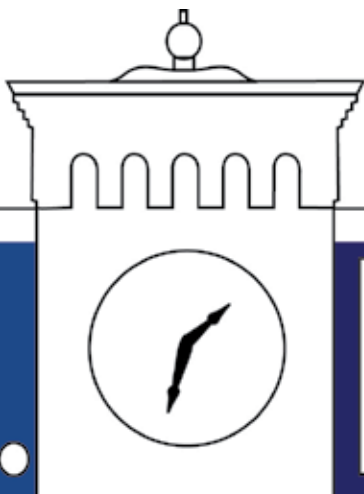
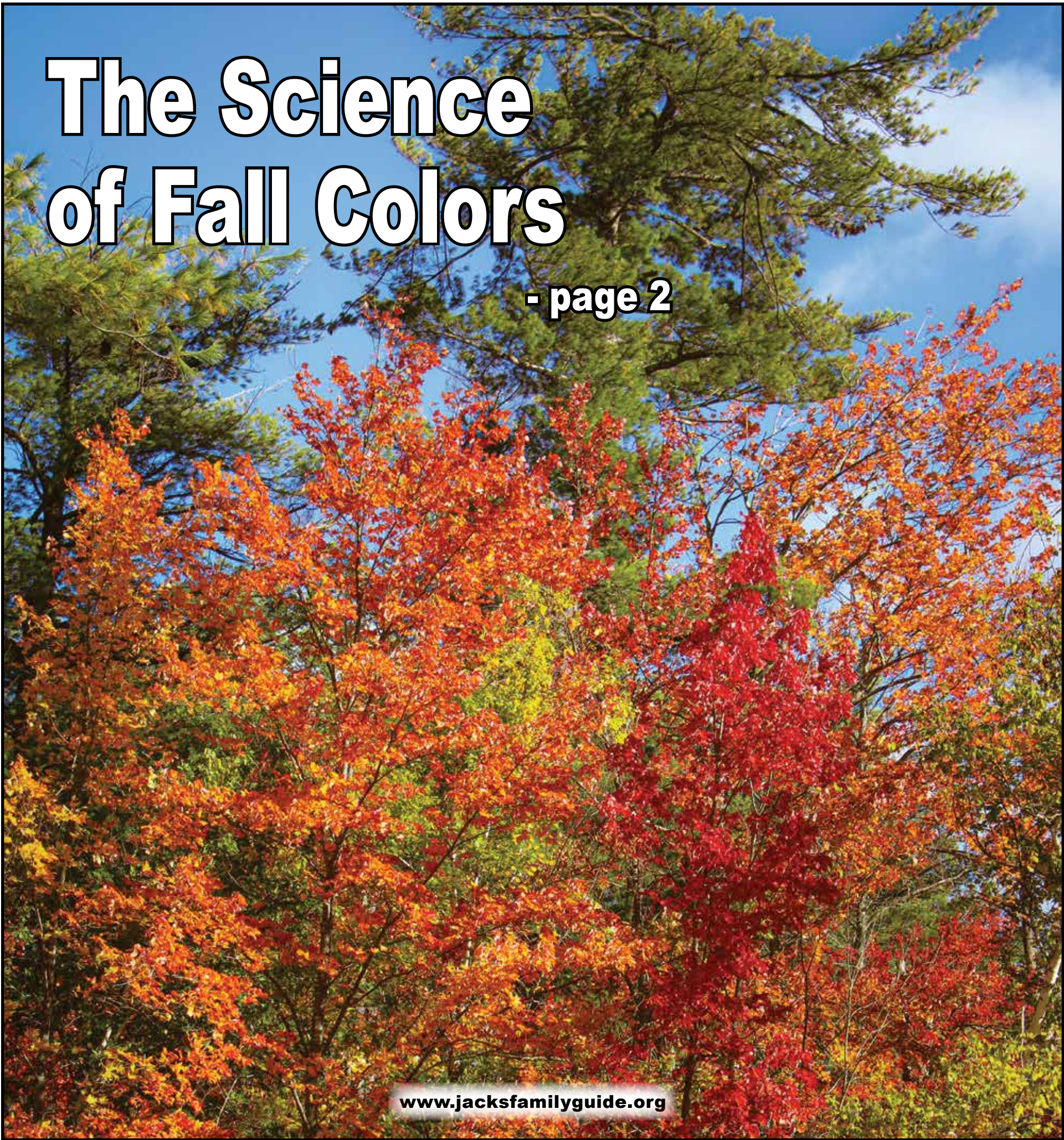




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The Science of Fall Colors

- page 2

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The Science of Fall Colors

*By Jean McKim,
Imagine Planet*

October in Michigan is the time of year for the trees to show off their colors. But what makes those colors and what influences how brilliant they will be in a given year. Thanks to the US Forest Service, we have a lot of information to share about this.

First, what are the chemicals or compounds that make the color? The green of leaves is made by chlorophyll, which is necessary for photosynthesis. Photosynthesis makes the tree's food from the sunlight. Anthocyanin gives us the bright reds, purples, and blues in our plants. Most anthocyanins are produced in the autumn, in response to bright light and excess plant sugars within leaf cells. Carotenoids produce yellow, orange, and brown colors and are always present in the leaves. These colors are overwhelmed by the greens as long as the leaves are producing food.

Certain colors are characteristic of particular species:

- Oaks: red, brown, or russet
- Hickories: golden bronze
- Aspen and yellow-poplar: golden yellow

- Dogwood: purplish red
- Beech: light tan
- Sourwood and black tupelo: crimson

The color of maples leaves differ species by species:

- Red maple: brilliant scarlet
- Sugar maple: orange-red
- Black maple: glowing yellow
- Striped maple: almost colorless

Some leaves of some species, such as the elms simply shrivel up and fall, exhibiting little color other than drab brown.

The timing of these changes vary by species and are influenced by the length of the night and intensity of the light. This is not affected by weather, but the amount of color is. The amount and brilliance of the colors that develop in any particular autumn season are related to weather conditions that occur before and during the time the chlorophyll in the leaves is dwindling. Temperature and moisture are the main influences.

A succession of warm, sunny days and cool, crisp but not freezing nights seems to bring about the most spectacular color displays. During these days, lots of sugars are pro-

duced in the leaf but the cool nights and the gradual closing of veins going into the leaf prevent these sugars from moving out. These conditions – lots of sugar and light – spur production of the brilliant anthocyanin pigments, which tint reds, purples, and crimson. Because carotenoids are always present in leaves, the yellow and gold colors remain fairly constant from year to year.

The amount of moisture in the soil also affects autumn colors. Like the weather, soil moisture varies greatly from year to year. The countless combinations of these two highly variable factors assure that no two autumns can be exactly alike. A late spring, or a severe summer drought, can delay the onset of fall color by a few weeks. A warm period during fall will also lower the intensity of autumn colors. A warm wet spring, favorable summer weather, and warm sunny fall days with cool nights should produce the most brilliant autumn colors.

What does that mean for us here in Jackson this year? The website <https://www.michigan.org/fallcolormap> has up-to-date information about where and when the best fall color will be.



Photo by Nataliia Filipova on Pexels

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*Hometown Eats***October 2026: Napoleon Café***By Val Herr*

If you are looking for comfort food in a casual diner, look no further than Napoleon Café. Nestled in small-town America in Napoleon, Michigan, this family-friendly restaurant serves up traditional diner favorites.

While known for their pies, we recently stopped by for breakfast. I enjoyed the homemade cinnamon

French toast, and Matt was delighted with his meat lover's omelet, which was big enough that he brought half of it home to enjoy the next day.

From the moment we walked in and were greeted until we walked out the door, we experienced excellent customer service. Matt's coffee never reached the halfway point without a staff member offering to fill it.

I especially enjoyed the various groups of people that you could tell met there every Saturday morning. Throughout our morning, we

heard laughs, stories and the sheer joy of people coming together for friendship and quality, consistent food at fair prices.

Napoleon Café is located at 6816 Brooklyn Road, Jackson, MI 49201. They are open every day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

In the busy world we live in, where we are judged by how productive we are every minute of the day, it's refreshing to experience a step back in time where you can linger over a meal, slowly drink your coffee and enjoy life.

Village of Brooklyn Receives First Grant for New Town Square Gazebo

*By Aaron Dimick,
Community and Economic
Development Director,
Village of Brooklyn*



Brooklyn is one step closer to getting a new accessible gazebo thanks to a grant from AARP Michigan. The organization awarded the Village of Brooklyn \$4,000 from its 2026 Age-Friendly Communities Grant Program for the Town Square Gazebo Accessibility Project. This is the first grant the Village has received to help revitalize its gazebo in Downtown Brooklyn.

The Village of Brooklyn is raising funds to construct a new accessible gazebo in the Town Square. The current gazebo is 44 years old and is closed to the public due to its rapidly deteriorating condition and because it is not accessible to people with disabilities. With the new funding from AARP, the Village now has \$7,700 raised of the projected \$75,000 needed for the overall project, which includes the new gazebo structure, concrete base, accessibility ramp, and all other construction costs. The Village aims to have the modern gazebo open to the public in summer 2027.

"We're thankful to have this funding from AARP. It shows their commitment to helping communities of all

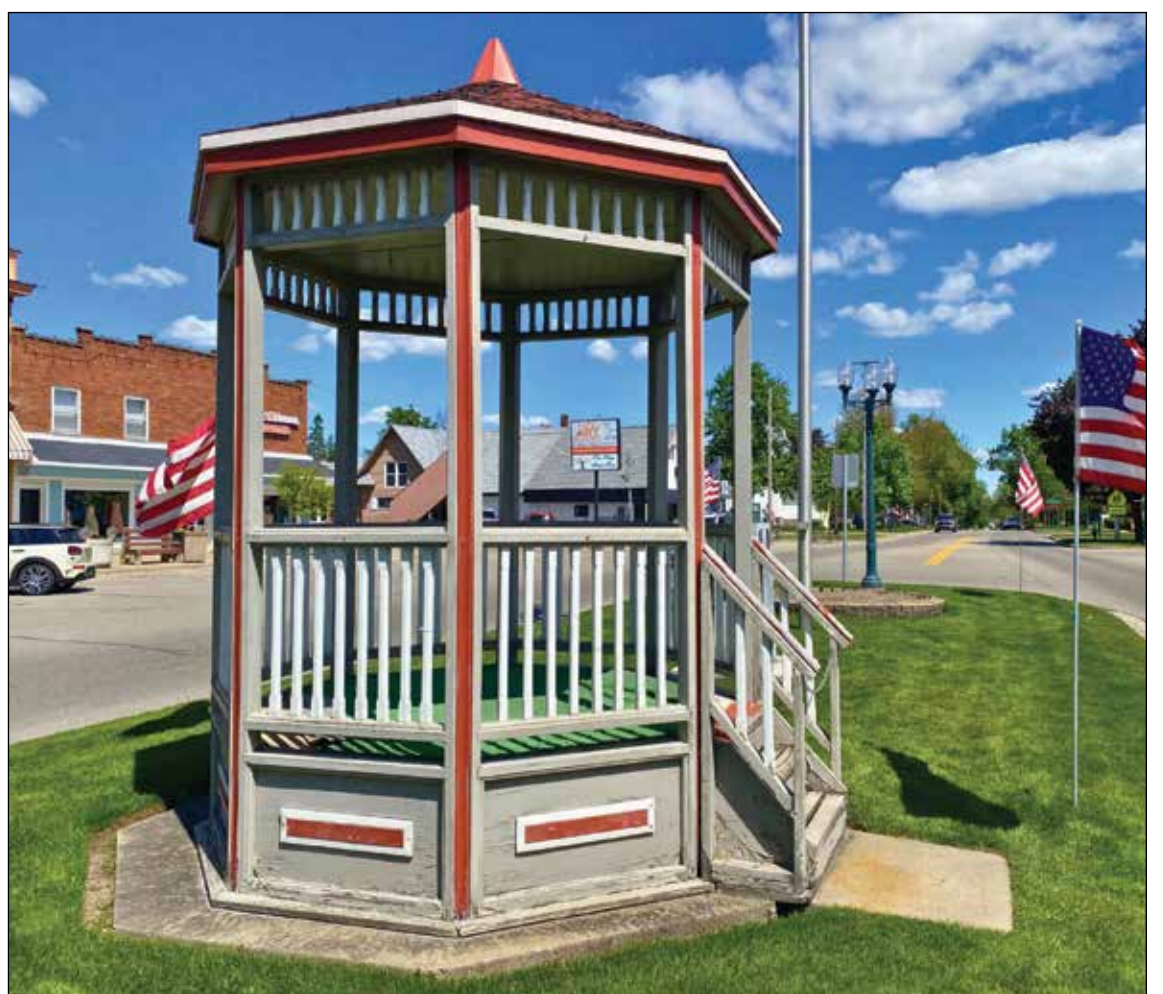
sizes with their age-friendly projects," said Village Manager Matt Swartzlander. "This is the boost Brooklyn needs as we work to provide a new Town Square Gazebo that will serve residents and visitors of all abilities."

In addition to seeking grants, the Village is launching a brick fundraising campaign in Oct. to help fund gazebo construction. The bricks will be installed in new walkways around the gazebo and adjacent Veterans Memorial. There are currently no walkways connecting the gazebo and memorial to downtown sidewalks, making this an important part of the overall project.

The Village of Brooklyn became part of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and States in June 2026. Being enrolled in the program puts Brooklyn on a five-year path to becoming more age-friendly through public improvements and community partnerships.

"We're proud to invest in communities across Michigan and support local leaders who are finding creative ways to make their communities better for people of all ages," said Ramón Harris, Associate State Director for Community Outreach at AARP Michigan.

Other age-friendly projects in Clawson, Cadillac, East Lansing, Traverse City and Washtenaw County were also funded through the grant program.



Photos courtesy of the Village of Brooklyn

Jackson County Animal Shelter's Adoptable Pets: Butser and Bolt

Contributed by the Jackson County Animal Shelter

Buster

This pretty brown girl is Buster, a four-year-old Husky mix who came in as a stray. Buster is a medium-sized pup at 41 pounds. She is a happy girl who enjoys going outside and playing with her canine friends. She is housetrained and likes to walk on a leash. Huskies are independent, high-energy pups who are known to howl rather than bark.

Come meet your new best friend today at the Jackson County Animal Shelter! Dog adoptions require an application, available online at <https://www.co.jackson.mi.us/Dog-Adoption-Application>. The availability date is when the dog becomes JCAS property; any necessary medical procedures may delay adoption. A meet-and-greet with your dog is

mandatory, and a cat room walk-through is available to test their reaction.

Dogs will go to approved applicants. The adoption fee is \$200 for medium/large dogs and \$300 for puppies/small dogs, which includes vaccinations and a microchip.



Jackson County Animal Shelter

Bolt

Meet Bolt, a ten-year-old orange tabby who was surrendered after his owner passed away. Bolt is a big boy at 22 pounds. He loves to be brushed and gets along well with the other cats where he is housed. Bolt will come to greet you and even give you a head bump. He is neutered and looking forward to hanging out in someone's lap this winter.

Come meet this charming fellow at the Jackson County Animal Shelter, 3370 Spring Arbor Road in Jackson. Cat adoption fees are \$60 for one cat or \$80 for two and include applicable tests and vaccines. Adopters will also pay a \$25 refundable deposit to ensure pets are spayed or neutered, and the shelter can provide a list of low-cost options. Any other necessary medical procedures may slightly delay an adoption.

The best way to meet this guy is by visiting the shelter. You can also complete an online adoption application at <https://www.co.jackson.mi.us/DocumentCenter/View/1894/Cat-Adoption-Application-PDF>, or learn more at mijackson.org/579/Animal-Shelter. You can also find the shelter on Facebook or view all available pets on Petango.



Cascades Humane Society's Pet of the Month

Contributed by Cascades Humane Society

Meet Pippi, a beautiful 3½-year-old American Red Heeler mix who is ready to find her forever home! Weighing around 55 pounds, Pippi has gorgeous white and red Heeler patterning and a friendly, energetic personality. She enjoys meeting new people and is always ready to see what fun might be waiting around the corner.

With her high-energy personality, Pippi would thrive with an active family that can keep both her mind and body engaged through exercise, exploration, playtime and mental enrichment. Pippi is heartworm

positive, but she has already completed her treatment and is ready to enjoy life with her new family. Her adopters should continue routine veterinary care and follow their veterinarian's recommendations.



CHS

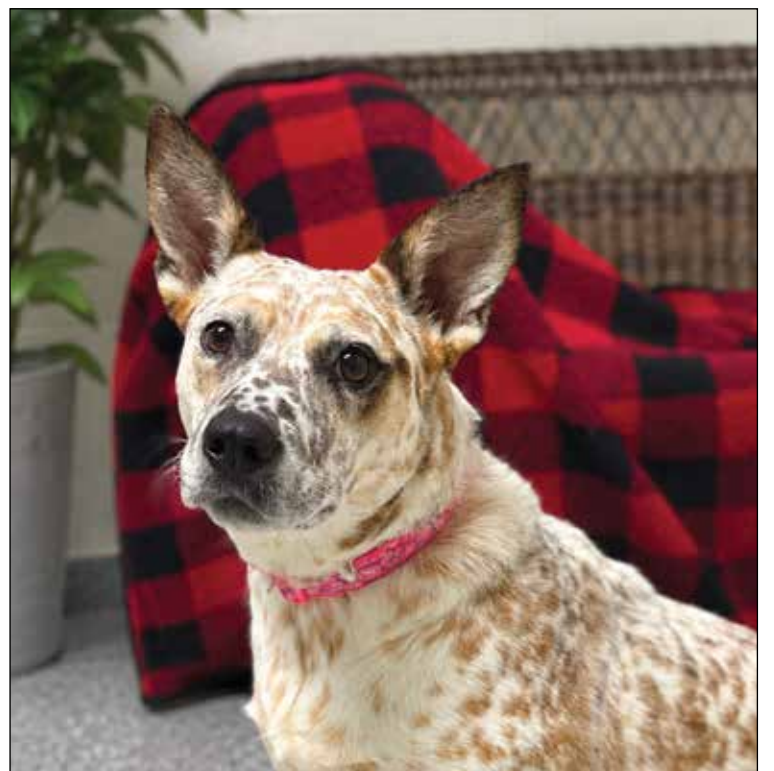
Cascades Humane Society

Pippi recently arrived as part of a shelter transfer and is ready for the fresh start she deserves. She is spayed, up to date on vaccinations and microchipped. Her adoption fee is \$360. For more information, con-

tact Cascades Humane Society at 517-787-7387 or visit 1515 Carmen Drive, Jackson, MI.

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.



2025

IMPACT

CHS

Cascades Humane Society

943	TOTAL ADOPTIONS	26,657	POUNDS OF PET FOOD GIVEN TO PETS IN NEED	1,761	CATS & DOGS SPAYED OR NEUTERED	6,301	VOLUNTEER HOURS
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Trunk or Treat at Cascades Humane Society: Halloween Fun for the Whole Family!

Contributed by
Cascades Humane Society

Get ready to trick-or-treat with a tail-wagging twist! Cascades Humane Society is bringing back its annual Trunk or Treat on Friday, October 30, from 5–7 p.m. at 1515 Carmen Drive in Jackson.

This family-friendly Halloween celebration is the perfect way to enjoy the holiday, and everyone is invited to participate!

Decorate a Trunk & Join the Fun!

Want to be part of the festivities? Anyone can host a trunk! Grab your friends, family, coworkers, organization, or neighbors and decorate your vehicle with a fun Halloween theme. Go spooky, silly, cute, creative—or completely over the top!

Turn your trunk into a haunted house, a magical kingdom, a fa-

vorite movie, a candy wonderland, or anything your imagination can dream up. Costumes are encouraged, creativity is celebrated, and of course, candy is a must!

Trunk hosts get to be part of the fun while helping create a memorable Halloween experience for local families.

Come for the Candy, Stay for the Fun!

Families attending Trunk or Treat can look forward to lots of candy, plus warm cider and donuts to keep everyone fueled for an evening of Halloween fun.

And because this is Cascades Humane Society, you know there will be plenty of four-legged fun, too!

Pet Costume Contest!

Bring your best-dressed pet and enter our Pet Costume Con-

test. Whether your pet is a superhero, princess, spooky creature, famous character, or just ridiculously adorable, we want to see them!

Don't Forget the Adoptable Pets!

As always, some of our favorite guests will be looking for forever homes. Trunk or Treat is a great opportunity to enjoy the Halloween fun while meeting some of the wonderful adoptable animals at Cascades Humane Society.

You never know, you might come for the candy and leave with a new best friend!

Trunk or Treat at Cascades Humane Society

Friday, October 30 from 5–7 p.m.

1515 Carmen Drive, Jackson
Interested in hosting a trunk? Pick a theme, decorate your vehi-



Photo courtesy of Cascades Humane Society

cle, bring plenty of candy, and come have some fun! Contact Community Engagement Coordinator Hayley Golightly at hgolightly@chspets.org to reserve your spot.

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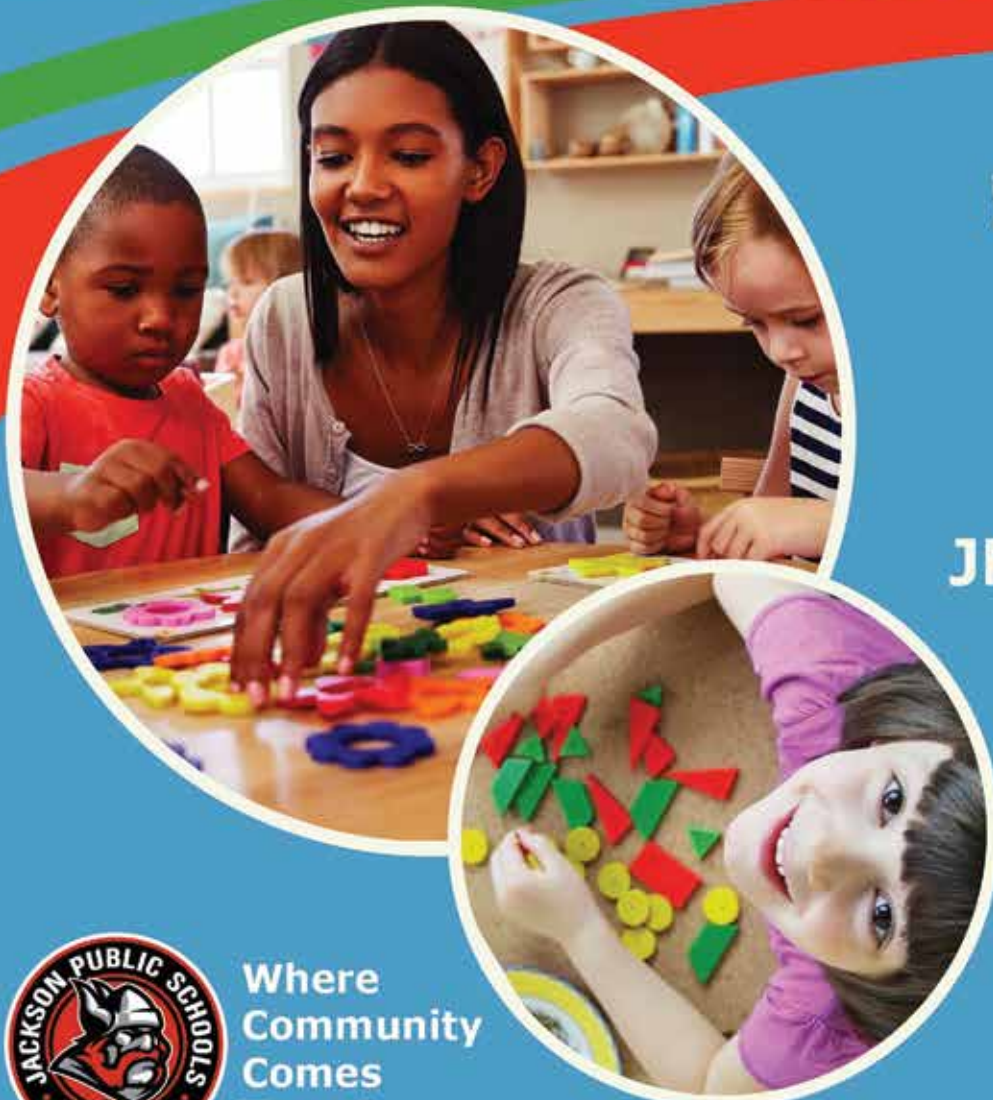
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Golden Glyph: A Toast to Jackson Manufacturing and Collaboration

By *Becky Dorian,*
Lomar Machine & Tool

This October, Lomar Machine & Tool Co. and Ogma Brewing Co. are debuting a new collaboration beer to mark two milestones at once: Lomar's 50th anniversary and National Manufacturing Month.

The two Jackson-area businesses have come together to create Golden Glyph, a crisp, easy-drinking pilsner brewed by Ogma Brewing Co. The name is a nod to Lomar's golden anniversary year. The beer is now on tap at Ogma's downtown Jackson location, giving the community a chance to raise a glass to five decades of Lomar and to the people and businesses that help make Jackson a community where things get

built, created and brought to life.

Lomar Machine & Tool Co., a designer, manufacturer and integrator of standard and custom machinery, has called Jackson home for 50 years. Over

the ground up. The collaboration behind Golden Glyph is a celebration of what can happen when local businesses come together, share their talents and create something new.

The community is invited to join Lomar and Ogma on Friday, October 16, from 4–10 p.m. at Ogma Brewing Co., located at 129 E. Michigan Ave. in downtown Jackson, for an evening celebrating National Manufacturing Month. The event is free and family-friendly, with food available for purchase from Ogma.

Come downtown, try Golden Glyph, and celebrate what gets made in Jackson—and the partnerships behind it. It's a small-batch way of saying thank you to the industry that built this town.

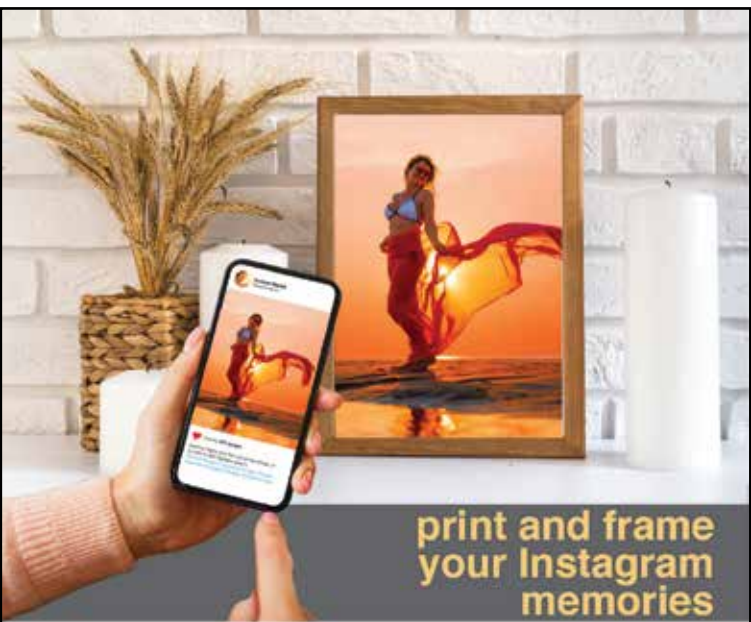


the decades, Lomar's machines have supported customers across a variety of industries, while the company has continued to grow alongside the community it calls home.

Ogma Brewing Co. shares that same spirit of creating something from



Photo courtesy of Lomar Machine & Tool



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Why Consistency Matters More than Perfection

Contributed by
TRUE Community Credit Union

TL/DR: Financial progress does not require perfection. Start with simple, repeatable habits—like automating savings and bills, making small consistent contributions, and reviewing your plan regularly—to build momentum over time.

Your finances don't have to be perfect. Many people run into financial roadblocks because they try to do everything perfectly. The reality is, perfection isn't required to make progress—and chasing it often leads to frustration or giving up altogether.

It's okay to make money mistakes. What matters more is showing up consistently. Here's how to focus on consistency instead of perfection.

Automate Decisions

The biggest enemy of consistency is having to make too many decisions.

If you rely solely on willpower every time you get paid—like manually transferring money into savings—you also create opportunities to skip it or spend more instead.

Why Automation Works

Automating tasks removes constant decision-making and reduces the risk of falling off track.

Automation Action Steps

Here are some steps to automate your success:

- Set up automatic transfers to savings on payday.

- Automate bill payments to avoid late fees.
- Contribute automatically to retirement accounts if possible.

Think Incrementally

Consistency turns small incremental actions into meaningful results over time.

Why it Works

It's easy to overlook small contributions, but they add up faster than you think. Even modest amounts, saved regularly, can grow into something significant.

Action Steps

Small, repeatable actions are more sustainable than big, occasional efforts. Here are some ways to get started:

- Start with an amount you can stick to—even if it feels small.
- Increase contributions gradually over time.
- Focus on building the habit first, not on the size of the contribution.

Review and Repeat

Consistency is more than “set it and forget it.” Your finances, your family, your life, and your job change and evolve. Regular check-ins help you stay aligned with your goals and make adjustments when needed.

Review Action Steps

Think of it as a quick reset to keep everything on track.

- Review your budget and spending every few months.



Photo contributed by TRUE Community Credit Union

- Check your savings, emergency fund, and retirement savings progress.
- Adjust your plan as your income or expenses change.

Keep it Simple

The more complicated the system, the harder it is to maintain over time. Simple systems are easier to repeat, and repetition is what builds consistency.

How to Keep it Simple

- Limit the number of accounts or categories you manage.
- Use tools or apps that simplify tracking.
- Focus on a few key habits instead of trying to optimize everything.

Bottom Line

Building better financial habits isn't about perfection—it's about doing the right things regularly.

Do one thing: Focus on consistency with your budget and finances, not on being perfect.

Visit TRUECCU.com to find more free resources from our partners at Savvy Money or use Savvy Money for free inside Digital Banking.

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College & Career Access Center, October Scholarships

American Trucks Student Scholarships

Description: At AmericanTrucks we are passionate about our mission to Serve the Community that supports us. We've recognized a growing trend in the building trades industry. Educational programs are receiving a lot of attention from national leaders and it's our goal to be involved in a meaningful way. With that in mind, we are pleased to offer 2 x \$2,500 scholarships to students pursuing a career in the traditional building trades such as HVAC, carpentry, electrical, or related fields of study. One scholarship will be awarded for the Fall semester, and one scholarship will be awarded for the Spring semester each year.

Eligibility:

- Must be currently enrolled full-time in an accredited United States technical institute, 2/4 year college/university with a program in construction management, secondary vo-tech school or tuition bearing apprenticeship program in the traditional building trades(e.g. carpentry, HVAC, electrical or related fields of study). Students pursuing certificate programs or apprenticeship programs are welcome to apply.

- Must be currently attending high school and attending an accredited school in the next academic year to one of the aforementioned programs.

Note: All scholarship applicants are required to submit proof of enrollment* when submitting applications with the button on this page.

Award: \$2,500

Deadline: October 15, 2026

NSCA Foundation Scholarships

Description: The purpose of the National Strength and Conditioning Association Foundation (NSCAF) is to support the mission of the National Strength and Conditioning Association by providing funding for educational and research activities that enhance the practical application of strength and conditioning. All general and specific guidelines for each respective scholarship are outlined at the sponsor website and should be closely read by the applicant to ensure all guidelines have been met prior to submission.

Eligibility:

- All scholarship applicants must be National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) mem-

bers at the time of application deadline and must be pursuing careers in strength and conditioning.

- Applicants are not eligible to win more than one scholarship in any given year; however, applications can be made in more than one scholarship category in a given year.

- Applicants are eligible to receive up to two scholarships from each category for which they qualify.

Award: \$2,000 for each respective scholarship

Deadline: October 15, 2026

ExtremeTerrain's Student Scholarships

Description: ExtremeTerrain is offering two \$2,500 scholarships, one for the fall semester and one for the spring Semester to eligible students pursuing a degree in Environmental Studies, Environmental Research, Land Use, Earth and Atmosphere Studies, Sustainable Land Management, Parks and Recreation, or Sustainable Agriculture Systems.

Eligibility:

- Undergraduate college/university students and high school seniors who are pursuing a degree in Environmental Studies, Ecology, Land Use, Earth & Atmosphere Sciences, Sustainable Land Management, Environmental Biology, Sustainable Agriculture Systems. Proof of enrollment is required along with submission.

- ExtremeTerrain Scholarships are non-renewable, however previous winners who are still eligible may submit a new essay that follows the same criteria. Entries are limited to one essay per student each semester.

Required Items:

- Students must submit a 700 – 1500 word essay here that describes who you are, why you feel it is important to maintain access to public lands for recreational use and how you plan to use your degree to advocate for the recreational use of public lands.

- Essays should be submitted as a PDF or Microsoft Word document to be eligible for consideration and must also be accompanied with proof of current enrollment in an accredited United States college or university.

Award: \$2,500

Deadline for Spring 2027 Semester: October 15, 2026

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



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