



FREE

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

JACKSON AREA COLLABORATIVE KNOWLEDGE SOURCE

## Walk, Roll, & Stroll is Back!

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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**

# 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 series.

and July 16, 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. Shorter routes are available.

The events will be split between Ella Sharp Park and Cascades Park, with the first Tuesday event listed each month, May 7, June 4, and July 2, at Ella Sharp and the third Tuesday, May 21, June 18, and July 16, taking place at Cascades.

For the Ella Sharp events, participants should meet in the soccer field 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 successful programs over the past two years. "These events are a fun and easy way to get active this spring and summer," said Julie Weisbrod, the City's Active Living Coordinator. "We thank AARP for this continuing partnership to get our residents walking, rolling, and strolling through parks."

Prizes will be awarded at the completion of each event with a grand prize awarded on July 16. 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.



Photo courtesy of the City of Jackson

the **LEARN SAFETY AROUND WATER**

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**JACKSON:** (517) 888-3768  
[greatstartjackson.org](http://greatstartjackson.org)

**HILLSDALE:** (517) 257-9287  
[greatstarthillsdale.com](http://greatstarthillsdale.com)

Community Action Agency is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Learn to Love Your Hometown

# Discovering Your Passions

By Val Herr



If you know me, you know I'm passionate about a diverse range of things-my family, ensuring everyone has access to the arts, my gardens, food, and even saving furniture I find on the side of the road. I'm a complex individual, and perhaps my passions are a result of growing up in Jackson, or maybe I'm just fortunate to live in a place where all my interests can thrive. Either way, I'm grateful to call Jackson my home.

Spring is here (hopefully), and spring is a time of rebirth and renewal. Have you discovered your passions? If yes, what are you doing to fulfill your soul? If not, then there is no time like the present. Take time, slow down, and figure out what excites you, what you look forward to, and what makes your heart-

beat just a little faster.

Are you passionate about ensuring that everyone has food on the table every day? If yes, consider volunteering at a local food pantry or supporting Grow Jackson.

Are you passionate about ensuring kids can read? Our schools are always looking for volunteers to support kids' reading.

Are you passionate about nature and preserving it, volunteer at the Dahlem Center.

Are you passionate about our elderly and ensuring they are cared for? Volunteer at one of our many retirement/care homes.

Are you passionate about something that Jackson doesn't offer? If so, I bet you are not alone. You can create something that fills your soul and brings people together. Have courage!

Jackson is a wonderful place because of the people who live here. Do your part, find your passion, and help ensure Jackson stays a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

discover  
your  
passions

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Museum Day support provided by Jackson District Library.

[ExperienceJackson.com/MuseumDay](https://ExperienceJackson.com/MuseumDay)

# Jackson County Animal Shelter's Adoptable Pets: Onyx and Cheetah

Contributed by the Jackson County Animal Shelter

### Onyx

Meet Onyx, a two-year-old American Staffordshire mix that came in as a stray. Onyx is a friendly fellow who prioritizes his human above all else. His favorite activity is heading outside for a good walk. While he's house-trained, Onyx is not the best fit for households with cats. 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 mandatory 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.

### Cheetah

Cheetah is a lovely seal point Siamese who is 14 years old. She was surren-

dered due to her owner's health issues and is quiet, calm, and a little shy. Cheetah embodies the classic Siamese traits: striking blue eyes, slender frame, and an intelligent demeanor. Siamese are known to show immense loyalty and form strong bonds with humans. Stop by and meet

this sweet 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 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](http://Petango.com-Shelter) Details. Current Shelter Hours: Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri 10:00-4:30, Thu 10-7, Sat 10-4:30.



**ENROLL TODAY!**

**JPS Free Public Montessori K-5th Grade Program**

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# Let's SPRING into Some Fun & GET OUTSIDE!

*By Angela Turner,  
Community Action Agency*

Spring has arrived and brought with it rain, warmer temperatures, and sunnier days ahead; it has also brought with it the opportunity to get outside more. Many of us have experienced the joy that comes with running, jumping, playing, and soaking up the outside, but have we stopped to think about the benefits of outdoor play on a child's development?

We have all heard about our indoor voice and outdoor voice, or "No running inside the house!", inside play tends to be more structured due to its environment, but outdoor play allows for children to play larger: When we are outside, we can yell, run, jump, pull and more- it is a play centered around freedom and expression. This less structured environment helps build a child's sense of independence and confidence as they use their body to make larger movements and grow to trust their body.

According to the National Institute on Health, "Outdoors can be described as an open and constantly changing environment, where it is possible to experience freedom, gross, and boisterous movements, and contact with natural elements (2017)." The natural elements we encounter, such as sunshine, have a direct relationship to our

physical wellbeing, research shows that Vitamin D (which we get by being in sunlight) is essential for bone growth development, mood regulation, and boosting the function of our immune system. This is one tiny example of the benefit of outdoor play on our physical development.

Exploration is another benefit of outdoor play. Exploration allows for problem-solving, creativity, persistence, and the opportunity for extended learning. As children explore new areas, they use their bodies in new ways to understand, traverse, and create meaning within their environment. Our outside environment changes

and shifts: grass grows and withers, creatures can show up, temperatures change, clouds move and so much more - it makes for a new experience each time. As children work to understand this evolving environment it creates moments where their caregivers can teach/extend speech, gross motor skills, science and more.

The benefits of outdoor play are so much more than is mentioned here, but one thing is truly agreed upon: OUTSIDE PLAY IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF A CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT, so go ahead and GET OUTSIDE!

A few ideas for outdoor time include:

### Infants

- Tummy time outside on a blanket
- Provide opportunities to touch grass, leaves, and sand
- Go to a park where they can hear new sounds and be exposed to language

### Infants & Toddlers

- Blow bubbles to help develop awareness
- Play peek-a-boo
- Play with colorful balls

### Young Children

- Go on a nature walk
- Water play
- Create an obstacle course



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



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# The League of Women Voters 'Go Vote' Poster Contest

*Contributed by the League of Women Voters Jackson Area*

The League of Women Voters Jackson Area is inviting all high school students registered in Jackson County, Michigan, to submit original artwork to raise awareness and celebrate our citizens' ability to vote and shape our democracy. Through the "Go Vote" Poster Contest, the LWVJA is seeking creative and inspirational entries as a call-to-action, focusing on the importance of voting and using our votes to influence the direction of our democracy. Throughout its 104 year history, LWV has remained a non-partisan organization. Therefore, the submissions may not include endorsements or criticisms of individual candidates or of political parties.

Awards of \$250.00 each will be made to the top three entries as determined by a panel that includes artists from the community and LWVJA members. The top three submissions will also be displayed locally in public venues and featured in LWVJA promotions and

information.

For more information, go to <https://lwvjackson.org/poster-contest>. The contest entry form can be completed on the website and the finished project submitted. The deadline for submitting contest entries is June 14, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. No late entries will be accepted. Winners will be notified and announced by June 24.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, non-profit organization with the mission of Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy. With these goals in mind, the LWVJA members have provided voter education opportunities and events in the Jackson community. Through the Go Vote poster contest, the LWVJA hopes to engage young citizens and share their vision and enthusiasm with the community.

The League of Women Voters Jackson Area is excited to witness the creativity and passion of young citizens as they express the significance of voting and civic engagement through their artwork.



## GO VOTE ✓ POSTER CONTEST

**The League of Women Voters Jackson Area invites high school students to design an original poster to promote voting and engagement in our democracy.**

The contest is open to students registered in grades 9-12 in Jackson County MI.

Seniors who graduated in 2024 may also participate.

Cash prizes of \$250 each will be awarded to the top 3 winning entries.

Completed artwork must be submitted by Friday, June 14, 2024

For contest rules and to enter the contest:

[lwvjackson.org/poster-contest](https://lwvjackson.org/poster-contest)



**Entries must be nonpartisan and cannot support, demean, or defame any political party or persons.**

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' OF THE JACKSON AREA

The League is nonpartisan and does not support or oppose political candidates



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Registration

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Graphic Design



Detroit Free Press

*Jackson*  
CROSSING

June 2nd 1PM 2024 Down Town Jackson

# Happening at Imagine Planet this Month: Fossil Day!

By Jean McKim, Imagine Planet

I am so excited about all the neat things happening at Imagine Planet - especially FOSSIL DAY on May 18, 2024. As of this writing, we have two paleontology professors signed up to be there to identify any fossils you may bring in. Maybe you want confirmation of what you thought you had or want to learn more about identifying fossils. Both are bringing special collections to complement Imagine Planet's collection. We are looking for sponsors and

volunteers for this fantastic event. As always, there will be activities for all ages, so bring the whole family! This event is FREE!

Also on that day, The Big Seed will be at 730 Tomlinson St, and Makerspace, Our Neighbor's Keeper, the Armory Bike Union, and Imagine Planet will be having a GIANT SIDEWALK SALE from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. No, we won't be selling any animals.

We also have programs available at Imagine Planet for Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, homeschool groups, and

other groups for a \$2 per person fee. Call 734-358-9893 for details. Outreach programs are also available.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates on special theme days. Some possibilities are Microscope Day and the ever-popular Snake Day. Please send us your suggestions.

Our hours through the summer will be the same as all year round. We are open 12-5 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Our animal ambassadors are on duty and waiting to be visited.

treat yourself to art that makes your heart smile at [ivebeenframedjackson.com](http://ivebeenframedjackson.com)

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# College & Career Access Center, May Scholarships

## Michigan Youth Livestock Scholarship Fund

### Eligibility:

The eligible applicant must be:

- a graduating high school Senior or a high school graduate
- continuing their education at an accredited institution in the year in which they are applying
- a resident of Michigan.

For the MYLSF Scholarship they must be a youth exhibitor at the Michigan State Fair (2009 or before), the Michigan Livestock Expo or the Michigan Dairy Expo for a minimum of three calendar years prior to the year of application. For the Statewide Scholarship they must be a youth exhibitor at a local, county, state-wide exhibition or state fair for a minimum of three years prior to the year of application.

### Description:

Selection criteria consist of completed applications which include essays, letters of reference, and transcripts.

Completed applications will be judged on:

1. fair participation
2. leadership
3. volunteerism and
4. scholastic standing

Preference will be given to applicants pursuing agricultural or related fields.

Award: \$1,000 - \$5,000

Deadline: May 15, 2024

Application: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/animals/exhibitions/mylsf>

## Bill Cowden Memorial Aviation Scholarship

### Eligibility:

- Applicant must hold a current Private Pilot Certificate and plan to pursue advanced training in aviation.
- Applicants must submit a one-page, typewritten essay giving their reasons for pursuing advanced training in aviation, a professional resume and one letter of recommendation related to aviation skills.
- Available to pilots in the Midwest, limited to: ND, SD, NE, KS, MN, IA, MO, WI, IL, MI, IN, and OH.

Description:

Bill Cowden passed away at the age of 47 in an air show performance accident in June 2014. Those who knew Bill remember his attention to detail and hunger to attain each subsequent aviation rating. His passion was honing his aviation skills and promoting aviation activities in all their forms.

It is in this spirit and in his loving memory that his wife, Heather Cowden, reached out to the Community Foundation of Dunn County to establish the Bill Cowden Memorial Aviation Scholarship. It is Heather's hope that aspiring pilots who lack the financial resources to pursue advanced pilot training will be able to fulfill their dreams in Bill's memory.

Award: Maximum award of \$1,500

Deadline: May 15, 2024

Application: <https://cf-dunncounty.org/funds-2/scholarships/cowden-aviation/>

## MGMA Midwest Section Scholarships

### Eligibility:

- The applicant must be a student member of MGMA and must be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate degree program relevant to medical practice management, including public health, business administration, health care administration.

• Applicants must reside in MGMA Midwest section states (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin) and enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate degree program relevant to medical practice management.

### Description:

The ACMPE Scholarship Fund Inc. (SFI) is a program that supports individuals who, by virtue of the experience gained through current position and plans, demonstrate a strong potential for contributing to the medical practice management profession.

Award: \$2,500

Deadline: May 21, 2024

Application: <https://www.mgma.com/membership/get-involved/scholarships>

## B. Davis Scholarship

### Eligibility:

- There is no age restriction.

• Available to all high school juniors and seniors, as well as all students currently registered in any post-secondary institution.

• This is not an academic scholarship, but we would like to know where you are going to school now and what your future academic plans are.

• Please do not send transcripts or letters of recom-

mendation at this time.

### Instructions:

To apply for this scholarship, you will need to write an essay of less than 1000 words on:

- Describe the three characteristics of leadership you value most.

• Discuss why you believe that these traits are so important and how you feel that they are developed in an individual.

Your submissions must be sent to the committee at [awards@studentawardsearch.com](mailto:awards@studentawardsearch.com)

Award: \$1,000

Deadline: May 21, 2024

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

## LGBTQ+

### Fashion Scholarship

#### Eligibility:

- U.S. citizen or permanent resident

• High school student with a minimum 3.25 GPA.

• Identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered (LGBT)

• Students must submit all relevant materials, and

• Have a desire to work in the industry after graduation.

### Description:

In an effort to encourage LGBTQ+ high school students to pursue a career in the fashion industry—whether in fashion design, marketing, merchandising, or other related fields—we offer an incentive through our scholarship program. The BOMME STUDIO Fashion Scholarship provides additional funding funds to supplement the costs of studying fashion at any US-institution (university, college or trade school).

### How to Apply:

1. You must submit an essay of at least 1,000 words on one of the topics below:

- Vision: Describe your goals and action steps that you plan to take towards pursuing a career in fashion.

• Adversity: What challenges have you faced and how have you overcome them to pursue your dreams?

• Entrepreneurship: What are some ideas that you have had to start a business in fashion?

### 2. Fashion Sketches

Show us your work! We know you are just getting started in fashion, so it doesn't have to be perfect. Send us up to 5 sketches so

we get a sense of your style and creativity.

Send us a cover letter, essay in word or PDF format, and images in PDF format to [scholarships@bommestudio.com](mailto:scholarships@bommestudio.com) with subject line: Fashion Scholarship Applicant: [Your Name]

Award: \$500-\$1000

Deadline: May 31, 2024

Application: <https://www.bommestudio.com/fashion-lgbt-scholarship>

## The American Indian College Fund Full Circle Scholarship Program

### Eligibility:

• U.S. citizen or Canadian eligible to attend college in the U.S. under provisions of the Jay Treaty.

• Enrolled in a certificate, associate, bachelor's, or graduate program at an accredited tribal, public, or private (non-profit) college or university.

• Full-time enrollment (Full Circle applicants only).

• Registered as an enrolled member of a federal or state-recognized tribe, or a descendant of at least one grandparent or parent who is an enrolled tribal member. Alaska Natives may use Native Corporation membership. Learn how to prove descent or trace Indian ancestry.

• At least a 2.0 cumulative GPA. Your scholarship may require a higher GPA to maintain eligibility. The American Indian College Fund (the College Fund) provides scholarships to American Indian and Alaska Native students attending tribal colleges and universities. The College Fund also provides a limited number of scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students attending accredited public and non-profit private colleges across the United States.

Award: Varies

Deadline: May 31, 2024

Application: <https://collegefund.org/student-resources/scholarships/scholarship-programs/>

## Humanity Scholarship

### Eligibility:

• Available to any incoming freshman applying for Fall 2023 academic semester admission as well as any currently enrolled undergraduate student with 12 units or more.

### Description:

Record a video (maximum length of 2 minutes) sharing a persuasive pitch

for why ending human trafficking is important to your generation. Follow the instructions below for uploading your video and consider the following prompts:

• Why is it important to address human trafficking and child exploitation at this point in time?

• Thousands of companies are unwittingly being used by organized criminals to facilitate human trafficking. Why is it critical for companies to be proactive about preventing these types of crimes?

• How do we lower the risk of trafficking for vulnerable populations and bring visibility to those who feel invisible?

• Why is this issue time critical?

• How can we raise awareness and vigilance about this issue among Gen Z for themselves and others?

• How does this campaign to end trafficking improve humanity?

Award: One \$25,000 award and five \$1,000 awards

Deadline: May 31, 2024 at 12 a.m. PST

Application: <https://studentscholarships.org/scholarship/20741/humanity-scholarship>

## Founders for IT Education Scholarships

### Eligibility:

• A declared computer science/CIS/MIS/IT major with an overall and major GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent)

• A student who has satisfactorily completed at least one full semester of college (12 semester hours or equivalent)

• Enrolled as a full-time (12 semester hours or equivalent) undergraduate student at an accredited institution in the United States

• A U.S. Citizen or U.S. Permanent Resident

The selection committee will choose the scholarship recipients on the basis of scholastic ability, leadership potential and financial need.

Award: Varies

Deadline: May 31, 2024

Application: <http://www.edfoundation.org/scholarships.htm>

*For the full list of monthly scholarships, please visit the College and Career Access Center's website at [jacksoncac.org/](http://jacksoncac.org/)*