

FREE

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

JACKSON AREA COLLABORATIVE KNOWLEDGE SOURCE

## Spring Moving, Cleaning, & Strolling

- pages 2 & 3



[www.jacksfamilyguide.org](http://www.jacksfamilyguide.org)



2025 MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JUNE 21	PAWS IN THE PARK	Cascades Park
JULY 19	BLOOMS & BREWS	Cascades Humane Society
SEPTEMBER 27	PUNCHLINES FOR PAWS	Commonwealth Commerce Center

For More Information: [www.chspets.org](http://www.chspets.org)



## 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  
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# Moving Soon? Avoid These Common (and Costly) Mistakes

Contributed by  
**TRUE Community Credit  
Union and their partner  
GreenPath  
Financial Wellness**

Planning a move soon? You're in good company. According to Zillow, June is the most popular month to move, with many families and individuals packing up during the summer to take advantage of better weather and school breaks.

Moving comes with more than just boxes and change-of-address forms—it can also be a major budget-breaker. The average cost of a local move is about \$1,250, while a long-distance move can run upwards of \$5,000, according to Forbes.

Ahead of summer's biggest moving month, here are some common pitfalls to avoid.

## 1. Underestimating the Total Moving Costs

It's easy to focus only on the cost of the moving truck or professional movers; however, there is a lot more to factor in. Think: packing supplies, utility deposits, cleaning fees, gas, meals on the go, and potential hotel stays. It adds up quickly.

Tip: Build a moving budget before you do anything else. Include a buffer for un-

expected costs—it will save you stress down the road.

## 2. Not Gathering Multiple Quotes

Hiring movers? Don't go with the first quote you receive. Prices can vary widely depending on timing, services, and distance.

Tip: Round up at least three estimates and ask about discounts—some companies offer deals for students, military members, or off-peak days.

## 3. Forgetting to Cancel or Transfer Services

Overlapping services (like cable, internet, or utilities) can cost you double if you're not careful. Forgetting to cancel gym memberships or local subscriptions can leave you paying for things you no longer use.

Tip: Make a checklist of every service tied to your current address, and schedule transfers or cancellations at least two weeks in advance.

## 4. Skipping the Decluttering Process

The more stuff you move, the more it costs. Plus, hauling boxes of things you don't use just makes unpacking that much harder.

Tip: If you have not used it in the last year, donate

it, sell it, or toss it. You will save on moving supplies and labor—and your future self will thank you.

## 5. Not Accounting for Post-Move Expenses

It is easy to think the spending stops once the moving truck pulls away. Setting up your new home often comes with additional costs, like new furniture, cleaning supplies, and restocking your pantry or refrigerator.

Tip: Set aside a portion of your budget specifically for post-move purchases. Even just a few hundred dollars can help you settle in comfortably without resorting to credit cards.

## Need Help Creating a Budget?

TRUE Community Credit Union partners with GreenPath Financial Wellness, a trusted national nonprofit, to offer free financial counseling and tools to help you manage life's big transitions—including moving. Whether you need help building a budget, managing debt, or planning for your next step, GreenPath is here for you.

Visit our website, [TRUECCU.com](http://TRUECCU.com), for more information on GreenPath and other free educational and financial resources.



Photo by cottonbro studio



# Get Active with the Walk, Roll, 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, Stroll Jackson series.

The events are scheduled for May 6, May 20, June 3, June 17, July 1 and July 15, with registration starting at 6 p.m., warm up at 6:20 p.m. and the program commencing at 6:30 p.m. Participants will go on non-competitive 3-mile routes through local parks. Shorter routes are available.

The events will be split between Ella Sharp Park and Cascades Park, with

the first Tuesday of the month, May 6, June 3 and July 1 at Ella Sharp and the third Tuesday, May 20, June 17 and July 15, 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 three 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 15. For more information, please call the Jackson Parks and Recreation Department at 517-788-4040.

*"These events are a fun and easy way to get active this spring and summer."*



Photo courtesy of the City of Jackson

Walk Roll Stroll Jackson participants in Ella Sharp Park June 2024.

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## 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/).





# Jackson County Animal Shelter's Adoptable Pets: Mayberry & Maggie

Contributed by the Jackson County Animal Shelter

### Mayberry

This sweet senior is Mayberry, an eight-year-old American Staffordshire mix who came in as a stray. He gets along well with other dogs and greets them with a wagging tail. In the cat room, he was calm and mostly uninterested. Mayberry is gentle with his food and doesn't mind you taking his bowl. He would do best in a quiet home without small children or too much commotion. Mayberry loves his stuffed toys and cuddles up with them in his bed. He also enjoys sunbathing and taking cozy naps. Mayberry's adoption fee has been fully sponsored! 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.



### Maggie

Meet Maggie, a petite two-year-old calico weighing just eight pounds. She was surrendered by an owner who had too many animals. Maggie is friendly and enjoys being petted, though she may be a little shy at first. She would thrive in a quiet, patient home. Maggie gets along well with other cats and dogs. When she's happy, she loves

to make biscuits with her paws. Her striking green eyes look like she's wearing eyeliner—she's as beautiful as she is sweet. Stop by and meet this gal today at the Jackson County Animal Shelter, 3370 Spring Arbor Rd., Jackson, Michigan. Cat adoption fees are \$60 for one cat, \$80 for two, which will include applicable tests, vaccines and spay/neutering. Any necessary medical procedures may slightly postpone an adoption. 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.



# Cascades Humane Society's Pet of the Month

Contributed by Cascades Humane Society

This month, we have Fiddle looking for his forever home!

Meet Fiddle, a one-year-old mixed breed full of energy, charm, and a serious love for tennis balls. This playful pup has a zest for life that's contagious — whether he's chasing his favorite toy or making new doggie friends, Fiddle is always up for a good time. He's already built quite the social circle and would do

great in a home where he can keep up his playful ways and continue making furry companions. Fiddle is neutered, microchipped, up to date on all vaccinations,



and has tested negative for heartworm, so he's more than ready to head home with his new family!

### About the Cascades Humane Society

Organized and incorporated in 1952, Cascades Humane Society is dedicated to improving the lives of animals, promoting responsible pet ownership, and creating lasting connections between pets and families. If you are interested in donating, volunteering, or learning about other ways to support CHS, please call 517-787-7387 or email hgolightly@chspets.org to learn more.



2024

IMPACT

CHS

Cascades Humane Society

1,187

TOTAL ADOPTIONS

11,247

POUNDS OF PET FOOD GIVEN TO PETS IN NEED

990

OWNED CATS & DOGS SPAYED OR NEUTERED

4,103

VOLUNTEER HOURS



Hometown Eats

May 2025 Edition: Artesian Wells Tavern

By Val Herr

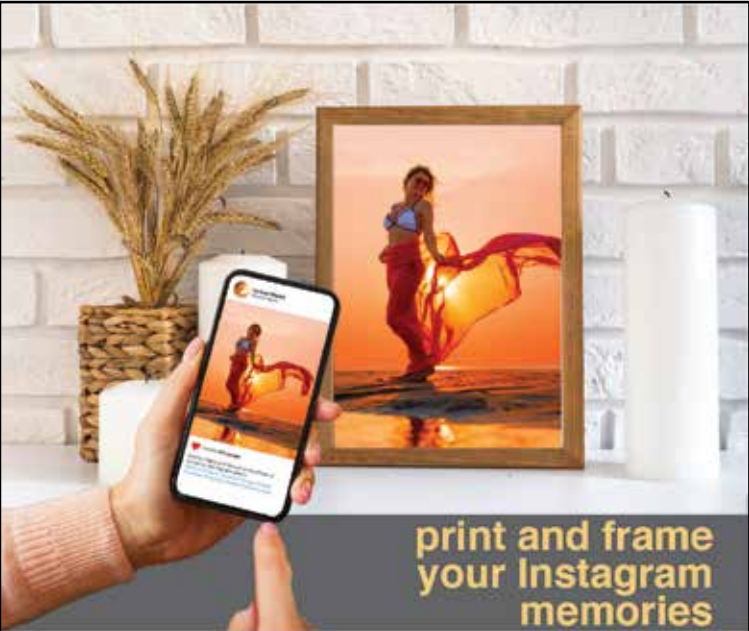
Artesian Wells Tavern, or as it is affectionately called, "The Wells," is located at 18711 US-12 Cement City. I spent quite a bit of time there in my younger days listening to live music, dancing, enjoying cocktails, and hanging out with friends. It was a great place to unwind after a long week.

The Wells was originally a watering hole on the Chicago trails. For over 130 years, people have enjoyed their great food and beverages.

Recently, we met up with our grown kids to enjoy a wonderful lunch. Even though it's been years since I went there, I found the same charming dining room, friendly staff, quality food at good prices, and a nice break from our daily lives. With five of us, we were able to sample quite a few of their menu options. My family enjoyed their pizzas, burgers, fish platters, a baked Italian sandwich, and brisket platter. Each serving was more than enough for one person to enjoy and share.

I highly recommend you take the short trip down 127 South to grab lunch or dinner.

I give The Wells 4.0 stars.



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# From Bluey to Ballroom: June Programs for All Ages in Jackson

By Claire Fetterman,  
Jackson School of the Arts

Summer is officially on the horizon, which means it's time to start making summer plans. If you're looking for fun, creative ways to spend your time (or keep the kids busy), consider exploring camps and programs at Jackson School of the Arts. Whether you're into dance, painting, gymnastics, martial arts, or even memorable date nights, there's something on the calendar to help you kick off summer in a fun and inspiring way. Here are some top picks for June classes:

**For Young Creatives:** Kids who love art and imagination will get a kick out of themed art classes like Mudpies and Moonbeams or Bluey's Art & Dance Class. These sessions are perfect for kids ages two to eight who want to explore painting, drawing, and storytelling in a playful setting.

**Dance For All Ages:** Dance classes aren't just for little ones. Although there are plenty of beginner-friendly options for ages five and up, like Hip Hop, Ballet, and Tap, there are also aerial arts classes (yes, hoops and silks!) and Ballroom dance for teens and

adults. If you've ever wanted to try something new, this might be your chance.

**For the High-Energy Crowd:** Got a kid who seems to have endless energy? Sign them up for gymnastics! Classes start as young as 18 months (with a parent) and go all the way through beginner tumbling for older kids. There's even a Sonic-themed multi-day camp that combines gymnastics with art projects!

**Try Something Bold:** Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu is also on the list of June offerings for ages four to 15. It's a great way for kids to build con-

fidence and learn self-defense in a structured, supportive environment.

Many of these classes are just a few weeks long, so it's a great low-commitment way to explore something new. Whether you're looking to keep your kids active or try a new hobby yourself, June is packed with opportunities to get creative and have some fun.

Check out the full schedule at [jacksonarts.org/summer](http://jacksonarts.org/summer) and see what grabs your attention!

Embrace the summer with creativity, movement, and fun at Jackson School of the Arts!

## Hands-On Science For All at Imagine Planet

By Jean McKim,  
Imagine Planet

As summer approaches, we want to remind everyone that Imagine Planet is open during our regular hours. As always, we're free to visit and open from 12–5 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

The animals remain in legal limbo, and we still don't have much information about their wellbeing—but please know we are continuing to fight to bring them home.

In the meantime, our mission has always gone beyond the animals. Imagine Planet exists to provide a safe, welcoming space where families and individuals can explore hands-on science. We have a wide variety of exhibits and col-

lections, including fossils, minerals, rocks, ocean creatures, skulls, bones, microscope slides, natural objects, puzzles, dinosaurs, an area with no small parts, lots of books, and activities covering chemistry, physics, and even space—featuring real NASA materials!

We want to know what you want to learn about. We're currently planning a dinosaur playgroup hour for our young dino enthusiasts, using our models and books to bring the prehistoric world to life.

Have questions or suggestions? Email us at [info@imagineplanet.net](mailto:info@imagineplanet.net) or call 734-358-9893. We're not going anywhere but up!

Bring your curiosity! See you soon!



**Imagine Planet**  
Explore. Create. Learn. Play

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**JUNE 9 - AUGUST 15, 2025**

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# Graduation Party Planning: 5 Tips to Make Your Grad's Celebration Special

**Family Features** — Graduation marks the end of one chapter and the beginning of another, a significant milestone worth celebrating. However, planning a graduation party can be overwhelming.

To host a memorable celebration for your graduate, consider these tips to help take the stress out of planning.

## Set a Budget and Make a Guest List

When planning a graduation party, it's important to start by setting a budget and creating a guest list. Determine how much you're willing to spend and allocate funds for different aspects, such as food, decorations and entertainment, which can help you stay organized and ensure you don't overspend.

Next, create a guest list of family members, friends and classmates you want to invite. Consider the size of the venue and your budget when finalizing the guest list. It's also a good idea to send invitations out well in advance to give guests enough time to RSVP.

## Choose the Perfect Theme

The theme of a graduation party can help set the tone and create a memorable experience for guests. When selecting a theme, consider the graduate's interests, hobbies and future plans. For example, if he or she is going to college, have a college-themed party with decorations and activities related to the chosen university.

Other ideas include having guests bring items that represent memories with the graduate and creating a time capsule to be opened in the future or a travel theme with wanderlust-inspired decorations, food from different countries, and activities that celebrate adventure.

## Determine Decor

Personalize the party by incorporating elements unique to your graduate's achievements and personality. Display diplomas, awards, and photos throughout the venue. You can also cre-



Photo by Caleb Holden on Unsplash

ate a photo collage or slideshow showcasing his or her journey from kindergarten to graduation. Remember to match the color scheme to the overall theme of the party and use lighting, such as string lights, candles, or lanterns, to help set the right ambiance.

## Organize Food and Drink Options

Food and drinks are an important aspect of any party. Based on your budget and the style of party, decide whether you want to have a sit-down dinner, buffet or finger foods. You can hire a caterer, ask friends and family to contribute dishes or prepare the food yourself if you enjoy cooking. Don't forget to have a variety of beverages available, including non-alcoholic options, and consider any dietary restrictions or preferences of your guests when planning the menu.

Get creative with your food and drinks by incorporating graduation-themed treats. For example, you can serve cupcakes decorated as graduation caps or cookies shaped like diplomas and create a signature drink that represents the graduate or his or her future plans. You can give it a fun name and serve it in personalized glasses.

## Plan Entertainment and Activities

To keep guests entertained throughout the party, plan fun activities and entertainment. Consider hiring a DJ or creating a playlist of your graduate's favorite songs to keep the energy up. You can also set up a dance floor or karaoke station for guests to enjoy. Also, consider activities like a photo booth with props, a trivia game about the graduate, or a memory jar where guests can write down their favorite memories with the graduate.

If your graduate has any specific hobbies or interests, try to include them in the entertainment. For example, if he or she loves sports, organize a friendly pickup game or set up a mini sports area for guests to enjoy.

Find more ideas on how to plan a memorable graduation party at [eLivingtoday.com](http://eLivingtoday.com).

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# College & Career Access Center, May Scholarships

## Michigan First Credit Union Scholarship

**Description:** For individuals interested in attending college or trade school, the Michigan First Scholarship Competition helps those dreams become a reality. Eligible high school seniors, college students or technical college students planning to continue their education may enter the competition.

**High school student eligibility:**

- Be a member in “good standing” with Michigan First Credit Union
- Be a legal resident of the United States of America, age 17 or older
- Be currently attending high school as a senior anywhere in the United States and having a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0
- Plan on attending a U.S. Department of Education accredited college, university, two to four year community, vocational or technical college full time in the summer or fall of 2023
- Have/will have applicable education expenses payable to the college or university the students will be attending.

**College entrants must:**

- Be a member in “good standing” with Michigan First Credit Union
- Be a legal resident of the United States of America, age 17 or older
- Have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0
- Be a graduate or undergraduate student currently attending or planning to attend a U.S. Department of Education accredited college, university, two to four year community, vocational or technical college full time in the upcoming semester.
- Veterans must provide a copy of their honorable discharge papers.
- Graduates must provide proof of diploma)
- Have/will have applicable education expenses payable to the college or university the student will be attending.

**Award:** \$10,000

**Deadline:** May 9, 2025

## Juneteenth Essay Scholarship Application

**Description:** We are thrilled to announce the Jackson Juneteenth Celebration’s steadfast commitment to empowering the educational dreams of our community’s young in-

dividuals. Aligned with our core value of education, and partnering with True Community Credit Union, we take immense pride in presenting a \$1,000 scholarship to exceptional graduating high school seniors, current college students, or those completing or pursuing a skilled trades certificate.

**Eligibility:**

- Must be African American.
  - Must be one of the following: high school senior graduating in 2025, current college student, current trades program participant
  - Must reside in Jackson County.
- Award:** \$1,000  
**Deadline:** May 16, 2025

## The Brower Youth Award

**Description:** All applications must be completed online. Please notify us well in advance of the deadline if you foresee any problems with this process. Applicants must complete their own application. Parents, friends, mentors, teachers, etc. must not complete it on behalf of the student.

In addition to meeting award eligibility requirements and following all instructions to complete the online application, each applicant must submit a self-photograph, and the finalist will be asked for a letter of support from someone who is familiar with him/her and his/her environmental work (cannot be from a parent or guardian)

**Eligibility:**

- Youth environmental change leaders ages 13 to 22 years (as of the application deadline)
  - Living in North America (including Mexico, Canada, some Caribbean Islands)
- \*Residents of U.S. territories are encouraged to apply.

**Award:** \$3,000

**Deadline:** May 20, 2025

## LGBTQ+ Fashion Scholarship

**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 to supplement the costs of studying fashion at any US-

institution (university, college or trade school).

**Eligibility:** 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

**Other materials:**

• 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 the subject line: Fashion Scholarship Applicant: [Your

Name]

**Award:** \$500-\$1,000

**Deadline:** May 31, 2025

## The American Indian College Fund Full Circle Scholarship Program

**Description:** The American Indian College Fund (the College Fund) provides scholarships to graduating American Indian and Alaska Native high school students who plan to pursue certificate or undergraduate programs at Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU) or an accredited non-profit college or university in the U.S.

**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, but the average is \$2,000-\$3,000

**Deadline:** May 31, 2025


*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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