern United States. Recognizable with tan bodies and reddish-brown splotches ringed in black, they are sometimes confused with the copperhead in the south. Don't worry! Copperheads are not native to Michigan!

The other subspecies are all variations on the red, black, and yellow bands that imitate the venomous coral snake. These are more common in the southern United States, Central America, and South America, where the coral snake lives. Since the coral snake does not live in the northern United States, such coloration would give the eastern milk snake a disadvantage in camouflage.

A visit to Imagine Planet will give you an opportunity

to see two different subspecies of these colorful milksnakes: Poseidon, our Pueblan, and Neptune, our Stuart's.

The Pueblan milk snake (*Lampropeltis triangulum campbelli*) is found in the wild in Central Mexico, in dry desert areas. The Stuart's milk snake (*Lampropeltis triangulum stuarti*) is found on the Pacific slopes of El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and northwestern Costa Rica in tropical forests and coastal plains. The wild colors are similar, but captive-bred snakes have been bred for color morphs or varieties, and these are not naturally selected but artificially selected. Some captive morphs would be a disadvantage for these snakes in the wild, but are beautiful and highly prized by collectors.

We adopted Poseidon from the Cascades Humane Society about six years ago. We acquired Neptune at the Jackson Reptile Show in April of 2023. They can't live in the same cage as milk and king snakes are cannibalistic. However, we are fortunate to have the opportunity to compare them here at Imagine Planet.

Stop by Imagine Planet or visit us at Southside Summerfest on Saturday, May 27th, from 11 am to 6 pm at Elnora Moorman Park in Jackson.

Imagine Planet is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 12 pm to 5 pm. Come by and visit and check out our Facebook page! Admission is always free.



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Jackson County Health Department’s D.R.I.P. – Developing Responsibility in Our Peers – Teen Council

Promoting Youth Voice & Peer Mentorship in the Jackson Community

By Jasmine Isaac,
Teen Pregnancy
Prevention Coordinator,
Jackson County Health
Department



Founded in 2006 through a collaboration between the United Way of Jackson County & the Jackson County Health Department, the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative provides in-school health education programming and after-school leadership opportunities for teens aged 15-19 in Jackson County. The Initiative is led by Jasmine Isaac, the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coordinator, and a unique teen council of community leaders called D.R.I.P. – Developing Responsibility in Our Peers. Together, they create and utilize a variety of projects to promote youth voice and peer mentorship in Jackson.

The D.R.I.P. teen council’s most recent project

was a collaboration with the Jackson County Intermediate School District for its Day of Discovery, which is an all-county teachers professional development day. The teen council hosted a workshop entitled “The Teen Point of View,” where they answered questions gathered from school administrators and principals on the pros and cons of the school experience, mental health, technology policies, and inclusive sexual health education. Teens were able to answer pre-determined and follow-up questions live for over 100 school administrators and staff during this workshop.

In addition to promoting youth voice in the community and schools, the D.R.I.P. teen council has spent the year focusing on middle school mentorship. Council members present alongside their coordinator and lead breakout sessions on topics such as healthy relationships, mental health, peer pressure, and stress. Teens also share stories and advice to students on how to handle these issues while

transitioning from middle to high school. The D.R.I.P. teen council plans to expand its mentorship projects to elementary schools this spring by creating the Lunch Buddy Project. The Lunch Buddy Project will aim to help 5th-grade students prepare for the transition to middle school by providing them with a positive teen mentor to build a trusted relationship with during the lunch and recess hours throughout the school year.

The D.R.I.P. teen council has been featured on W.I.L.X. News and a variety of local news and social media outlets for not only its community efforts but also its work in creating a fun, safe, and inclusive place to make friends, become a leader, and most importantly, be a teen.

If you have a teen that is interested in becoming involved in the D.R.I.P. – Developing Responsibility in Our Peers – teen council, please contact the program coordinator, Jasmine Isaac, at (517) 768-2150 or jisaac@mijackson.org for more information.



The DRIP teen council prepares for their Zoom Q&A “The Teen POV” for teachers and administrators.



Jayden Potter leading a breakout session on stress with middle school students at Columbia Middle School.



Talytha Lewis, Kennedy Lee, & Keiyera Johnson preparing for their WILX News 10 Interview.



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5 Ways to Upgrade Your Remote Workspace

Family Features - With remote and hybrid work schedules here to stay for many Americans, it's important to have a space dedicated to comfort and productivity. The initial transition to remote work may have involved setting up an impromptu workstation at the dining room table. However, creating a long-term, functional home office can be one of the first steps in increasing efficiency, focus, and productivity.

Whether your work area is a spacious room, small den, or desk in a quiet spot in the house, these ideas can help you create a space where you enjoy working.

Select the Perfect Location

While some remote workers have a spare bedroom or den they can dedicate as a home office, others may need to create a multi-use area in which office space occupies another room, such as the dining room, family room, or basement. If you have several options for your workspace, consider how lighting and sound may impact your ability to focus.

For example, positioning your desk near a window can help increase your mood and reduce boredom. Similarly, if possible, choose a location where noise from other family members moving around or traffic outside will be less of a distraction. Earplugs or background noise can help drown out sounds if you're restricted to a specific location in your home.

Keep Color in Mind

Colors can influence productivity and mood, so it's important to consider them when designing or updating your workspace. Avoid white, which can lead to boredom, and instead choose a color scheme that can make a positive impact. Warm colors like red or orange can increase energy; blues are relaxing and can help keep blood pressure down; and green can help re-

duce stress. An on-trend option like the Granny Chic Home Office from Wellborn Cabinet, Inc., can be set up in nearly any area of the home to create a stylish workspace. Featuring Premier Series cabinets with Napa doors in an olive finish and satin nickel hardware, this desk and hutch also includes base and crown moulding to help set it



Photo by Domenico Loia on Unsplash

apart as a space devoted to productivity. Plus, accessories like a wastebasket pullout, drawer inserts and dividers, and tiered organizers can make organization easy.

Choose a Desk and Chair

Start by measuring your space to see how large of a desk you can accommodate, then decide between a traditional desk or trendy adjustable-height version, which can allow you to sit and stand throughout the workday and has

been shown to provide health benefits in addition to increasing work performance. An ergonomic chair with a padded seat and armrests is also a must-have to provide lumbar support and increase comfort while seated.

Find Storage Solutions

Storage is one of the most critical aspects when designing your home office. To avoid clutter and keep documents and other items organized, consider options such as built-in cabinets and shelving, base cabinets with desk file drawers, utility cabinets, and wall bookcases. You can even customize your cabinets and choose from a wide selection of styles, including traditional, transitional, casual, formal, contemporary, or eclectic, with options from Wellborn Cabinet.

Add Plants and Decor

Office plants provide numerous benefits, including improving air quality and increasing productivity. In fact, a study published in the *Journal of Environmental Horticulture* found productivity increased 12% when workers performed a task on a computer in a room with plants compared to those who performed the task in the same room without plants. Low-maintenance species such as orchids and succulents also produce a pleasant aroma and earthy atmosphere to decrease stress.

In addition, consider your space's decorations if you will be conducting video calls. If your home office doesn't have much natural light, place a light source behind the camera. While the background for your calls should be relatively neutral, a mural or art on the walls or shelves can complement your professionalism and add a creative touch to your space.

Find more home office inspiration at Wellborn.com.

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Featured Photo: Owner Aimee (Right) with Bailey showing off a beautifully framed piece of art. They pride themselves in personalized professional service in custom framing since 1998!



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