

The Sign of the Times . . . our 27th annual progress edition

Never before in our nearly 68-year history has the Clarkston area seen such sustained growth and prosperity.

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In your hands now is about a pound of newsprint and ink. Three quarters of which are dedicated to area

business (the remaining pages, of course, are for the area's most complete coverage of local news and events).

You'll read about businesses that have been around for a century to new start-ups. You'll read of sound business traditions and entrepreneurial dreams. You'll see pictures of businesses and the people who run and work in them. Besides the stories and pictures you'll see advertisements announcing new services and products as well as money saving coupons.

This is The Clarkston News' 27th Annual Progress edition, and as every year, it was a massive undertaking by our entire staff -- reporters, sales staff, composition, printing, readying it for delivery, even for our accounting department.

To our staff and the supporting businesses we say sincerely, thank you.

To you, or readers, we say, take your time and enjoy it (and, visit the businesses inside these pages). DPR

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Clarkston News

Award-winning hometown newspaper for 67 years

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Pictured on the roof of one of the homes they're building on E. Washington St. are OTCNW students (front row, from left) Kim Burnside, Dan Burke, Reggie Wiltse and (back row) Kristin Pittiglio, Eric Bucher, John Cronk and Ed Jidas.

Go girls!

Two OTCNW students take firsts in regional building trades competitions

BY ANNETTE KINGSBURY
Clarkston News Editor

Five students from the Northwest Oakland Technical Center on Big Lake Rd. in Springfield Township will advance to the state level competition of VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America), thanks to their performances at regional competition.

The students are all involved in the building trades program at OTCNW. Each year students in the program build two houses; this year they are on East Washington St. behind Clarkston Middle School. Students spend half a day at OTCNW, the other half at their home high school.

Two girls took firsts in their respective competitions. Kim Burnside, a Brandon High School senior,

placed first in the interview skills competition. Dan Burke, a sophomore from Clarkston High School, took third.

Kristin Pittiglio, a junior from Clarkston who is home schooled, took first in the job skill demonstration competition. In this category, students were required to bring in a tool and explain its uses. Kristin chose to bring in her entire tool belt.

In the building trades competition, students were required to build a four-by-four structure with a three-foot-high roof and a window. Reggie Wiltse, a senior from Clarkston High School, took second while Eric Bucher, a senior from Mott, took third.

All five of the above students will advance to state competition. Two other students went to regional competition but did not place high enough for states; they are John Cronk and Ed Jidas, juniors at CHS who competed in the carpentry skills competition.

Rain, rain go away

Almond Lane residents worry about overflow from ponds at new CHS

BY ANNETTE KINGSBURY
Clarkston News Editor

If it rains this week, as it's expected to do, residents on Almond Lane will be watching the water in their drainage ditches, praying they don't overflow.

Almond Lane borders a wetland area that also borders the new high-school site. Two water retention ponds on the site are nearing capacity, and the Independence Township DPW is planning to be ready with pumps and sandbags should they be needed in the next few days.

DPW director George Anderson said Tuesday he was planning to meet that afternoon with the township's engineers to discuss what measures could be taken to improve the water retention system at the high school. That system was approved by township engineers.

Options include digging another retention pond on school property, or creating a drain from the existing retention area to Gulick Lake, off school lands. Anderson said he didn't know as of presstime how much each option would cost.

"The theory we're operating under is that the ground is saturated," Anderson said. "We're retaining a tremendous amount of water in the pond and it's percolating under the soil, as well as sheet runoff that has no retention at all."

According to Craig Kahler, Clarkston schools' Director of Business Services, the retention system is working exactly as it's supposed to. The weather has been the problem.

"Five inches of rain is just unheard of in February," he said. "The ground is saturated." However, he doesn't believe the water filling Almond Lane drainage ditches is runoff from the high school. "I've seen those ditches (before) at the same stage they're at now," he said. "There's water in ditches but it's nowhere near someone's house."

One woman whose mother lives on Almond Lane disagrees. "We've never had that problem in 25 years and the last two years we've had this problem twice," said Barb Armand. She blames the lack of vegetation on the high school site, which Anderson and Kahler also agree is part of the problem.

Kahler said grass couldn't be planted because the pond, originally constructed of dirt, had to be lined with

Continued on page 8A

The News in Brief

School board to discuss redistricting

The Clarkston board of education has set a special meeting for Monday, April 6 to begin to discuss redistricting.

The school district announced March 9 it will build a new elementary school on M-15 just north of I-75, bringing the district total to seven elementaries.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the administration building on Clarkston Rd. No action is expected to be taken; this is a discussion item only.

Bid awarded for Bridge Lake Rd. project

The Springfield Township Board of Trustees unanimously approved a bid which should get paving started on Bridge Lake Road by mid-April.

Ace Asphalt was awarded the project with its low bid of \$577,978. This phase of the project was originally estimated at around \$700,000 without tree planting. Township supervisor Collin Walls said this phase will not complete the entire project of paving Bridge Lake Road.

Middle school presents program for parents

The Clarkston Middle School PTA will present a program entitled "Why feeling so good is sometimes wrong" at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 25 at the school.

The program will be led by Don Kevem,

Director of Support Programs at Clarkston United Methodist Church and a retired teacher. He will talk about why overinflating your child's self-esteem may affect his or her school performance and life experiences.

Kirk resigns from Springfield ZBA

Citing his move out of the township, Harry Kirk resigned his position from the Springfield Township Zoning Board of Appeals last week.

In a letter to township supervisor Collin Walls, Kirk stated that he was moving to Royal Oak and would be unable to carry out his duties on the ZBA.

Walls said there was also an opening on the township's planning commission that came up earlier this week. Anyone interested in those positions should submit a resume to Walls.

For these openings, Walls makes a recommendation to the township board, which then accepts or rejects the recommendation.

Dog licenses available

Oakland County dog licenses for 1998 are now on sale at the Independence Township treasurer's office, 90 N. Main St. between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Costs are \$15, \$13.50 senior citizens, but are reduced to \$7.50/\$6.75 for spayed or neutered dogs. After the May 31 deadline, the price rises to \$30. You must bring proof of rabies vaccination and documentation if the dog has been spayed/neutered.

The Clarkston News

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THE SECOND FRONT

The Clarkston News

Wed., March 18, 1998 3A

OM

An odyssey of the mind

BY ANNETTE KINGSBURY
Clarkston News Editor

Organized pandemonium filled the halls and rooms of Rochester Adams High School Saturday for the annual running of the regional Odyssey of the Mind competition.

Students in all grade levels competed in the event that asks them to be creative and work in teams to solve pre-arranged problems.

Clarkston Schools sent a number of teams, from the youngest elementary level to the high school. Each team had its choice of which category, or "problem," to enter.

For one team from Sashabaw Middle School, Saturday was do-or-die time. Just the night before, their final run-through had taken 15 minutes. The limit was eight. On Saturday they managed to come it at exactly eight minutes.

"We just ad-libbed the whole thing," said Courtney Bollman. Some of the kids had worked in OM together before, so that helped. "For practicing the first time last night we did wonderful," said Siri Zimmerman.

Entered in the category called "Marvelous Mentors," the team had to create and perform a humorous performance about an advertising agency commissioned to make a commercial about a nutritional product. An acclaimed person had to be their mentor.

The team, coached by Mary Ellen McLean and Marty Green, chose Confucius as its mentor. In their commercial they featured original music played live by three of the team members.

The team finished fifth in its division. It wasn't enough to make it to the state level of competition, but the kids seemed happy about how they'd done. "The judges seemed to like it; they came up smiling," said Elizabeth Hunt.

In another room, a team from Sashabaw Middle School and a team from Pine Knob Elementary ended up performing their "Camouflaged Creation" problems side by side—unintentionally, since the Adams gym was being used for two events simultaneously.

In this problem, students had to build a balsa wood structure within certain weight limitations, then pile weights on top of it to see how much it would hold. They also had to build a story around it.

The Pine Knob team, made up of Robyn Lazar, Erika Bradish, Elizabeth Osterhage, Jeffrey Miller, Harley Morse and Caitlynn Tebeau, ended up with 183 pounds on its structure before it gave way. Just before the last weight was added, a loud crack was heard. The team members held their breath and closed their eyes, but the structure held for one more addition.

"I can't believe it held 183 pounds," said Caitlynn. However, the team lost 20 pounds off that because their structure was overweight.

The SMS team consisting of David Hall, Lance Red., Jamison Ronk, Mike Fischer and Matt Jorgenson managed to pile 208 pounds on its structure. The story



From left, Sashabaw Middle School team members Jim Shanks, Amanda Green, Courtney Bollman, Kourtney McLean, Caitlyn McLean, Siri Zimmerman and Elizabeth Hunt pose for a team photo after their performance.



Robyn Lazar (left) and Erika Bradish are all smiles after their performance in the structure-building event.



With the pressure off, Caitlyn McLean (right) hugs teammate Elizabeth Hunt (left) and another team member after nailing their event in exactly the time limit.

they built around it concerned a Navy Underwater Testing Station (they had NUTS on the back of their shirts).

Coach Elena Hall said the team had to shave some weight off its structure at the last minute because it was too heavy. "One of the things we learned is not all balsa wood is of the same weight," she said. "I guess the lesson there is things that look the same are not always the same."

A team from Springfield Plains Elementary finished second in its field, while one other team was disqualified because one child was too old. The team decided to participate on an exhibition level anyway.

OM is a non-profit organization which seeks to foster creative and problem-solving skills. Created by a college professor, it is open to all grades, from kindergarten through college and pits teams against other teams of their own age. Regional winners move on

to state competitions, with world finals culminating the yearly cycle.

In this year's program, regional directors Mo Guy and Sue Hoffman offer these observations:

"There are few places on earth where, in the space of a day, you can see more amazing things than at an OM Tournament . . .

"At last month's Olympics, did you hold your breath while Tara Lipinski attempted her triple-whatevers? Well that nervousness is nothing next to

watching a team member place yet another weight on a structure that surely could not hold another pound . . .

"It is our hope that the creative accomplishments of our teams far outshadow the competitive elements of the day."

For more information about OM, visit the Internet website at www.odyssey.org.

Suspect arrested in Shell robbery

The man police believe robbed a Shell gas station on M-15 near I-75 at gunpoint has been arrested.

Christopher Wells of Pontiac was arrested Thursday, his birthday, and arraigned on Saturday, the day he was supposed to get married, on six counts of armed robbery in connection with incidents in several Oakland County communities, including Oxford and Independence Township.

According to Lt. Dale LaBair, Oakland County Sheriff substation commander in Independence Township, it didn't take his department long to realize all the crimes were related.

"You can pick up trends in a hurry," he said. Witnesses had said the robber drove a white car, had a chrome gun, and didn't wear a mask. He was caught on videotape during a robbery in Waterford, La Bair said. By the day after the Feb. 8 robbery at the Shell station, they knew the incident was part of a series of crimes.

There was a second man in the car as it left the Shell station, according to witnesses, and the second man, who turned out to be a juvenile, was Wells' undoing, LaBair said. The juvenile was identified from a videotape at one of the other robberies and questioned. He identified Wells.

The juveniles, whose name is not being released, is in custody on an unrelated matter. He has not been charged in the Independence case.

LaBair credited the victims of all the robberies for keeping their cool. "The guy was pretty hyper when he came to our station. The attendants he dealt with kept their heads. They were good victims . . . He was a little squirrely."

Board of education

Languages considered for elementary grades

BY ANNETTE KINGSBURY
Clarkston News Editor

A plan to bring foreign languages to elementary students was presented to the Clarkston board of education March 9.

The plan, which is still in the works, could bring one or more foreign languages to children as young as kindergarten. According to Nancy Frumkin, the district's World Language Subject Area Coordinator, the questions still being wrestled with include deciding which languages to add, how many, and how much time to take away from other studies.

Frumkin said the World Language Committee is leaning toward offering Spanish, and using what she called a "concept based" approach, that is, reinforcing material already studied in other subjects, such as math and science, when teaching the language.

The proposal is based upon results of two surveys, one of parents and one of teachers. The parental survey, answered by 1,400 families showed a "great deal of support for the program in the community," Frumkin said. Elementary school teachers surveyed showed almost all supported adding Spanish.

However, school superintendent Dr. Al Roberts said that popularity isn't enough of a reason to change the curriculum.

"Things can be popular and we can do them because they're popular and shoot ourselves in the foot because there's not enough room in the day already," he said. "We need a lot more rationale before proceeding. I don't want that to be misconstrued; those are constructive criticisms."

Roberts said he was especially concerned about trying to add a language, even at only 10 minutes a day, into a half-day kindergarten program. "I think that would be very, very difficult. I think the focus should be on first grade on up."

Frumkin said the intention would be to eventually have a coordinated language program in grades K-12. "Preliminary studies suggest it (elementary languages) will not hurt; it will help languages not offered. But the languages that are offered will need to be revamped for more advanced class work."

The board of education will make the final decision on whether to add languages to the elementary curriculum. Assistant superintendent David Reschke said he hopes to have a formal proposal before the board by its May meeting.

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Springfield Township

Springfield considers new sidewalk ordinance

BY BRAD MONASTIERE
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Many municipalities around the country have been scrambling in response to a recent Supreme Court ruling that cities and townships are liable for sidewalks that abut a public road.

Springfield Township took its turn at understanding the recent ruling, presenting the first draft of a proposed sidewalk ordinance at its regular board of trustees meeting Thursday night.

Springfield Township supervisor Collin Walls said the ordinance was drafted in direct response to the court ruling. It states that townships are liable for sidewalks within public rights-of-way.

Township attorney Greg Need said the logic behind the ruling was somewhat of a surprise, because townships currently have no jurisdiction over roads, but yet are liable for anything that would happen on those same roads.

"The ordinance we drafted addresses sidewalks along county roads," Need said. "We can broaden it if

necessary."

Walls said it's an interesting ruling, because the township can't do anything with area roads without the permission of the Oakland County Road Commission, yet it was now liable for those same roads. Walls said he wasn't sure if the ruling included road commissions in its new liability coverage.

Board members said they felt broadening would be a good idea.

"Would this cover any kind of pathway, like bikepaths?" Walls asked.

"Does this cover sidewalks in condo sites also?" asked trustee Denny Vallad.

The board took no action on the ordinance, instructing Need to address some of their questions and prepare another draft for second reading at a future meeting.

"This first draft only included sidewalks that ran along county roads," Need said. "I'm not sure about the condo site question. If townships require the installation of sidewalks in a condo project, do they then become liable for those?"

Crime falls in Independence in 1997

Overall crime was down last year in Independence Township, according to statistics recently released by the Oakland County Sheriff's Department.

"It just shows the general (national) trend, which is good," said Lt. Dale LaBair, the OCSD substation commander in Independence Township. The township contracts with the OCSD for law-enforcement services.

Areas that did show increases included drunk driving and drug law violations, areas LaBair said his staff is hitting hard.

"I don't think the drug crimes themselves have made dramatic increases, I think we're focusing on it a little more and the guys from NET (Narcotics Enforcement Team) know we're here."

The year-end report showed violations of the Controlled Substance Act up from 28 in 1995 to 56 in 1996 to 73 in 1997 in the township. Incidents of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol were up from 30 in 1995 to 73 in 1996 to 78 in 1997. LaBair said 99 percent of those are drunk driving arrests.

Increased development and the traffic it brings with it were also influential, LaBair said. There were five traffic fatalities, only one of which was attributed to alcohol. "Almost all of those can be attributed to traffic volume," LaBair said.

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The Clarkston News



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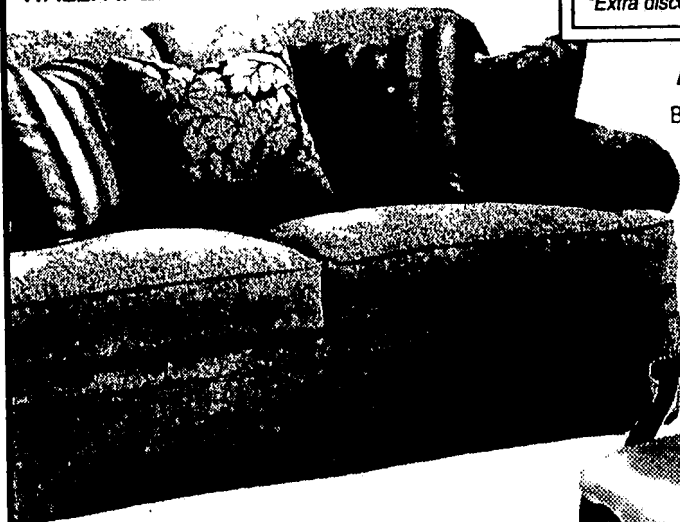
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OPINION

Wed., March 18, 1998 6A

The Clarkston News



IN FOCUS

by Annette Kingsbury

The farewell tour

It hardly seems possible that it's been four years since I first came to Main St. to be editor of The Clarkston News. At the time I didn't know a soul in Clarkston and it seemed so far away. And I'd forgotten how long it takes to make new friends.

Now I'm writing my last column here, as I am set to move over to Lake Orion, where I live, and start the next phase of my career. I've been feeling nostalgic for the last couple of weeks, enjoying the ride in down North Main Street every morning. Revisiting my favorite restaurants and shops. It's not like I can't come back; it's just that I won't have that particular pleasure of strolling down Main on a sunny day at lunch time peeking into windows when I could be working.

People are fond of talking about "assets," and Clarkston as a community has a lot of them. I'll try here to name a few that come to mind:

The residential quality of the village. Too many small towns, including the one where I live, made the tragic mistake some time back in their history of turning grand old homes that line the main street into commercial zones. I've never understood why. But Clarkston has fought this trend tooth and nail, and has a lot to show for it. I feel confident the city fathers will never cave in to pressure to rezone North Main; I can picture them lying down in the roadway before allowing anyone else to move in. Good for them.

The quaint character of downtown. Sure, a town can live without quaint. But such a quality makes it a pleasure to come to Clarkston to browse the shops or have lunch—or to live. It's certainly made me feel good—almost smug—about working downtown. I think it contributes to the notion so many folks have around here that they have a way of life worth preserving, and they should do something to protect it.

Good people: A school superintendent who puts kids first. Parents who work extra hard so all kids can grow up in a safe environment. People who fight to preserve the environment. A township that hires the best consultants to maintain the quality of life. How does one town get so many good people? It all goes back, I think, to creating an atmosphere that will attract quality and make them want to stay.

That doesn't mean this is Peaceful Valley and everything is perfect. Far too many kids drink alcohol, smoke dope and tobacco, sniff inhalants. There's a certain amount of us-versus-them around here, with older residents pitted against newer residents in their palatial digs. There's a little bit too much check waving when demands are made. There's a little bit too much denial when something's wrong, even when so much is so right.

But crime is low, churches are prosperous, sports teams win . . . I'm starting to sound like Garrison Keillor here, talking about Lake Wobegon, "where the girls are pretty . . ." I don't mean to sound that way, but things are good here.

What I'll take with me, what I've learned, is that "assets" can be built, with sufficient effort. And we have a right, as taxpayers, to expect that effort from our elected leadership. But we also have a responsibility, as citizens, to contribute more than just our tax dollars.

Clarkston is no accident. It's the product of over a century of pride and work and preservation. Long may it prosper.

Editorial

What we've learned

As we put together a three-part series on downtown Clarkston that culminates today, the word "vision" kept coming up.

Planners, government officials, DDAs, business owners—all talked about how, in order to make a downtown work in the late 1990s, you have to have a plan, a goal, an objective.

Converting that vision into action must bring together residents, business owners, building owners and city officials in order to be viable.

Does Clarkston need a plan? We believe it does. Can it survive as a downtown business district? We believe it can, though it will have its ups and downs just like countless other small towns. It's managing those cycles that is key.

A subcommittee of Clarkston city council is currently weighing some options regarding the future direction of the downtown commercial district. Those options include bringing in an outside special planner, such as Hyett-Palma or the National Trust, creating a plan locally without expert help, and doing nothing. Their recommendation is expected soon.

We believe a plan is needed, and that professional leadership in its preparation is a good idea. We've seen it work, over and over, in other small towns. There is so much good experience out there, it would be hard to understand the reasons for not utilizing it.

As far as cost, there are several ways of coming up with the money. In addition to grass-roots fundraising, which has already been going on, the city could form a Downtown Development Authority, which would then capture tax dollars. It could also utilize another legal structure known as a Principal Shopping District. Though the city charter may limit some options, both are still available, even in these post Proposal A years.

Other areas to consider include the following:

Roads: Restripe Main St. to include a left-turn

lane as already proposed. Improve curbs and sidewalks to give downtown a more pleasing facade to walkers and those driving by.

Parking: Continue vigorous enforcement of the parking ordinance. Create new parking spots by removing "no parking" areas in and around Main St. Do something about Depot St., where parking was removed in response to a lawsuit. Either bring back parking or landscape it and put in a walkway to make it more attractive and easier to negotiate for those who park down the hill. Better signage enticing drivers to Depot for parking could also help. Depot St. parking shouldn't be the city's best-kept secret.

Zoning: Update zoning classifications to better influence what goes on Main St. As the ordinance currently stands, the city only has two ordinance classifications, commercial and residential. The city could exert more control by differentiating, for example, between office and retail.

In addition, extending the commercial district to include the vacant corner of Main and Waldon should be considered. The city's own planners have told council the commercial district is barely big enough to be viable. Such a change would not imperil the rest of the Main St. residential sector.

Management: Since city manager Art Pappas is retiring, and no one has been found to fill the clerk's position which has been vacant for several years, we strongly urge city council to hire a professional city manager. Such a person would be a leader in helping businesses get through the maze of government regulations and could act as a liaison to a DDA, as well as helping city council manage its affairs and respond to residents' needs.

Since there is very little room left in the city for residential development, it seems logical that future city issues will center largely on business. Businesses pay taxes too, and should expect to receive city services just like residents. Serving one sector doesn't mean short-changing another. AK

DON'T RUSH ME / by Don Rush

Community is what community does



This past Monday I was fortunate to have helped out in an Oxford fund raising effort.

It's not that I enjoyed bussing tables for two hours (It only took me 30 years, but I finally worked my way up to bus boy!), I didn't. I don't like to touch other peoples' food with my fingers -- too slimy and yucky.

All sorts of folks came out to Red Knapp's American Grill to serve food, wash dishes, bus tables, be greeters, bar tenders. Even more came out to enjoy dinner and help the Don Maskill family raise cash to send their son to Poland for medical treatment.

The place was packed with people. I didn't hear one of the volunteer workers complain, even though we were busting our tails. Heck, I didn't hear any of the customers complain at the non-trained "celebrity" (?) waitstaff.

I think I bussed a few folks right out the door a wee bit early by taking their Styrofoam cups before they were ready. But, as I explained I was looking for turnover. The more folks we served the more money we raised -- "So, slurp up the rest of that spaghetti and let's go."

This is one of the reasons I like living and working in this area. It's called community. People willing to take care and work for a neighbor. Over the years I've been involved in just a few fund raisers. But we've reported on a great number.

Communities like Clarkston, Orion, Ortonville, Addison and Oxford always seem to rise to the challenge. It's heartening.

I believe it's a major reason why generations of people stay in these areas and why new folks come here to raise their families. That's why I bought a home in Independence Township.

That's why, after 13 years, I still work with the publisher of this newspaper. Sure, there are better paying jobs at bigger newspapers. But, that sort of goes against the grain of community. At least it goes against my grain.

Sort of a sell out.

So, as long as I can I try to contribute and be a part of the community. Hopefully with the community newspaper, communicating the virtues of our areas, as well as the foibles.

A look back

15 YEARS AGO (1983)

Facing a congressional deadline to opt out of the Social Security program or remain a part of the system forever, Independence Township is opting out. The board votes 6-1 to divorce itself from the federal government's system by 1985, but can rescind the move anytime between then and now, according to Supervisor James B. Smith.

Meetings are beginning to stack up as teacher contract negotiations between the Clarkston school district and the Clarkston Education Association return to full-swing. On Friday, about half of the 290 teachers attend a general membership meeting of the CEA.

Clarkston's basketball season comes to an end with a 81-45 pounding by Flint Central in the opening game of the regionals Wednesday. The Wolves finish the season with a 21-3 record.

25 YEARS AGO (1973)

Much of Clarkston, and Independence and Springfield townships is still snowbound Monday and Tuesday, to the extent that classes are canceled in the Clarkston school system. The freak "St. Patrick's Day storm," starts Friday night with rain and sleet changing into snow. Heavy winds pummel the heavy, wet flakes which continue all day Saturday.

Oakland County Sheriff's deputies are investigating a March 9 incident in which 28 tires were slashed by vandals on vehicles parked along Oak Vista and Clinton. Gary Rollison, who had 12 tires slashed at his home on Oak Vista, on both cars and trailers, says neither he nor his wife heard a thing, but neighbors reported hearing dogs barking during the night.

A coordinated range of medical services is the goal of Clarkston physicians now in the process of building a medical complex at the foot of M-15 off Dixie Highway. Dr. James O'Neill is beginning construction of four or five new medical buildings which will be erected near his newly constructed office on the west side of M-15.

50 YEARS AGO (1948)

News from "By The Way:" This being a Christian community, there will be very little, if any, commercial activity this afternoon from 12 to 3 while our citizens attend Good Friday services in our churches ... While the attorneys for the Village of Clarkston and the bond buyers discuss the legal details for purchasing the Ford property, in Clarkston, it is our thought that with the large vote in favor of the proposition, a way will be found to go ahead and comply with the wishes of the citizens who own the property ... Grass fires are coming into vogue again. If you burn the grass be "Oh so careful." The average small community fire department answers more calls to control grass fires than any other kind of blaze.

Showing at the Drayton Theatre are Rory Calhoun and Rhonda Fleming in "Adventure Island," Leo Gorcey and Huntz Hall in "Bowery Buckaroos," James Cagney and George Raft in "Each Dawn I Die," and June Allyson and Peter Lawford in "Good News."

60 YEARS AGO (1938)

The music department of the Clarkston school certainly should be complimented for the very fine presentation of "Miss Cherryblossom" Friday night. It took a great deal of courage for these young people to appear in public as singers. Special mention should be paid to those who sang solos, including Julia Edgar, the leading lady who was a sweet little Geisha girl. She sang with very little effort, even though she was suffering with a cold.

Playing at the Holly Theatre are Humphrey Bogart, Lousie Fazenda and Frank McHugh in "Swing Your Lady," Joan Crawford and Spencer Tracy in "Mannequin," Alice Faye, Tony Martin, Jimmy Durante and Joan Davis in "Sally, Irene and Mary," and the Jones family in "Love on a Budget."

Specials at Rudy's include sausage, hamburg, oleo or lard, two pounds for a quarter; Campbell's Tomato Soup, three cans for 20 cents; strawberry jam, two pounds for 35 cents; and Bab-o, two cans for 21 cents.

People poll

By Eileen McCarville

Will Clarkston win the state basketball championship?

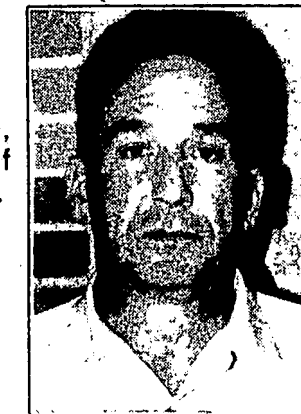
DEBBIE THERRIault, RESOURCE TEACHER: I think they have a really good shot at the regionals, and therefore they have a good shot at the state. They have the best fan support of any school.



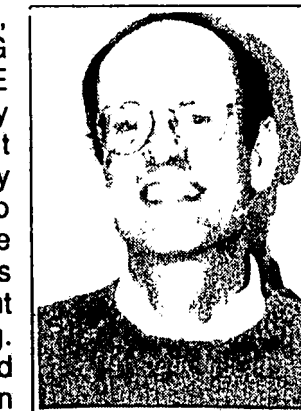
RICH PORRITT, ENGLISH TEACHER AND COACH: I would say that if we can win at regionals, then we have a very good chance of going all the way.



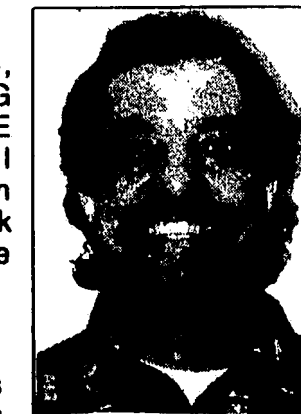
SCOTT BALLARD, CUSTODIAN: Of course. We're good.



HOWARD WEBSTER, LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER: Yes. They have the best chance, in my opinion, of getting to the state championship finals because of the talent and the coaching. Actually, you asked a very good person because I never miss a game.



PAUL SABBAG, LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER: Yes, I believe they can because I think they're peaking at the same time.



All are staff members from Clarkston High School.



JIM'S JOTTINGS / by Jim Sherman

Sunday morning drive in Tennessee

Enroute back to Michigan from Florida we had to spend one night somewhere, so when the clock said it was time, we pulled into a Holiday Inn in Powell, Tennessee.

This exit is one of the last on I-75 to be filled with motels, Waffle House, GP gas-store, Cracker Barrel and Fireworks sales. Our Inn is 6 months old and a Budgetel is about to open as its neighbor.

There's one great thing about this exit just north of Knoxville. That's Aubrey's Restaurant, also an Inn neighbor. Though we had a 45 minute wait for a table, the food was very tasty, friendly served in liberal portions with generous drinks.

This Aubrey's on exit 112 is their second. The first was started in 1993 in another town we never heard of, Farragut, TN. This one opened last year. Hazel's quiche was \$6.45, my barbequed ribs \$14.95.

Enough commercial. We woke Sunday morning hoping to see and hear a terrible weather report on the tube. We had 13 channels to work. One had a cartoon, 12 had preachers. One preacher was calm and gentle. Eleven were excited bible thumpers.

I swear all quoted the book of Genesis, and I know why. It's the first book in the bible and that's as far as they got. Frankly, I don't know if you need more bible knowledge than Genesis, though my favorite pastor of all time, the late Rev Fred Clark, preferred the book Revelations, the last book in the bible.

I got one quote from one of these tv tube presentations, "When the good Lord makes a good man he breaks the mold." Said with a twang and proper emphasis and a guitar background that could be a Nashville hit.

Having been properly saved, but with no knowledge of the weather that lay ahead, we took to the northbound lane.

Evidence of snow storms and winds that passed through Tennessee and Kentucky a few weeks earlier were very evident. Six-inch diameter trees were bent to where their tops touched the ground.

Those along the roadside that weren't bent were broken. Road crews must have had sore arms from having to chain saw so many trees and branches. Piles were every quarter mile and there was much more to do.

Maybe it's the plastic bumpers or maybe it's we old folks on the road, but we noticed very few bumper stickers. Without Burma Shave signs, we need bumper stickers.

We did see the pick-up truck back window decals of a little boy doing his thing on Chevys or Fords. And we saw a sticker: "My kid can beat up on your Honor Roll kid." No, it wasn't the same pick-up.

The "Jesus Lives" and "Jesus Saves" stickers we saw are probably a direct result of the 11 thumpers we saw on tv.

What you get in every sports section of **The Clarkston News**: Game stories, features, previews, Athlete of the Week, In the Penalty Box, etc., etc.

To subscribe, call 625-3370

We can stop urban sprawl

Dear editor,

There was a phrase in Don Rush's March 4 column that really caused me to think about the need to put the brakes on urban sprawl in Oakland County. Rush bemoaned the throwaway architecture and horrendous traffic of Haggerty Road in Farmington Hills as "wall-to-wall walls and malls."

The situation isn't quite that bad yet here in northern Oakland County, but the momentum toward it may be unstoppable.

In 1989, when my family moved from the neighborhoods of Detroit to the woods of Springfield Township, you could travel north on I-75 and see open spaces from Auburn Hills all the way to Clarkston. Now, it's becoming a corridor of cement with all the commercial buildings, subdivisions, and a huge outlet mall that ought to do wonders for freeway traffic volumes.

And in the Clarkston area, it's easy to find yourself in gridlock on Dixie Highway or M-15, but increasingly difficult to locate a pleasant stretch of two-lane road where you can go for a drive and see open farmland and large tracts of timber.

I thus applaud Independence Township's land conservancy efforts and new state laws that attempt to save open spaces from being consumed by developers.

And perhaps there are little things that each of us could do that might help to preserve for our children what little we have left of bucolic splendor in Clarkston. Staying informed and supporting redevelopment efforts in the city of Detroit is one way.

From time to time I turn into the sidestreets of inner-city Detroit and am astounded by the vacant land that exists where blocks of 20 or 30 homes used to stand. An infrastructure of roads, freeways, water and sewer lines is already in place. These areas --and

some of the older suburbs -- are where I believe the majority of new development should be encouraged in Southeast Michigan.

There are other benefits to this centrally focussed approach to development. For example, the Bloomfield Hills company I work for has a difficult time recruiting out-of-state talent because of negative images of Detroit. Supporting the city's rebirth could help turn such situations around. And how many of us escape to Chicago or Toronto for a weekend fix of urban entertainment? Wouldn't it be great if we could find it down the freeway in Detroit?

I recently read that Imlay City, at 50 Mile Road, is beginning to feel the first effects of urban sprawl. I am astonished that it is threatening the gateway to The Thumb.

Certainly there are many things that could be done to put an end to this sort of thing. Supporting efforts to save Detroit -- in tandem with "selective" Oakland County development -- is one of the best because, I believe, in the long run it will help to save the land we have left in Clarkston from being transformed into concrete.

Sincerely,
Len Bokuniewicz

Letters to the editor should
be sent to 5 S. Main St.,
Clarkston, MI 48346

Rain, rain

From page 1A

clay after it didn't hold water as originally planned, based on soil borings. The delay prevented grass from being planted last year.

Letters exchanged by the township's engineering firm, Hubbell, Roth & Clark, and the school district's construction manager, A. J. Etkin/O'Brien, show the experts are clearly worried about the situation.

In a letter dated March 6, Bill Stewart of Etkin wrote to Randy Ford at HRC: "The large retention pond at the southwest corner of the site is nearly full of water ... The wetlands water elevation is also high. Drainage ditches on Almond Lane have water in them ... We fear that with another measurable rainfall, the large pond may overflow directly into the wetlands ... If the pond overflows, it will be uncontrolled."

If that happens, "It'll be a problem," said Anderson. "Houses with basements could be affected." The DPW will be ready with sandbags and pumping.

"We'll do what we can but I don't know if it'll be enough," he added.

Armand is worried her mother's entire life savings, in the form of her home, are at risk. Her mother's next-door neighbor already had water in the backyard as of Tuesday.

"She's going to lose everything she's got," Armand said. "That house is the only thing she's got ..."

"I'm not trying to be mean, I'm not trying to be vicious. But I have a very valid concern."

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THE UNITED STATES
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PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

and

PUBLIC MEETING

on the

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TO THE RECORD OF DECISION**

for the

SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP DUMP SUPERFUND SITE
Springfield Township, Oakland County, Michigan

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) is proposing to amend the 1990 Record of Decision (ROD) for addressing contaminated soil at the Springfield Township Dump Superfund site, Springfield Township, Oakland County, MI. The 1990 ROD amendment called for on-site incineration of contaminated soil and established certain clean-up standards. Based on new information and the results of additional testing, U.S. EPA has determined that a different cleanup method and revised clean-up standards would more effectively address contaminated soil at the site.

U.S. EPA recommends that contaminated surface soil be treated by either 1) low-temperature thermal desorption, 2) solvent extraction, or 3) soil washing to remove PCBs. Subsurface soil would be treated by the soil vapor extraction technique previously selected in the 1990 ROD. U.S. EPA is also recommending the modification of the clean-up standards for the site. Based on information collected to date, the proposed changes to the original cleanup plan would protect human health and the environment, would comply with state and federal laws, and would be cost effective.

A detailed description of the proposed clean-up plan is provided in a Proposed Plan fact sheet which was mailed to the site mailing list and is also available for review at the Springfield Township Clerk's Office, 650 Broadway, Davisburg. An administrative record, containing detailed information upon which the selection of the clean-up plan will be based, is also located at the clerk's office and at the U.S. EPA Region 5 office in Chicago.

Comments on the Proposed Plan may be submitted from March 26 to April 27, 1998 and sent to:

Stuart Hill, P-19J
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. EPA
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604
e-mail: hill.stuart@epamail.epa.gov

Comments will also be accepted at a public meeting:

Thursday, April 2, 1998
7 p.m.
Hart Community Center
495 Broadway
Davisburg, MI

● Tickets are now on sale for the annual Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show at Everest Academy. The show will take place Saturday at 11:30 a.m. Several boys and girls fashions will be on display at the show, which will include lunch and a raffle. For ticket information, call Meg Mathues at 391-9298, or the academy at 620-3390.

● Independence Township is having a garage

sale for old and new equipment. The sale is open to the public Friday from 2-5 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m.-noon. The sale will be at the township's Department of Public Works on Flemings Lake Road.

● Swing into Spring with an oldies but goodies fun event to benefit Eden Alternative Fund. The event will be held Saturday, March 21, 7:30 p.m.-midnight at the Waterford Oaks Activity Center. Cost is \$36 per couple or \$18 per person. Music will be provided by the Grunyons, a vocal jazz group and there will be dance contests. Call 674-9292 for reservations.

● A baked ham supper will be served Thursday, March 26 from 4:30-7 p.m. at the Seymour Lake United Methodist Church in Brandon Township. Call 628-4763 for carry-outs.

● The Clarkston Community Women's Club will meet March 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Independence Township Library for a program called "You Don't Have to be Sick" by Nancy Rigsby. Rigsby will focus on better eating through fruits and vegetables. Call Gail at 623-9462 or 335-6986 for more information.

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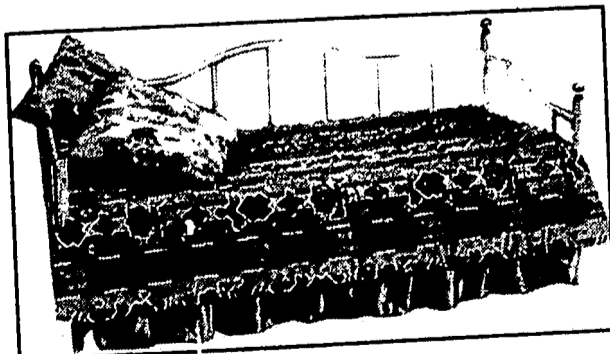


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Our town

What makes a downtown t

Third and final installment in a series on downtown Clarkston

"Yes sir. I tell you, you've got to look both ways before you cross Main Street these days. Gets worse every year... The best thing to do is to just stay home. Why, I can remember the time when a dog could lie down all day in the middle of Main Street and nothing would come to disturb him."

—Thornton Wilder, "Our Town"

BY ANNETTE KINGSBURY
Clarkston News Editor

Since the end of World War II, American downtowns have changed, not always for the better.

According to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the creation of interstate highways and the growth of suburbs that came with them brought about major changes in Americans' lives.

Just as Americans began to see the USA in their Chevrolets, getting their kicks on Route 66, they also began to find it easier to shop and work outside their traditional home towns. Those towns were left to adapt as best they could.

Some disappeared in the competition from big malls. Some attempted to modernize, losing their historic flavor in the process.

Are downtowns still relevant? The National Trust says yes, and many locals would agree. Ask newcomers why they moved to Clarkston; often they'll tell you they fell in love with the town's quaint charm. They didn't find that in sprawling new subdivisions; they found it downtown.

So the downtown, according to the National Trust, is a symbol of a community's economic health, its quality of life, its pride and its history.

It also provides jobs and a tax base for small towns, fosters new businesses that could not afford the big malls' rent, helps control sprawl and, of course, provides goods and services close to home.

Having said that, is there anything that can be done to manage a downtown? Or is it completely at the

'There's an old saying . . .
'If you don't know what you
want, you're going to get
what you got.'

Planner Dick Carlisle

mercy of changing economy, demographics, shopping habits, taxation?

For the most part, the people contacted by The Clarkston News for this series agreed that cities can take steps to help create the kind of downtown they desire. But it takes effort, and it takes working together.

According to Dolores Palma, a partner in the Virginia-based planning firm Hyett-Palma, a common goal and a plan for getting there are essential.

"The most successful revitalization programs have to be partnerships between public and private interests," she said in an article published by the U. S. Small Business Administration. "In these partnerships, the public, business and civic sectors join together and use combined influence to reinvest and reinvent their downtown areas. The most successful partnerships start their programs with a clear, aggressive course of action."

Palma and her husband, Doyle Hyett, utilize a "tool kit," or series of steps to get communities started in a successful revitalization effort within their "America Downtown" program:

● Create your downtown enhancement program by defining the vision, completing a market analysis, and defining an enhancement strategy of actions.

● Form your downtown private-public partnership.

● Begin implementing the downtown enhancement strategy.

● Aggressively fund-raise.

● Hire staff.

● Escalate implementation of downtown enhancement strategy.

● Monitor results and update the downtown enhancement strategy as needed.

The National Trust, which offers a program called Main Street, suggests that a four-pronged approach is necessary:

Design: enhancing the physical appearance of the commercial district;

Organization: building consensus and cooperation among the many groups and individuals who have a role in revitalization;

Promotion: marketing the district's assets to customers, potential investors, new businesses, residents and visitors; and

Economic restructuring: strengthening the existing economic base while finding ways to meet new opportunities and the challenges from outside the district.

Royal Oak

In Royal Oak, all of that seems to be at work. For example, two new trolleys were purchased by the city to get shoppers around the large downtown. The trolleys are leased to the Chamber of Commerce for \$1 and are run by an outside operator.

"We have a wonderful working relationship with the city," said Jeanne Towar, interim director of the Chamber. "If there wasn't we would never have had the trolleys."

Though the downtown is disrupted by 22 trains every day, traffic is increasing ever since I-696 came through. "Most of the blocks have experienced some serious renovation in the last four years," said one business owner on a recent media tour of the commercial district. A Downtown Development Authority has paid for streetscaping, such as sidewalks, benches and planters, and real-estate values are rising.

Rochester

A DDA is one tool that can still be used to revitalize downtowns, even in the post Proposal A years, according to Bob Donohue, executive director of the Rochester DDA. He wonders what his town would do without its DDA.

"There are tangibles and intangibles," Donohue said. "You have to have an extreme amount of cooperation. (Without that) you can throw all the money at it you want and it won't work."

Donohue said Rochester uses the DDA, another legal structure called a Principal Shopping District, and the National Trust's Main Street program. "You need a proven management philosophy, and without question the National Main Street philosophy has proven itself," he said.

Planner Dick Carlisle, who advises Independence and Springfield townships, agrees that proven management is essential.

"I would not advise doing anything without professional help, whether it's a planner or someone skilled in facilitation," he said. But the process has to come from the grass roots, with wide participation, in order to succeed.

"I'm a huge advocate of the visioning process. It's a way to bring people into the process," including government, business owners, building owners and residents.

"It's like going on a trip. You've got to have a destination when you get in the car or you'll never get there. You'll head in 50 directions."



Basketful of Yarn owner Carol West (left) helps Carol Bradshaw with some knitting. West says

Carlisle said the art of planning has changed in the last 20 years from the days when a planner was hired, then went away and came back with a finished plan. "The result was a lot of plans that were not used. It has to come from within. When I work with people I tell them the process has to be participatory or we're not the people you want . . . You have to have a lot of trust in the process. A lot of times the process is more important

'You wouldn't believe all the
people that walk through
town, with their faces peeking
into the windows, looking for
something to do.'

Carol West, owner, Basketful of Yarn

than the end result."

Carlisle, who lives and works in Ann Arbor, said he's seen big changes there in the 23 years he's lived there. Coming in just after Al Taubman's Briarwood Mall opened, he saw a downtown with boarded up buildings. Now, it's booming. It's partly cyclical, he said, but the city helped in the transformation, including the use of a DDA.

Reflecting on downtown Clarkston, he said, "Many communities go through these evaluations from time to time . . . Downtowns have always been evolving. One hundred years ago the focus and types of usage and activities that went on there were very different from today, but they were in a continual state of change, even back then . . . This is another stage of the evaluation of downtown. And my guess is in 20 years it will be very different (again). My point is that those who are frustrated with there's not this or that downtown, it's a response to much bigger patterns."

Whither downtown?

As Carlisle, Palma, the National Trust and so many others have pointed out, cities have to have a plan, a goal, an objective before any movement can be made.

"What is the objective you're trying to reach?" Carlisle said. "Are you trying to promote a physical image attribute to the community? Or are you trying to have a certain mix of uses? If you are, you have to have a basis in reality."

"There's an old saying . . . 'If you don't know what you want, you're going to get what you got.'"

Clarkston property owner Ed Adler, who owns several buildings on Main St. as well as the Food Town markets, said he'd like to see some kind of marketing

Our town

Thrive, and how to get there



her business is doing well, and she loves it in downtown Clarkston.

arrangement that could put people together who have ideas for downtown.

"I had an idea for a store that I wanted to put in," Adler said recently. It would have been an Orvis fly-fishing store where customers could try out the merchandise on the Mill Pond. He feels it's the kind of business that could help put Clarkston on the map. But Orvis requires a certified fly-fisherman to grant a franchise. Just by chance, Adler heard that just such a man had inquired about a storefront in Clarkston, but nobody got his name.

"Here I am looking for a fly-fisherman," he lamented. "This (cooperation) is an example of what Hyett-Palma would suggest."

Adler also noted that in some cities, local government charges a fee to businesses that don't have parking, rather than saying they cannot open.

"And that's how they find the money to improve the parking in those communities," he said. "That's how they built parking structures in Birmingham. When I first brought this up, they all looked at me and laughed (but) people have done it; people are doing it."

In Royal Oak, the city owns most of the parking.

However, negotiations between building owners over parking are allowed, according to Dick Beltz, director of planning for the city. For example, a new restaurant wants to go in but is concerned about where its patrons will park. There is a church across the street which has a parking lot which is used principally on Sunday mornings. By sharing the church can make some money and the restaurant can make its patrons happy.

The city of Clarkston is currently working on a new zoning ordinance to go along with its new master plan. Mayor Sharron Catallo said the city is looking at downgrading its parking requirements so it won't be so hard for desirable businesses to locate here.

"I think it's worth considering," she said. "Some of that has to be realigned because we're requiring too many for the way the modern world operates . . ."

"Having all the parking spots filled on Main St. is not necessarily a bad thing, unless you're trying to be the one to park. But for merchants, that means there's people in the stores." Catallo added that she's in favor of changing the regulations as often as necessary to deal

Continued on page 15A

A tale of two cities

Walled Lake and Howell had different planners, but the same purpose —

saving their downtowns

BY EILEEN MCCARVILLE
Clarkston News Staff Writer

"The lights are much brighter there; You can forget all your troubles, forget all your cares, and go downtown ... everything's waiting for you."

--from "Downtown," sung by Petula Clark

In the sixties, when English songbird Petula Clark warbled her hit, Americans still flocked downtown to their Main Streets for shoes, sodas and the cinema.

But a few years later, the first malls opened, promising protection from the elements and a way to gather all the goods in one-stop shopping. Then came the boom of big-box competition, suburbs and urban sprawl.

Things changed. People weren't loading their car trunks with groceries from the downtown supermarket anymore. They were filling those trunks at the local strip mall. Those who remembered longed for the good old days. Those who didn't, the young families, wanted to reconstruct them.

"Remember Friday nights, when everyone came to town and leaned on their cars, talking?" asks Mary Jane Fox, a Wilmington, Delaware octogenarian profiled in a December "Time" magazine article, entitled "Small Towns."

"You saw your friends, got your groceries, heard the latest news. That was great fun. But that was some time ago."

Today, cities across the nation are getting a wake-up call. They realize the importance of their downtowns and don't want to lose them. Thanks to a little vision, creative financing and the help of your friendly downtown planner, some are reinventing themselves. Two Michigan downtowns are now flourishing because they took the steps to get there.

The City of Walled Lake

Walled Lake has some enviable assets: a charming lakefront, a prestigious restaurant (Bogey's, formerly Key Largo), and a spirit of cooperation among its officials, residents, businesses and Downtown Development Authority.

With a population of 6,700 people, it's still

pleasingly rural, but it's the hub for encircling communities like Wixom, Novi and growing Commerce Township. "Even though we're small, we're the commercial center," says city manager Phil Vawter.

But a few years ago, Walled Lake was in dire straits. The city needed drastic infrastructure improvements, and nearby competition from Twelve Oaks Mall and other shopping centers was draining its retail.

For 20 years, things were talked about but never done, admits Vawter. But in the early '90s, the city embarked upon a major planning project, consulting with both its own planner McKenna & Associates and national planner Hyett-Palma, who worked together. Hyett-Palma completed a downtown marketing analysis and business plan in 1991. The joint study cost the city \$49,000, the total paid to both firms. An update from Hyett-Palma in 1995 cost \$12,000 plus expenses.

"We felt, if we didn't save the downtown, we might have started deteriorating," Vawter explains. Luckily, the DDA was already in place, and assumed the costs. With DDA funding and professional tutelage, the city repaired and added sidewalks and improved the landscape with trees, bushes and antique lighting. The spirit has been contagious, with some of the businesses improving their own buildings.

Downtown has become more business-friendly. A commercial planned-development ordinance hastens approval for building changes. A new parking lot provides leased spaces for businesses who don't have their own. And a downtown banner project went far beyond the city's expectations.

Each business paid \$255 to have its name advertised on the bottom of a bright-blue banner that carries Walled Lake's new logo — a city block and a sailboat. Approximately 115 lamp posts hold the banners, but the city could have ordered more because interest was so great. "The banner company said they had never undertaken a project of this size," says Vawter.

Coincidentally, two major thoroughfares, Pontiac Trail and Maple Rd., were widened at about the same time. Future plans call for extending Maple west to I-696 "because there really isn't a good east-west route into Walled Lake. With having a lake, we're not the easiest place to get to," says Tracy White, DDA business retention and recruitment director.

Continued on page 12A



Left to right, Walled Lake police chief Jerry Walker and DDA retention and recruitment director Tracy White pose next to one of the new downtown banners. To the right is the old "Time For Blinds" building, which will be torn down to make way for the Maple Rd. extension. The business was relocated elsewhere.

Tale of 2 cities

From page 11A

Unfortunately, an old building that housed long-time business "Time For Blinds" will need to be torn down because it falls on the extension path. But thanks to the city's strong retention plan, the business will stay in Walled Lake because it was able to be relocated.

Vawter calls Walled Lake a success story, but still "a work in progress." According to Hyett-Palma and other planners, continual enhancement efforts are necessary. If they are adhered to, the firm predicts Walled Lake "will be able to increase its total capture of the retail market potential to between 30-35 percent by the year 2000."

That is, if they can master the "outside forces," says White, which include a booming Haggerty Corridor and other big-box competition. "We have to sharpen what we have to compete for that extra dollar."

White says the city is now focused on new business recruitment. Up to now, it has concentrated on retention, so businesses won't move to booming Commerce Township. It's called "keeping the neighbors happy," she explains. "We're trying to keep them here."

Hyett-Palma has been a great motivator, she adds. "I will tell you, they are very good about getting people fired up. There's a lot of pressure to follow through. They will get you to act."

The City of Howell

Howell is another example of a collaborative success story. Like Walled Lake, it was a town in transition, facing the threat of big baracudas like Kensington Valley Factory Shops, a large outlet mall.

Searching for identity in the face of change, city manager Mike Herman says the city finally turned aggressive. "So often, we hire a planner. (The plan) sits on the shelf and nothing happens."

But this planner meant business. "We hired Bob Gibbs because we wanted to actively address where we were going. Should we be an entertainment center? Upscale specialty shopping? Should we have a theme like Frankenmuth?"

A \$35,000 study was paid for by the DDA and a local bank grant. The Chamber of Commerce also got involved. "We're lucky. We have a great working relationship between our Chamber and our DDA," notes Herman.

Gibbs, a Birmingham-based planner, told Howell it was losing \$6 million a year to outside retailers, according to a 1997 article in the Livingston County Press. The study began in March and was completed in June. "It was a very concentrated, hectic effort for eight to 10 weeks," says Herman.

But a successful one. Various focus groups determined Howell needed more restaurants, home furnishing stores, a shoe store and a book shop. They wanted a safer, more comfortable route across Grand River Avenue, so they looked at more crosswalks.

In his marketing analysis, Gibbs ruled out some of their ideas. He suggested uses that would balance those

'We have to sharpen what we have to compete for that extra dollar.'

Walled Lake City Manager Phil Vawter

found at the outlet mall, thereby creating "a synergy between the two retail areas to rival the options found in Brighton, Novi and Lansing," says Gibbs in the Livingston Co. Press.

But the city stuck to some of its own thoughts. Herman describes Gibbs as "more hands-on" than Hyett-Palma, which was also considered.

"He'll come in and tell you, 'I can do all those things for you.' But you can tell him, 'I'm not interested in all those things.' We kind of narrowed our focus ... We did some focus groups; I think we did eight of them. I think that was really beneficial."

Gibbs also conducted one-on-one meetings between himself and business owners and landlords. "We talked about rental amounts. Basically Bob said our

rents were too low. Yet there were people who couldn't pay those because they weren't making enough money."

Some suggestions were followed, others abandoned. But the city continues to work with landlords "to make sure they don't convert their space from retail to office, because then we lose a lot of foot traffic," says Herman.

Currently, Howell has refocused its efforts on recruitment and retention. Some franchises, like "The Mole Hole," a gift shop, are interested. But saving the Mom and Pop stores is also important.

Herman says Howell's population is 9,000, but a secondary market area of 40,000 outside the city limits contains many prospective shoppers.

The city is happy with Gibbs' efforts. "We were pleased with the final result." To skeptics, Herman says, "I think you need to go in with your eyes open." And, remember, he adds, there are no instant miracles. "It takes a fair amount of time to do things."

Like other cities, Howell is struggling to keep its identity. "Yeah, right now there's a resurgence and re-interest in downtowns. The thing is, we want to keep it that way."



● In last week's story, it was incorrectly reported that Clarkston Country Store carries paintings by renowned local wildlife artist Russell Cobane. Though his work is not sold at the antique store, Cobane exhibits his collections throughout Michigan.

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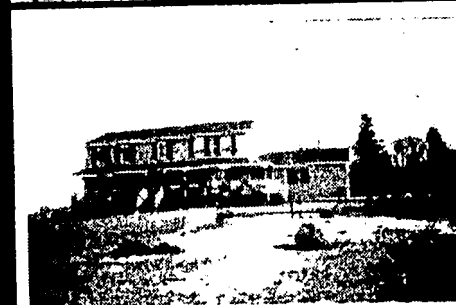
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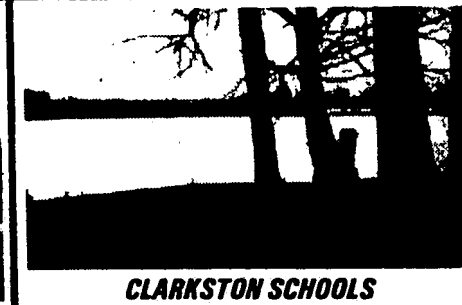
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Park vehicle permits available

Annual vehicle permits for entry to Independence Oaks and other Oakland County parks are now available.

Permits are \$25 for county residents, \$45 for nonresidents and are discounted \$15 for senior citizens age 62 and over. Permits are available by mail from Independence Oaks, 9501 Sashabaw Rd., Clarkston, MI 48348-2064 or in person at the Orion Township Hall, 2525 Joslyn Rd. For more information call 858-0906 or visit www.co.oakland.mi.us.

In service

● **Andrea Key**, daughter of Gloria and David Key of Clarkston, enlisted in the Air Force February 25, 1998. She will attend basic training in San Antonio, Texas and will receive technical training as a security forces apprentice. She is a 1996 graduate of Clarkston High School.

● **Air Force 2nd Lt. Nathan Forbes** has arrived for duty at Keflavik Naval Air Station in Reykjavic, Iceland. He is an intelligence chief assigned to the 932nd Air Control Squadron. A 1993 Clarkston High School graduate, he is the son of Kennet and Daughn Forbes. He received a bachelor's degree in 1997 from Michigan State University.

It's on the web
Information about the Oakland County Board of Commissioners can be found on the county's internet website at www.co.oakland.mi.us.

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What makes a downtown thrive

From page 11A
with changing needs downtown.

Some businesses still like Clarkston

A city council subcommittee composed of city officials, business owners and one resident is investigating possibilities for downtown revitalization. They plan to present their recommendations in April.

Despite the exodus of some significant businesses in the last couple of years, some new establishments have decided to take a chance in downtown Clarkston.

Brent Green, mortgage branch manager for the new Republic Bank in Milieu's old spot on Main St., says the location is advantageous for his business because of the working relationship between banks and

Realtors. He notes there are six real estate offices in downtown Clarkston.

But, he adds, "mixed (usages) would be better. If you have retail, it brings in more different kinds of people." He also thinks the bank's style of service fits in well with the small-town atmosphere.

Basketful of Yarn owner Carol West relocated from Sashabw Rd. to Main St. in December, a year after Calcote Country closed in her location at 5 S. Main St. "I told my husband, I'd really like to move into Clarkston. It's such a great little town and I think they could use a shop there."

She admits she wasn't aware of the struggles others were facing. But "I could see, driving through town, that they needed more retail stores." So far, business is better in the new location. "I'm keeping my head above water," she laughed. West supplements her knitting and crocheting supplies with lessons, repairs and finishing work.

Many loyal customers have followed her. And new ones have told her, "Please don't move. We need you to stay here."

On weekends, especially, West has noticed people strolling in downtown Clarkston. "You wouldn't believe all the people that walk through town, with their faces peeking into the windows, looking for something to do."

One of those faces belongs to Carol Bradshaw, who followed her hair stylist, Davie Chiappelli, when he relocated downtown years ago to open Clarkston Hair Design. It was by accident that she noticed Basketful of Yarn one day, walking to her hair appointment. Now she comes downtown for two reasons.

"One day, I passed the knitting shop. I used to knit years ago. And now I'm hooked."

Eileen McCarville contributed to this report. For an editorial on what we've learned from this series, see page 6A.

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SOLD MAY I SELL YOURS?

Inspirational singer reaps joy from sadness

New CD tells of her amazing journey after husband is slain by gunmen

BY EILEEN McCARVILLE
Clarkston News Staff Writer

"My soul shall make her Boast in the Lord; the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad." (Psalms 34: 1-2)

Five years ago, Gail Elledge had the life she always dreamed of—a loving husband, a beautiful son and another baby on the way. She also had the chance work alongside Dan, her minister husband, singing and preaching together in an enviable setting on San Francisco's golden bay.

But those dreams were shattered one night when Dan didn't come home from their church in Novato.

Earlier, they had both been preparing for an upcoming retreat and Elledge left Dan in his office after they argued, good-naturedly. "We were kind of going back and forth. 'No, honey, I really want it this way.' He gave into me ... He was on the phone when I left, talking kind of intense, so I just waved from the door. Normally, he would always find me and kiss me goodbye."

Later, he called her from the house to say he was sorry he didn't have a chance to kiss her. Because she was pregnant, he told Gail not to worry about dinner, just to rest "and put your feet up. He always told me to take care of myself."

Nevertheless, she had to do some shopping. When she returned, "the answering machine was just peppered with calls. 'Where's Pastor Dan? Someone's been hurt.'" said Elledge, a petite, pretty blond in her thirties.

That someone turned out to be Dan, whom Elledge describes as "a larger than life kind of guy" who hadn't an enemy in the world. When she arrived at the hospital, she found he'd been shot after two men had attempted to rob the church.

A detective asked questions, and a nurse attended to her because of the pregnancy. "He asked what my husband had on, what kind of socks he was wearing. He had on patterned socks, with watches all over them." The detective then said Dan had been murdered.

Elledge immediately went into shock. "I said, 'No, that can't be.' Everybody was just flabbergasted because Dan was so vivacious, so outgoing, everybody loved him. They couldn't believe a person like him could be dead."

When she was asked to identify her husband, a sheet covered his body, but his feet were left out. "I



There's a new girl inside, says Christian singer Gail Elledge, and she wants to share her new-found joy with all creatures great and small, including pet cat Tinkerbell.

know it sounds silly, but I thought of that verse, 'How lovely on the mountain are the feet of them that bring good news,'" she says, her eyes becoming misty.

"And, I thought, oh, truly did those feet bring

Tanks got their name from the British, who developed them during World War One. To conceal their purpose, they referred to them as "water tanks."

good news, because wherever he went, he talked of the Lord and his mercies ..."

Elledge realized her life had changed forever. Her mother flew to Navato to help with Andrew, then 5, and her new daughter, Abigail, who was born on Christmas Day. "That was his last gift. I said, 'Thank you, Dan.'" But, soon, she could no longer afford to stay in Navato and returned to her hometown, Toledo.

For a long time, she was more than bitter. She blamed God for everything. Compounding her loss were many factors. "I lost my home, my church, I had to bury my husband. I was raised without a father. He was an alcoholic. My parents divorced when I was young. So I grew up not knowing the love of a father, but I said my kids are going to know one ..."

She felt like Job—and even contemplated suicide. And why, in heaven's name, was she chosen to suffer? "When I was 7 years old I gave my life to the Lord. At 18 I was doing full-time ministry. And, I was a good girl ..."

Even though people told her she looked wonderful, she was full of pain and sadness. She was tired of hearing people say she'd get over it because she was strong and a preacher's wife.

She desperately clung to her faith, and the words, "All things work together for good ..." but "I was yelling out obscenities to God," she recalls.

Now, as she sits on rose-petaled cushions in her comfortable Clarkston condo, Elledge tells of her "redemption" to a new life filled with peace, hope and happiness.

Things began to change when Greg Priebe, a former Clarkston resident and the couple's former music director, was hired by Mt. Zion Temple as its new performing arts director. He kept up contact with Elledge and coaxed her to Clarkston to sing a few solos. What she found was a congregation and pastor with their arms stretched open after they heard her sad tale. They didn't put pressure on her to perform, but only offered support and prayers for her recovery.

"When Mt. Zion reached out to me, they didn't try to hire me and put me to work. That really impressed me, because they had no ulterior motives, they just wanted to help me. It was the first time I was at church

Continued on page 18A

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Helping girls accept themselves

Middle-school program gets girls thinking about what it means to be 'perfect'

BY ANNETTE KINGSBURY
Clarkston News Editor

A lot has been written about how girls do as compared to boys in school, especially in middle school. Now two teachers at Clarkston Middle School have decided to do something about it.

CMS counselor Marge Dever and teacher Sandra Blomquist decided to offer an after-school support group for girls. They got the idea after attending a program on increasing girls success in math and science at the middle-school level, where they learned that in Michigan as elsewhere in the U. S., fewer girls study higher level math and technology than boys.

The two women and two of their students, Tori Lauzun and Kelly Leonard, made a presentation before the Clarkston board of education March 9. They said the purpose of the group is to give girls a place to openly discuss their stresses and frustrations and learn some coping skills. Membership is by referral from a teacher or parent.

"We have a lot of reasons" for starting the group, Dever told the board of education. "Girls in particular at this age are showing some signs of things that concern us. We know that a lot of girls at this age are developing serious self-esteem problems, including, recently, eating disorders. They often become more quiet and tentative in the classroom. They think math and science are boy things. They think their worth is based on their appearance."

Small wonder. A report entitled "How Schools Shortchange Girls" released in 1992 by the American Association of University Women showed that girls receive less attention in the classroom than boys, even

'What happens if you don't have blonde hair with that little flip on the end? What really is perfection? We need to look at the gifts we do have, not the gifts we don't have.'

CMS teacher Sandra Blomquist

from female teachers, and that sexual harassment in the schools is increasing.

"It is clear that sex and gender make a difference in the nation's public elementary and secondary schools," the report concluded. "The educational system is not meeting girls' needs. Girls and boys enter school roughly equal in measured ability. Twelve years later, girls have fallen behind their male classmates in key areas such as higher-level mathematics and measures of self-esteem."

A later report, "Hostile Hallways," released in 1993, found that while sexual harassment is widespread, girls experience it in higher numbers and more repeatedly, especially in grades seven, eight and nine.

Dever said that what she called "starving and

carving" on themselves is a middle-school girls' phenomenon she has noted.

In the group, which meets twice a month, girls have talked about what makes the perfect teenage girl and why. Tori and Kelly presented a drawing of the perfect girl the group came up with. They named her Topanga, after a TV character with, they thought, a "perfect name."

Among her attributes there were no surprises. The Topanga the girls drew had straight blonde hair with a little bend at the end and blue eyes. She wore a size three, had skinny legs and a small waist so she could show off her midriff.

"But we really didn't think about if she was perfect on the inside," the girls noted.

"What happens if you don't have blonde hair with that little flip on the end?" Blomquist wondered. "What really is perfection? We need to look at the gifts we do have, not the gifts we don't have."

The results of such discussion, Blomquist noted, move from awareness to anger. "We try to move them beyond that," she said. And they don't take that anger out on the opposite sex. "It's not the boys fault. It's the society we live in. We're not male-bashing."

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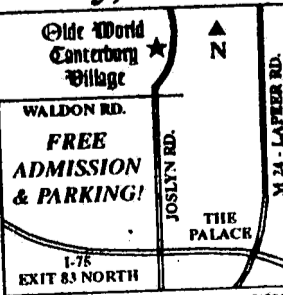
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Singer

From page 16A

where they just loved me, because I was always the one to give and be strong. It was hard to receive, but at the same time, it was very healing."

She had found a new home in Clarkston. Mt. Zion Pastor Loren Covarrubias and his wife Bonnie helped too. They offered to take care of Andrew while Elledge prepared to move and sell her house, which took nearly three months.

As she healed, she remembered what a friend has suggested earlier, that she chronicle her experiences in song as a way to help others. At the time, she was too full of pain, but now the words and music were flowing.

"God started to give me songs and I starting writing at my piano. It was ironic. I would write a song and the next Sunday Loren would preach a sermon on what I was writing on. It was a real faith-builder for me."

Elledge recently released her first CD, entitled "Boast in the Lord," which contains four original songs that speak of her inner struggles and the peace she eventually found. It's available at all seven Detroit area Dickson's Books stores.

She admits she's come a long way, but credits all the glory to God and those who prayed for her. She praises both in her songs, which she delivers in a lilting, joyful voice. In addition to producing the CD, she now tours, singing and speaking to churches and other organizations all over the world. And she helps out at Mt. Zion. "I just go wherever He opens a door," she says.

In the future, she plans to get involved with victims of violent crime. "I would love to take that walk, to tell them life isn't over, there is hope."

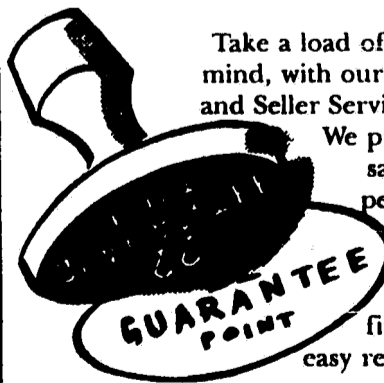
She also hosts a show on Clarkston's local cable access station, "The Evidence," which airs Fridays at 4 p.m. "I just interview people and their lives, their testimonies, how God touches the lives of everyday people. He takes the broken pieces, any kind of life, if you allow it. We have the evidence today."

Her life is an amazing example of that evidence. "I'm over it," she says of her old life. "I'll never forget it. I know my life will go on ... I lived in my husband's shadow. He was my identity. And now I've become my own person, the way I was created to be. I feel so happy, so much anticipation for my future and great things."

For those who are in their own depths of despair, Elledge says hold on. "Nothing in life is worth losing your soul over. And, I know that, with God, all things are possible and He's 'an ever-present help in trouble,'" she says, finishing the sentence with a Biblical quote. She smiles. "I just know God is able to bring you through it all."



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Computer store, restaurant coming to Sashabaw

BY EILEEN McCARVILLE
Clarkston News Staff Writer

A new plaza featuring a unique computer store and a sit-down family restaurant will soon be springing up on Sashabaw between Pelton and Oakvista in Independence Township.

Township planning commissioners approved, 4-0, both a special land use and conceptual site plan for Pelton Pointe, a 1.35-acre development, at the March 12 meeting (Steve Board, Todd Moss and Carolyn Place were absent). The land was previously rezoned to OS-2 (Office Service Two).

Developers have been working on the plans for at least two years, said township planner Dick Carlisle, who recommended approval, calling the concept in keeping with the neighborhood feel he wanted in that area, which is primarily residential.

Conceptual approval was contingent on working out some factors that included reduction of the lighting impact on the neighborhood. Developers Jim Mellema, Steve Ryan and Bob Shell, who are all related, originally wanted to redevelop the entire parcel between Pelton and Oakvista which also holds an existing Clark gas station. But they said the owners were not agreeable, even though they planned to sell Clark part of the L-shaped parcel they own.

They had hoped to redevelop the site to align the two businesses' frontages and move the Pelton driveway closer to Sashabaw, which would have less impact upon the neighbors, they said.

Mellema and his wife Sue will operate the restaurant which they said will be coney-style with breakfasts and lunches. The name they're leaning toward is "Mel's Grill," Sue Mellema said, adding that her husband has prior restaurant experience.

"It's just something he's always wanted to do. We're just at the age where if we don't do it now, we'll never do it," she said. Her husband would like to make specialty sandwiches a significant part of the fare.

The restaurant will occupy about 1,800 square feet of the 4,800 square-foot building, which will also house a family-type computer store run by Michael Sherwood, whose existing store, Sherwood Business Machines, Inc. on Andersonville Rd., sells computer

systems, office machines and related supplies to businesses. It also includes The Family Computer Store, which opened in November (see related Progress story in this issue).

The new store, which will occupy 3,000 square feet, will house both businesses. The Family Computer Store is strictly retail with a focus on home education and educational software for pre-school children through college age, Sherwood said. Computers, software and computer training will be available within a unique setting, he added.

"The display actually will be done in an old country village with facades," Sherwood said. For instance, one storefront will resemble a large country school house where classes will be taught. Another will be a library where reference materials will be on display. A play area with educational software will also be incorporated.

Customers can purchase custom-built computers tailored to their specific needs. Featured is an open architecture design where customers can upgrade their systems as their needs grow.

Both Pelton and Sashabaw will provide access to Pelton Pointe. The developers may seek a variance from the zoning board of appeals that would move the Pelton drive closer to Sashabaw, Sue Mellema said. After another trip to the planning commission to firm up the final site plan, they hope to break ground in April.

The one-minute calendar

- MARCH 19:** CHS district choir festival.
- MARCH 20-21:** Independence Township garage sale, DPW.
- MARCH 21:** Davisburg Rotary Auction, Springfield Oaks. Pancake breakfast, 8 a.m., silent and live auctions, 10 a.m. Band Boosters antiques and craft show, CHS.
- MARCH 23:** Clarkston City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

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THE LAW & YOU

by Robert E. Kostin
Attorney at Law

GRANDPARENT VISITATION RIGHTS

Grandparents who are denied the opportunity to visit grandchildren whose parents have divorced or separated may petition for a court order allowing them visitation privileges. To win a court order of visitation, grandparents must usually show that they played integral roles in their grandchildren's lives and that it would be a disservice to their grandchildren to deny them access to their grandparents. Once a court order for visitation rights is won, grandparents may seek a contempt of court citation against a parent should he or she continue to deny them visitation rights. Visitation privileges usually continue until a child reaches adulthood or the court decides that grandparent visitation is no longer in the child's best interests. If you would like additional information on grandparents' visitation rights, call our office at 11 North Main Street (820-1030). Getting all the facts of a case requires persistence, experience, and a willingness to listen, which is exactly what you'll find with our office. Remember, you can never overestimate the power of having effective counsel when your rights are at stake. We handle a variety of legal matters including family law, personal injury claims, criminal defense, business law, real estate transactions, and civil litigation in both State and Federal courts.

HINT: A court order granting grandparent visitation does not prohibit the grandchild's parents from moving out of state, although provision may be provided for modifying visitation rights should an out-of-state move take place.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye...

King's Court Castle Restaurant

is pleased to present

"Art in the Castle"

Saturday, March 21, 1998
10:00 am to 6:00 pm
Sunday, March 22, 1998
10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Sponsored by the
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in cooperation with the
Orion Art Center

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
(248) 391-5700

King's Court Castle Restaurant is located in Canterbury Village, just 3 miles off I-75, exit #83, Joslyn Road, North, in Lake Orion.

Police Office

MONDAY, MARCH 9, threatening phone calls on Crestview and on Mann Rd.

A Maybee Rd. business reported receiving several bad checks over several months.

A couple from Waterford got into an altercation while driving on Dixie and hit a light pole. The woman and their 2-year-old child left on foot and were found later by a sheriff's deputy at a gas station.

Golf clubs were stolen from an unlocked 1997 Blazer parked on S. Marshbank.

Medical on Wampole in the city.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, a windshield was shattered on a 1986 Olds parked at an M-15 business.

Four rifles, three jewelry boxes and a few other items were stolen during a break-in at a house on Allen Lane.

Two Flint residents were arrested on Dixie after the man allegedly tried to cash a stolen check at a local bank. The man was caught on video and witnesses saw his car leave; it was later stopped for speeding. Both the people inside denied writing the check.

A Pine Knob Rd. family found their home broken into for the third time. Some \$10,000 in jewelry was stolen.

A basement window was broken at a house on Little Walters but it appeared entry was not gained.

Injury accident on Waldon.

Medicals on Clintonville and on Eastlawn.

Vehicle fire on Pine Ridge.

Carbon monoxide investigation on Chanto.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, a license plate was stolen from a car in the Sashabaw Rd. Park-and-Ride lot.

A window was broken on a 1993 Chevy van and a purse containing ID and credit cards was stolen.

Thirty-five to 40 boxes of floor tiles was stolen from a garage on Lancaster.

Carbon monoxide investigation on Deer Ridge.

Medical on Dixie and on Hummingbird.

Vehicle fire on I-75 at Dixie.

A 1997 Plymouth was taken without permission on Parkwood.

Three-car injury accident on Main near Waldon in the city. A 52-year-old Clarkston man was arrested for drunk driving after his car struck one vehicle and propelled it into another. His blood alcohol level was .22 (.10 is legally drunk); it was his fourth arrest for an alcohol-related offense. He was released on personal bond, on condition he attend Alcoholics Anonymous and report three times a week to the Clarkston Police Dept.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, two cars were entered on Lakeview and a computer, planner, printer, bots and purse were stolen.

A phone was stolen from a car on River Birch.

A jacket, pager, credit card reader and a printer were stolen from an unlocked car on Paramus.

Non-injury accident on Main near Washington in the city.

Medicals on Ridgetop, Parkwood and at the high school.

Carbon monoxide investigation on Golfview.

Building fire on Chanto.

Car/deer accident on Sashabaw north of Oak Hill.

Assault and battery on Hawksmoore. An 18-year-old Clarkston man said he was assaulted by two men, one of them known to him, after two carloads of people pulled up to his house.

A N. Main St. business reported trouble with a former delivery man who was displeased because his services were discontinued.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, a car placed on Sashabaw with a "for sale" sign in it led to the capture of a man wanted on outstanding warrants. He was traced through the license plate.

Computer disks were stolen from a locked desk drawer at a church on Clarkston Rd.

Threatening phone calls on Timber Ridge Trail and on Simler.

A license plate was reported missing on Sashabaw. Injury accidents on Maybee and on I-75 (two).

Suspicious person on Surrey Lane in the city. When police arrived they found a 47-year-old Holly man wanted on three outstanding warrants from other communities. He was turned over to Holly police.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, someone spray painted obscenities on a 1986 Buick parked at a restaurant on Dixie.

A comforter was stolen from a car parked in a Dixie parking lot.

A purse was stolen from a book bag on Big Lake Rd.

Embezzlement at a store on Dixie. An employee said he gave another employee \$380 and a check to deposit. The other employee said that never happened.

Medicals on Forest Valley Dr., Lancaster Hill and Clintonville.

Loud music on Surrey Lane in the city.

A 32-year-old Clarkston man stopped for erratic driving was arrested for drunk driving after he tested .27 (.10 is legally drunk). He was arraigned on his second drunk driving offense. Bond was set at \$500.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, a 16-year-old Clarkston boy stopped on a traffic stop was found to be in possession of an 8 1/2 inch knife and a marijuana pipe, so a petition to juvenile court has been filed. The two items were confiscated.

Injury accident on Dixie.

Medicals on S. Eston, N. Eston, Clintonville and Parview.

MONDAY, MARCH 16, a 23-year-old local man who said he was homeless was found inside Sashabaw Middle School shortly after 2 a.m. He got in through a window and it took a tracking dog to find him. He said he had attended the school as a child and was looking for money, shelter, food or items to sell for food. He also said he gotten into the building several other times.

Medical on Simler.

REALLY GOOD NEWS

Editorials printed by
Business Editorial Services, Inc.

FUTRELL & FUTRELL BUILDERS, INC. Serving the Area Since 1964

Thinking of a new home? Many people in this area have been looking to **FUTRELL & FUTRELL BUILDERS, INC.** for that extra measure of service in custom-built homes. Known as "the builder who cares," Bob Futrell's homes are not built with tangibles alone, but with foresight in planning, as well as pride in craftsmanship. Their hand-crafted custom homes provide distinctive residences to reflect your personal tastes and to meet your lifestyle requirements. From the initial planning, to complete on-the-job supervision, **FUTRELL & FUTRELL BUILDERS, INC.** maintains their high standards while using top-grade building materials. Their experienced craftsmen and subcontractors recognize quality and are proud to be able to offer it to you. Featuring a unique selection of homes, **FUTRELL & FUTRELL BUILDERS, INC.** also has the flexibility to work with you in planning and designing for your individual needs. This builder cares enough to know that you want the very best in stylish, well-planned living comfort. You can contact Bob Futrell or Kathy Ormerod at 623-9690 for all the details concerning your residential and commercial building needs. We feel once you've seen their work, you'll understand why **FUTRELL & FUTRELL BUILDERS, INC.** has become synonymous with quality craftsmanship in this area!

LANCASTER LAKES LUXURY APARTMENTS

Over the past few years, the living habits of Americans have changed dramatically. One of the major factors in this change is the emergence of the modern, luxury apartment homes like those available at **LANCASTER LAKES**. Located at 5147 Lancaster Hill Drive in Clarkston, phone (248) 625-6007, **LANCASTER LAKES** is a prime example of sophisticated, gracious living geared to the lifestyles of the '90's. At **LANCASTER LAKES** they cater to your every need in finding the perfect apartment home. Whether it's a long-term commitment or just a short-term stay, whether you are on a tight budget or you have great financial flexibility, whether you are in need of a furnished apartment or you want to bring your own furniture, they will customize a lease package to fit your profile. They have five uniquely designed 1 and 2 bedroom floor plans. Garages for parking and storage are also available. So, leave your busy and hectic world behind to live in affordable luxury. Tan at the pool, relax with your friends in the sauna or whirlpool, play a round of tennis at the lighted tennis courts, play basketball or volleyball or get in shape at their fitness center, or take an aerobics or yoga class, all complimentary at **LANCASTER LAKES LUXURY APARTMENTS**. Call (248) 625-6007 or stop by the office to tour one of their beautiful apartment homes.

GREENERY HEALTH CARE CENTER

People are not merely living longer lives; they are living more useful and productive ones. As a result, an increasing number of older adults require a professionally operated facility other than a hospital or residing in their own home. At **GREENERY HEALTH CARE CENTER** you can be certain your loved one will be given personal care and around-the-clock attention they are entitled to. Located at 4800 Clintonville in Clarkston, phone (248) 674-0903, this outstanding facility is approved for Medicare and Medicaid. They feature such services as 24-hour professional nursing service, rehabilitation services, meals coordinated by dietitians, sub-acute, medically complex care, planned recreational activities and comfortable, home-like living conditions. Everyone at **GREENERY HEALTH CARE CENTER** cares about your loved one. They work diligently to make each resident as comfortable and content as possible. Please remember, when you are choosing a nursing facility for your loved one, inspect the facilities and meet the many dedicated people at **GREENERY HEALTH CARE CENTER** at (248) 674-0903.

ILLUMINATIONS LIGHTING

Add elegance to your home or business with quality lighting fixtures at a price you'll like by visiting the lighting experts at **ILLUMINATIONS LIGHTING**, located at 631 Oakland Avenue in Pontiac, phone (248) 332-7500. You can also visit them on the web at www.illumlighting.com. From the moment you step into their well-stocked showroom, you'll be dazzled by their brilliant display of all types of lighting fixtures, lamps, ceiling fans and outdoor lighting in modern, colonial or contemporary styles. **ILLUMINATIONS LIGHTING** is this area's headquarters for design customizing and installation for lighting, as well as for central cleaning systems and in-wall speakers. At **ILLUMINATIONS**, you will have a tough time NOT finding what you want. They have ideas that will complement the decor of most any room in your home or office and please even the most demanding interior decorator. Their expertly manufactured products are evident in many of the area's finer homes and offices. The writers of this "Really Good News" Section give **ILLUMINATIONS LIGHTING** our complete recommendation. Let them share their varied ideas and low prices with you.

HOLLY FORD You Can Afford a Holly Ford

Whether you plan to purchase or lease a new car, truck or van, you'll want to be sure your dealer is a full-service concern who can provide you with quality service after the sale. In this area, motorists have a small town dealer who offers a wide selection of quality automobiles, and has expert service by factory-trained technicians. That dealership is **HOLLY FORD**, located in Holly on N. Holly Road and Grange Hall Road, 3 miles west of I-75, about 10 miles north of Clarkston, phone 634-4411. As your authorized dealer for the full line of Ford cars, trucks and vans, **HOLLY FORD** has the model and color you want at a competitive price. If the vehicle you are looking for is not on their lot, they will be more than glad to locate it for you. Their service department and body shop is staffed by experienced personnel that has helped make them one of the top 5 dealerships in Michigan in Ford Motor Company's customer satisfaction index, and who have the knowledge it takes to repair most makes and models. They are backed by a full-service parts department, with a daily run to the factory warehouse to assure you will not be left waiting for the parts you require. We are pleased to suggest you stop in at **HOLLY FORD** soon and test drive the model of your choice, and rely with confidence on this same dealer for expert service if you need it.

HOLLY FORD will soon be moving to Springfield Township at East Holly Road & I-75. Watch for their construction to begin.

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"Government Gone Amuck"

Isn't it a Miracle...



of paper copies with the CLARKSTON NEWS if there is any doubt of me telling the truth. This case took five years of court costs. The point is that the courts of this land have more sense, at least in this case, than our elected officials did. But nobody helped Mr. Grossman pay his legal fees. This looks like it might be our recourse, along with my neighbor, Mrs. Maria Baylis. She called me Friday, March 6th and she had a buyer for one of her C-3 parcels, but the Township told them it couldn't be used for that, because they are re-zoning it. She was mad!

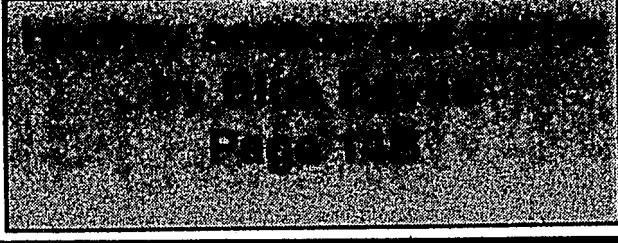
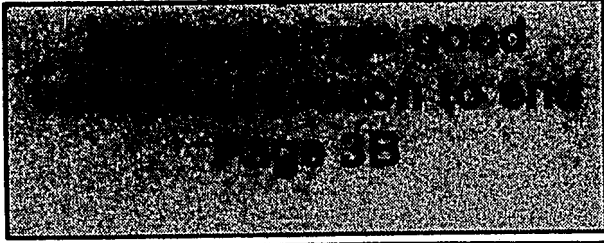
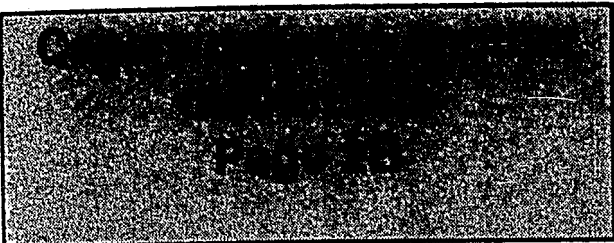
When people can no longer trust their elected officials and must tell them "this is wrong"; we are in a sad state of affairs. Maybe this is why we lost \$2.5 million of taxpayers money on derivatives. They can not ever figure out what they spent on a court case, or maybe they just don't care to know when they lost and they don't even have to change the zoning map because the courts ordered it. By the way, the site plan of the client was also approved by the court. No Planning Commission approval needed! Stay tuned, lots more to come. "Isn't it a miracle miracles."

Please call your Government officials to protect your property rights. This is not just my battle. Government is eroding your rights (and wages) ever year. Now property values.
Call Township Supervisor Dale Stuart or Township Clerk Joan McCrary at (248)625-5111.

Our C-3 Commercial Zoning Battle with Independence Twp. Yes, it is Gary and Onalee Stonerock back again.

First, we would like to say "thank you" to all of you who have called us at our home phone # (248)627-4498. And what we have learned, thanks to your input. I'll share with the voters most of it in the months ahead. This week I will discuss the picture. This sign is at M-15 and Oakhill Rd. on the SE corner. 13 acres of Commercial? I had just picked up the Zoning Map and Master Plan Maps at the Township Hall and they were on the seat of the car beside me. I looked at the maps, no commercial on them. I called Mr. Grossman; it's commercial all right. He explained his battle for justice with the Independence Township Government. He had to go all the way to the Supreme Court of Michigan to win his zoning request. Spending between \$150,000 to \$160,000 of his money to fight for what he believed was right. The Township lost in every court, but, fear not, they used taxpayer's money to do it. It cost them nothing, they're elected! I thought I would give you some facts on this. So I paid to get this information by using the "Freedom of Information Act." Very simple, right? Wrong! I made a simple request in writing: I requested the cost of this case to the Township taxpayers and a copy of the court judgement. I paid over \$200 and got nothing, just the run around. I'm leaving the two inches

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SPORTS

The Clarkston News

Wednesday, March 18, 1998

Section B

Grant, DeGain golden at state meet

Two Wolves capture individual state championships

BY BRAD MONASTIERE
Clarkston News Staff Writer

It was only a matter of time for Clarkston wrestlers A.J. Grant and Pat DeGain.

After dealing with last season's individual disappointment and this season's team disappointment, their hard work paid off with Division I state championships at Saturday's individual state wrestling finals at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena.

It was a moment Grant, a junior who won in the 112-lb. weight class, had waited an entire year for.

Grant was the favorite to win the 103-lb. championship last year, but lost to Toby Dickson of Charlotte in the state quarterfinals. It was his only loss of the season, but one that stuck with him through the entire offseason.

Counting on last year's experience, Grant motored through the competition all season long, and defeated arch-rival Jim Borowski of Romeo 8-1 in the state finals.

"I didn't want to put myself in a bad position, so I didn't go for as many takedowns as I normally do," Grant said. "Last year, I was afraid to do anything, and it cost me. My coaches said I have to wrestle to my style, which I did all through the tournament this year, and it paid off."

Grant has rewritten the Clarkston wrestling record books on takedowns each of his three seasons with the Wolves. His style is to get an opponent down on the mat, pick up a near-fall, and let him up, just so he can take him down again. This style is good for scoring a lot of points, and as a result, Grant wins many matches on technical falls.

"Last year, I wrestled not to lose. This year, I wrestled to win," Grant said.

Grant finished the season 50-0 and with the well-deserved, if small in size, gold state championship medal.

DeGain's road to the gold was a bit different. He battled injuries throughout his freshman season and was never at 100 percent.

This year, DeGain, a sophomore and coach Mike DeGain's son, stayed healthy and dominated foes all year long. He also defeated his arch-rival, Kevin Boyd of Rochester Adams, 13-1 to win the gold in the 189-lb. weight class.

It was the sixth-straight time DeGain defeated Boyd, counting regionals, county meets, dual meets, and other invitationals.

"I knew what he was going to do, so I knew my only way to defend his moves was to keep my head up," said DeGain, who finished 41-0 on the season. "I just stayed with the game plan and it worked out for the best."

A key moment in the finals was the first period, which saw DeGain race out to a 7-1 lead, thanks to a pair of takedowns and a near fall. DeGain kept control of the match throughout, and left the ring wearing the gold.

"I just couldn't believe it when I won," DeGain



Sophomore Pat DeGain (on stand) is in top of the world after winning the Division I individual state title in the 189-lb. weight class at Saturday's state finals at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena. Sharing the moment with him is Mike DeGain (in suit), the Clarkston coach and Pat's father. Junior A.J. Grant also won the state title at 112 lbs. Combined, the two had a record of 91-0 this season.

said. "At first, it felt like just another tournament, but it hit me a little while later. A.J. and I went bowling later that night to celebrate, and that's when I realized that I had won."

DeGain and Grant are also linked through their older brothers. Corey Grant and Joe DeGain wrestle for

the University of Michigan. Joe DeGain won an individual state championship in 1996 as a senior for Clarkston High School.

"I thought Pat would win, but he got a little behind in the quarters," Grant said, referring to DeGain's

Continued on Page 14B

Bulldogged!

Cagers breeze to district title with 19-point win over Romeo

BY BRAD MONASTIERE
Clarkston News Staff Writer

1998 Basketball District Finals	
Clarkston	63
Romeo	44

"Are you gonna bark all day, little doggie, or are you gonna bite?" - - Mr. Blonde from "Reservoir Dogs."

The Romeo Bulldogs came into Friday's basketball district finals against Clarkston with a chip on their shoulders. Talking trash and using a physical-style defense, the Bulldogs hoped to use those things to get the Wolves off their game and pull the upset.

However, the Clarkston varsity boys basketball team once again showed its mental toughness in defeating the feisty Bulldogs 63-44 before more than 3,000 fans at the new Lake Orion High School, capturing the District 31 championship.

Because of press deadlines, results of Tuesday's Clarkston-Pontiac Central regional semifinal game at Macomb Dakota High School were not available. For all the pictures and details, come back to next week's Clarkston News sports section.

Friday's game saw Clarkston, 20-2 overall, struggle early on, allowing Romeo to take an early 9-3 lead.

Then the trademark of this team took over. After a timeout, the Wolves raised their intensity level on defense and held the Bulldogs to only one field goal over the next 5:41. The defensive stand allowed Clarkston to get in sync offensively and take a 26-12 lead with 3:14 left in the second quarter.

Romeo came right back and cut the deficit to eight by halftime, 30-22. Romeo's Sean Bothwell led the comeback and topped the team in scoring with 21 points on six 3-pointers.

Clarkston slowed the pace and took better shots throughout the second half, outscoring the Bulldogs 33-22 to tuck the win away.

Coach Dan Fife said he never worries about the Wolves' ability to score, but the defensive intensity always has to be there.

"We didn't start off very well on offense, but it was our defense that kept us in the game," he said. "I thought Dan Nuebeck did a great job keeping the heat on their guards."

Senior Dane Fife led Clarkston with 26 points, six rebounds, four assists and five steals. Senior Angelo Taylor dominated the Bulldogs inside for 15 points and 12 rebounds. Senior Justin Dionne played his usual excellent game on both ends, with eight points, six rebounds and five steals.

Dane Fife admitted after the game that his team was looking ahead to Tuesday's showdown with Pontiac Central.

"To be honest, we knew we would win the district," he said. "In this game we didn't play as well as we should have, but Tuesday, we'll be ready."

Coach Fife said the pressure and expectations to win may have contributed to Clarkston's tightness early in the game.

"Other teams always come after us very hard, and good teams persevere," he said. "I sometimes think we don't give those other teams enough credit, because they make you feel like you've been in a dogfight. You have to be mentally tough to be the favorites."

The winner of the Clarkston-Pontiac Central game



The Clarkston varsity boys basketball team gathers behind its district trophy earned with a 63-44 win over the Romeo Bulldogs Friday night at the new Lake Orion High School. It was the fourth district title in four years for senior Dané Fife, who led the way against Romeo with 26 points. The Wolves played Pontiac Central in the regional semifinals Tuesday night at Macomb Dakota High School.

moves on to Friday's regional final at Dakota against the winner of the Milford-Chippewa Valley regional semifinal.

1998 Basketball Districts	
Clarkston	75
Lake Orion	33

In their first visit to the new Lake Orion High School gym, the Wolves removed all drama early.

Clarkston recovered from a sluggish first quarter to blitz the overmatched Dragons 22-7 in the second quarter en route to a 75-33 whitewashing March 11 in the first round of district play.

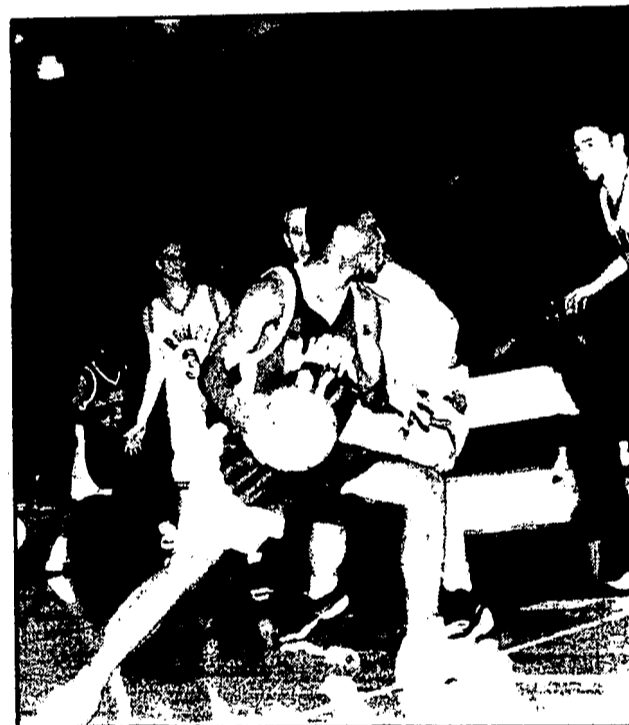
Lake Orion started the game running a four-corners offense, a very unusual set to begin the game. Teams normally employ a four corners late in the game with a slim lead, trying to run time off the clock.

Perhaps knowing they were overmatched, the Dragons tried to shorten the game with the stall tactic, but it didn't work. Clarkston dissected the Orion defense for eight 3-pointers and several easy layups off nice passes.

"What was good was that the other kids picked it up when they had to," Coach Fife said. "I was very happy with our defense. It is where it should be right now, and we'll need that down the road."

The Wolves blasted through Lake Orion all night, holding an amazing 52-16 lead after three quarters. Taylor scored 10 of his game-high 18 points in the third quarter, helping the Wolves to a 17-5 scoring advantage.

Dane Fife played a pressure-free game, not looking to shoot the ball as much as help get teammates involved. He scored 17 points, his fewest since a 14-point outing at Rochester Jan. 30. Senior Mike Maitrott scored 11 and made three 3-pointers.



Angelo Taylor drives the baseline during Friday's district finals against Romeo. Taylor scored 15 and collected 12 rebounds in Clarkston's win.

Sports shorts

Three place at state meet for Clarkston Wrestling Club

Three Clarkston youths placed in the top four at the Mid-Michigan Wrestling Association's state meet at Davison High School Sunday afternoon.

Elliott May finished second overall in the 65-lb. weight class, 11/12-year-old group. Braden L'Amoreaux took third overall in the 100-lb. weight class, 9/10-year-old group. Jimmy Popp finished fourth at 8 years old and under, 61-lb. class.

Adam Sharp, Layne Upcott and Steve Smiley also qualified for the state tournament.

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Marian ends Clarkston volleyball season

Mustangs go on to win region

BY BRAD MONASTIERE
Clarkston News Staff Writer

1998 Volleyball Regionals

Birmingham Marian	15-15
Clarkston	4-5

Looking on the Clarkston side of the net, there wasn't much to complain about.

The Clarkston varsity volleyball team was playing hard, showing excellent defensive quickness and was near-perfect on its serves.

But sometimes, being good just isn't good enough, as was the case in Saturday's regional semifinals at Lapeer East High School.

The Wolves' season was ended by a powerful Birmingham Marian team 15-4, 15-5. Clarkston ends the 1997-98 campaign with a 20-20-3 record.

Marian, featuring one player going to Notre Dame and two headed to Michigan, was by far the best team Clarkston saw all season. The Mustangs were also the hardest-hitting team the Wolves came up against, and lived up to their top-10 ranking by defeating Walled Lake Central in three exciting games to win the regional championship.

Clarkston coach Gordie Richardson said he was happy with the effort his team gave, but Marian was just an excellent team.

"We played real hard and did what we wanted to do," he said after the match. "We scored well and took some good swings, I'm just not sure what else we could do except get taller. Marian has a very good team."

The Mustangs served to start the first game and quickly took an 8-0 lead. The Wolves responded by scoring four of the game's next five points. Senior Georgia Senkyr contributed a kill, a block and an ace in the run, and seniors Kelly Hanna and Amber Mitchell



Amber Mitchell slams an attack over the net during Saturday's regional game against Birmingham Marian.

turned nice defensive plays into points. After Clarkston pulled to within 9-4, Marian ripped off the game's last five points.

Game two saw the Wolves get off to a better start, down 5-4 after senior Aimee Giroux's sprawling dig went unvolleyed by the Mustangs. Senkyr delivered a pair of kills and a block, matching Marian's all-world front row play-for-play.

It would be the final highlight to Clarkston's season, as the Mustangs finished the game and the season off with a 10-0 run.

For the match, Senkyr led the way with five kills, one block, and was 10-for-11 on serve receptions. Senior Jenny McCue and junior Mandie Harrison were each 4-for-4 serving. Harrison, Senkyr and senior

Aimee Giroux each had four digs.

Richardson took some time to recognize the team's seven seniors, saying all of them made valuable contributions during each of their two or three seasons on the team.

Jenny McCue: "She's been with me for three years. She hardly played at all on the team two years ago that had 10 seniors, but she learned how to lead from them, and she's been outstanding as a team leader for us. In mid-season, she talked to a lot of kids, and helped to get them loosened up for the games, and that showed in how we ended the season."

Georgia Senkyr: "Georgia is just a great athlete. People talk about her offense, but her blocking at the net was just as valuable for us. She didn't play as a sophomore, which makes it all the more remarkable at how good she has become in such a short period of time."

Kelly Hanna: "We started off last year with her on the left side, and that wasn't working, so we moved her over to setter. She struggled at times, and we didn't always get along this year, but she was terrific in the districts."

Hope Manuel: "Hope made some of the biggest improvements we saw all season. Whenever she came in, she played hard and gave us a lot of fire out there. Her effort meant a lot to the team."

Amber Mitchell: "She has worked so hard all year and was unbelievable in the second half of the season. She was not a middle player, but still did very well for us when she was there."

Nicole Nelles: "Nicole did everything we ever asked of her, and she was a great team player. There aren't many better people than her and Amber."

Aimee Giroux: "Aimee is a very good athlete who tries to do everything as well as she can. She has a lot of drive and desire to be excellent."

The Wolves were also named an academic all-state team, with a team grade point average of 3.4.

Sports shorts

1998 Select Soccer tryouts announced

It might still be cold outside, but tryouts for the 1998 Select Soccer Team will be coming up quick.

Here is the tryout schedule: (U stands for under) Monday June 22 - 5-7 p.m.: U-13 girls, U-14 boys and U-13 boys, and 7-9 p.m.: U-14 boys and U-19 girls; Tuesday June 23 - 5-7 p.m.: U-11 girls and U-12 girls, and 7-9 p.m.: U-11 boys and U-12 boys; Wednesday June 24 - 5-7 p.m.: U-13 boys, U-14 boys, and U-13 girls, and 7-9 p.m.: U-14 girls, U-15 girls and U-16 girls; Thursday June 25 - 7-9 p.m.: U-11 girls and U-11 boys; and Friday June 26 - 5-7 p.m.: U-15 girls, U-16 girls and U-19 girls, and 7-9 p.m.: U-12 girls and U-12 boys.

Hunter safety class

A hunter safety class for people with disabilities will take place March 17-22 at the Richmond Sportsmen's Club in Richmond.

The course is open to anyone 12 years or older. You must attend all four classes in order to receive a Hunter's Safety Certificate. Class hours are: 5:30-9 p.m. March 17, 6-9 March 19, 8-4 March 21, and 8-4 March 22. The club is located at 9134 Big Hand Road in Richmond.

For more information or to register, call 810-794-9717.

JV cheerleaders rock!



The Clarkston High School JV cheerleading team finished in third place at the Oakland Activities Association Sideline Cheerleading Competition Feb. 7. Team members are: Heidi Steen, Courtney Bond, Kara Cantrell, Stephanie Nault, Kristi Pope, Stacy Bowman, Lauren Ritchie, Becca Flores, Melissa Wellington, Stephanie Strutz and Marie Fahrner. The team's coach is Chandra Price.

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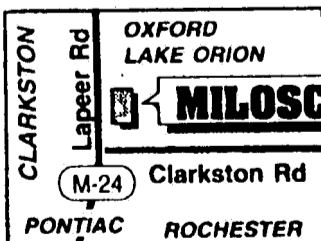
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Drawn and quartered

Wolves' march through playoffs stopped

BY BRAD MONASTIERE
Clarkston News Staff Writer

1998 Hockey State Quarterfinals	
Grosse Pointe South	4
Clarkston	1

Add hockey to this growing list: If your team wants to make the state finals in a sport, play Clarkston sometime during the playoffs.

Clarkston's hockey team became the latest victim of a state finalist, losing in the state quarterfinals to Grosse Pointe South 4-1 March 11 at the Flint IMA Arena. South went on to lose to Trenton in Saturday's Class A state finals 3-2.

The wrestling team lost in the regional semifinals to eventual state-champion Rochester Adams, and last fall, the boys soccer team lost in the regional semifinals to eventual state-champion Troy Athens. Clarkston finished its season 19-8-1 overall.

Coach Rick Rowden said his team did a lot of good things during the game, but South's ability to convert on turnovers was the difference.

"We had a turnover in our end that led to their first goal," he said. "A bad pinch-in by a defenseman led to their second goal, and their third was a deflection off Tom Newman, a goal you can't do much about."

"We just didn't get the breaks today."

The Wolves controlled much of the play territorially in the first period, but were still down 1-0 thanks to a goal by South's Charlie Braun. Braun also scored the game-winner in South's 2-1 regional final win over top-ranked Detroit Catholic Central. Blue Devil goaltender J.C. Tibbett played a very strong game all the way through, stopping 24 of 25 Clarkston shots.

Clarkston's lone goal was scored by senior Ryan Peters, who tipped in a shot from the blue line by sophomore Bill Kalush. Junior Adam Leech added an assist to Peters' goal, coming in his last game of his career.

"Ryan was a very nice cornerstone for our program," assistant coach Glenn MacDonald said.



Anthony Facione shakes off the pressure from Grosse Pointe South during Wednesday's state quarterfinal game, won by the Blue Devils 4-1.

"Ryan had a super game tonight," Rowden said. "I hate this time of year, because you lose kids like him. Communication was never a problem with him, and he worked very hard during his two years with us."

Peters was the only senior who played for Clarkston against South, meaning there is a potential for 19 players to return for next season. With that number of players, and the speed and quickness they already possess, the Wolves could shape up as one of the state's best teams in 1998-99.

2 wrestlers win state titles

From Page 1B

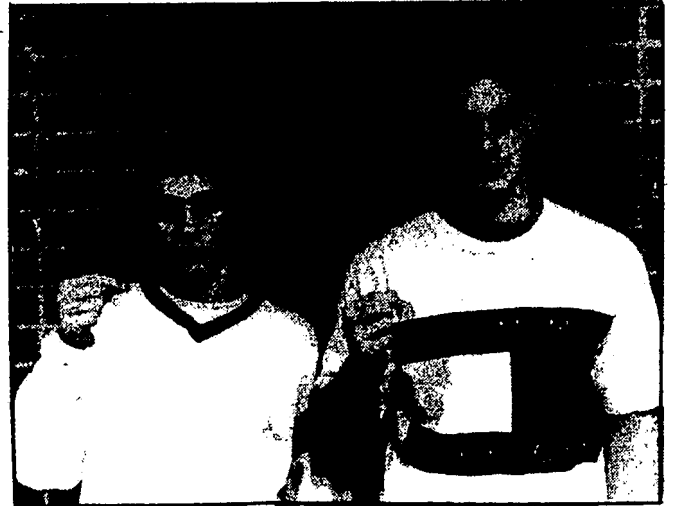
comeback from a 7-1 deficit in the quarterfinals. "I figured he would get into a hole, then make a big comeback to win."

"I was sure A.J. would win," DeGain said. "I knew there was no one in his weight class who could stop him. He was just determined to win it all."

Clarkston also sent three other wrestlers to the state meet, sophomore Bubba Clement and juniors Ryan L'Amoreaux and Ryan McAleer. Clement reinjured his shoulder in the first round and was unable to continue. L'Amoreaux finished fifth overall in the 103-lb. weight class, and McAleer exited in the first round also.

Those three, along with Grant and DeGain, mean Clarkston returns five state qualifiers to next year's team, the most in Coach DeGain's career in Clarkston.

Coach DeGain was out of the state and unavailable for comment.



A.J. Grant, left, and Pat DeGain display their state individual championship medals they earned at the state meet Saturday night. It was the first state title for both wrestlers, who will return to a loaded Clarkston team next season.

Sports shorts

Davisburg Rotary to have auction

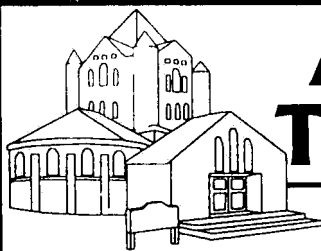
The Davisburg Rotary Club will host a pancake breakfast with a silent auction this Saturday (March 21) at the activity center of Springfield Oaks.

The breakfast and silent auction will begin at 8 a.m., with the regular auction kicking off at 10 a.m.

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Obituaries

Alice Gates

Alice Irene Gates, 57, of Sterling Heights, died March 9, 1998.

Mrs. Gates was a member of St. Daniel Catholic Church and worked for Morse Cutting Tool in Madison Heights.

She is survived by sons Terry of Flint and Kevin (Robin) of Clarkston; granddaughter Erin; mother Leona Lampe of Berkley; brothers Robert Lampe of Birmingham and Thomas Lampe of Livonia; sisters Mary Ann Ryan of Livonia and Jeanette (Peter) Burrell of California; and best friend Delise (Tom) Vick of Commerce Township.

A funeral mass took place Friday at St. Daniel Catholic Church in Clarkston. Rite of Committal was at Lakeview Cemetery. Memorials can be made to the American Cancer Society.

Willard Head

Willard Freeman Head, 76, died March 9, 1998. Mr. Head was a World War II veteran, serving in the U.S. Air Force.

He is survived by his wife Marjorie; daughters Linda Kinney of Florida, Tammy Pitt of Tennessee; brothers Rayburn of Tennessee, J.H. of Tennessee, Ralph of Tennessee, Ernest and Gerald of Waterford, and Billy and Bobby, both of Tennessee; grandchildren Jeff and Ken Dean, Kristen, Lindsay and Casey Pitt; and great-grandson David Jared Dean.

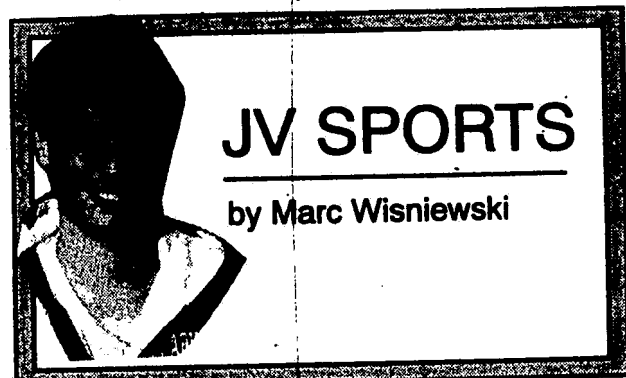
A funeral service took place Thursday at the Robertson County (Tenn.) Funeral Home. Interment was at Robertson County Memorial Gardens. Memorials can be made to the Northcrest Hospice or the Jo Bryns School Library.

Ethel Ruble

Ethel V. Ruble, 81, of Waterford, died March 15, 1998.

Mrs. Ruble enjoyed sewing and quilting. She is survived by daughters JoAnne Heenan of Clarkston and Dawn Crabtree of Waterford; son Jack (Beverly) of Shelby Township; 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren; sisters Toots Kilblinger of Texas, Bertha (Jack) Guilliams of West Virginia, June Quinn of Shelby Township, and Mary Jane (Wayne) McKinzie of Arizona; brothers Jerry Wood, Corbet (Jenny) Wood, and Dutch (Maybelle) Wood of West Virginia.

A funeral service took place Wednesday morning at the Lewis E. Wint and Son Trust 100 Funeral Home in Clarkston. Interment was at Seymour Lake Cemetery. Memorials can be made to the Alzheimer's Association.



JV SPORTS

by Marc Wisniewski

Basketball

The JV basketball team's season came to a strong end two weeks ago when the Wolves beat Rochester. Clarkston was only ahead by 5 points at the half, but slowly overcame Rochester to come up with a big win 61-42. Rocky Lund led the team with 13 points, Chad Booker and Ryan Marino followed; they each scored 12.

The Wolves put the exclamation point on their final game of the season crushing Ferndale 76-35. The Wolves jumped off to an early lead, 26-9 at the end of the first quarter, and just kept on running up the score. Ryan Thomas had a big game scoring 20 points; Ryan Kaul followed with 10.

"It was a nice way to finish the season. We had a very good year," said Coach Tim Kaul. The Wolves' final record was 16 and 4.

Volleyball

The JV volleyball team also ended their season a few weeks ago. The Wolves started off the week with a loss to Lake Orion, the scores were 8-15; 16-14; 8-15. The Wolves played better in the Fenton tournament, beating Holly, Fenton & Linden. The Wolves made it to the quarterfinals and beat Grand Blanc in two games, 15-3 and 15-9. Clarkston lost in the semifinals to Marysville, 5-15, 11-15.

The Wolves won the last game of their season, beating Seaholm 15-5 and 15-6.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Because the People Want to Know
CLARKSTON

CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF CLARKSTON

SUMMARY
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 10, 1998

NOTE: MEETING WAS HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 10, INSTEAD OF MONDAY, MARCH 9, DUE TO BOARD OF REVIEW MEETINGS ON MONDAY.

Meeting called to order by Mayor Catalo at 7:03 p.m. Present: Clifton, Catalo, Colombo, Roeser, Sanderson, Savage Absent: Gamble

Minutes of February 23, 1998, approved as presented.

Agenda accepted as presented. Roeser requested that the public be notified that building requirements will be discussed at the April 13 meeting and the public is asked to attend this meeting for input and/or suggestions. Colombo is to investigate the feasibility of a Downtown Development Authority.

The Beach lease was tabled until the next meeting. City Attorney Ryan reminded City Council that the Library and Fire Protection agreements will be coming up for renewal at the end of this calendar year.

The high bid of \$6,000 from Lawrence Klein was accepted for the purchase of the 1986 GMC Dump Truck.

The City of Clarkston has been granted an additional \$243 in SMART Municipal Credits.

Additional Municipal Credits from SMART in the amount of \$243 is to be divided equally between SCAMP and the Senior Citizens Program.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Artemus M. Pappas, Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE
Because the People Want to Know
INDEPENDENCE TWP.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Independence Township Board of Appeals will meet Wednesday, April 1, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. at the Independence Township Annex Board Room, 90 North Main Street, Clarkston, MI 48346 to hear the following cases:

Case #98-0020 Timothy Travis, Petitioner APPLICANT REQUESTS SIDE YARD SETBACK VARIANCE OF 24' FOR REPLACEMENT AND EXPANSION OF DETACHED GARAGE Pine Knob Rd, Lot 28, R-1R Supervisor's Plat No. 11 08-03-426-005

Case #98-0021 Thomas Wilhelm, Petitioner APPLICANT REQUESTS VARIANCE FOR LAND SIZE (6+ ACRES) Clintonville Rd, R-2 08-35-476-001

Case #98-0022 Saddlebrook, Petitioner APPLICANT REQUESTS EXTENSION OF VARIANCE GRANTED ON 4/16/97 FOR TEMPORARY SALES/CONSTRUCTION TRAILER. APPLICANT ALSO REQUESTS VARIANCE FOR 2nd TRAILER, PLUS SIGNAGE. Cranberry Lake Rd/Barrington Lane, Lot 4, R-1A Brookstone 08-17-176-029

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT THE ABOVE REQUESTS MAY BE EXAMINED at the Independence Township Building Department during regular hours each day, Monday through Friday until the date of the Public Hearing. For Further Information call (248) 625-8111.

Respectfully submitted, Joan E. McCrary Township Clerk Katherine A. Poole Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE
Because the People Want to Know
INDEPENDENCE TWP.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning Commission of Independence Township, Oakland County, Michigan, will hold a Public Hearing on:

March 26, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. at the Independence Township Board Room, 90 North Main Street, Clarkston, Michigan 48346, to consider the following:

FILE # 98-1-011 Jon Colgrove, Petitioner Grand River Infrastructure REQUEST SPECIAL LAND USE APPROVAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 23.03 Premarc Corporation, MH (Heavy Industrial) Zone Parcel Identification Number: 08-31-402-002 30 Acres

Common Description: 4950 White Lake Road Any further information regarding the above Public Hearing may be obtained at the Township Planning Office during regular office hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, or by phone at 625-8111.

Joan E. McCrary, Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE
Because the People Want to Know
INDEPENDENCE TWP.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning Commission of Independence Township, Oakland County, Michigan, will hold a Public Hearing on:

March 26, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. at the Independence Township Board Room, 90 North Main Street, Clarkston, Michigan 48346, to consider the following:

FILE # 98-1-021 Al LaLonde, Petitioner Creative Designs & Signs, Inc. REQUEST SPECIAL LAND USE APPROVAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5.04.5.a.1. for Three (3) Additional Wall Signs Back Court Food & Spirits C-3 (Highway Commercial) Zone Parcel Identification Number: 08-30-276-017

Common Description: 6167 White Lake Road Any further information regarding the above Public Hearing may be obtained at the Township Planning Office during regular office hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, or by phone at 625-8111.

Joan E. McCrary, Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE
Because the People Want to Know
INDEPENDENCE TWP.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning Commission of Independence Township, Oakland County, Michigan, will hold a Public Hearing on:

April 9, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. at the Independence Township Board Room, 90 North Main Street, Clarkston, Michigan 48346, to consider the following:

FILE # 98-1-017 Arthur Cobb, Petitioner REQUEST REZONING From: R-1C Suburban Farm Residential To: R-1R Rural Residential Intended Use: Private Horse Stable & Training Farm Parcel Identification Number: 08-01-200-024 Common Description: Baldwin Road, 29 Acres

Any further information regarding the above Public Hearing may be obtained at the Township Planning Office during regular office hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, or by phone at 625-8111.

Joan E. McCrary, Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE
Because the People Want to Know
INDEPENDENCE TWP.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning Commission of Independence Township, Oakland County, Michigan, will hold a Public Hearing on:

April 9, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. at the Independence Township Board Room, 90 North Main Street, Clarkston, Michigan 48346, to consider the following:

FILE # 98-1-019 David I. Katz, Petitioner REQUEST REZONING From: IOP Industrial Office Park To: OS-2 Office Service Two Intended Use: Coffee Cafe Parcel Identification Number: 08-27-201-022 Common Description: Sashabaw, South of Waldon 1.35 Acres

Any further information regarding the above Public Hearing may be obtained at the Township Planning Office during regular office hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, or by phone at 625-8111.

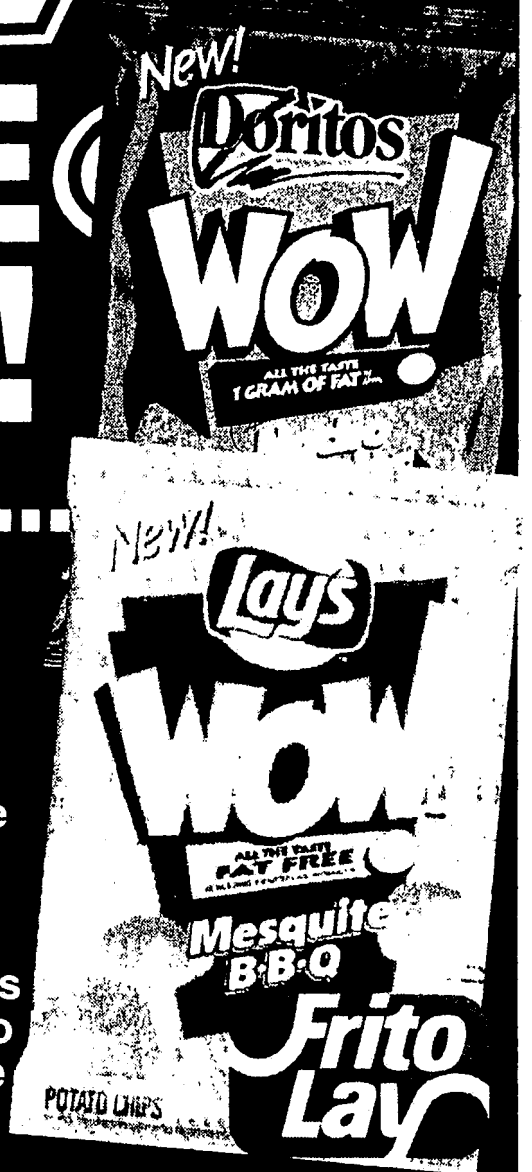
Joan E. McCrary, Clerk

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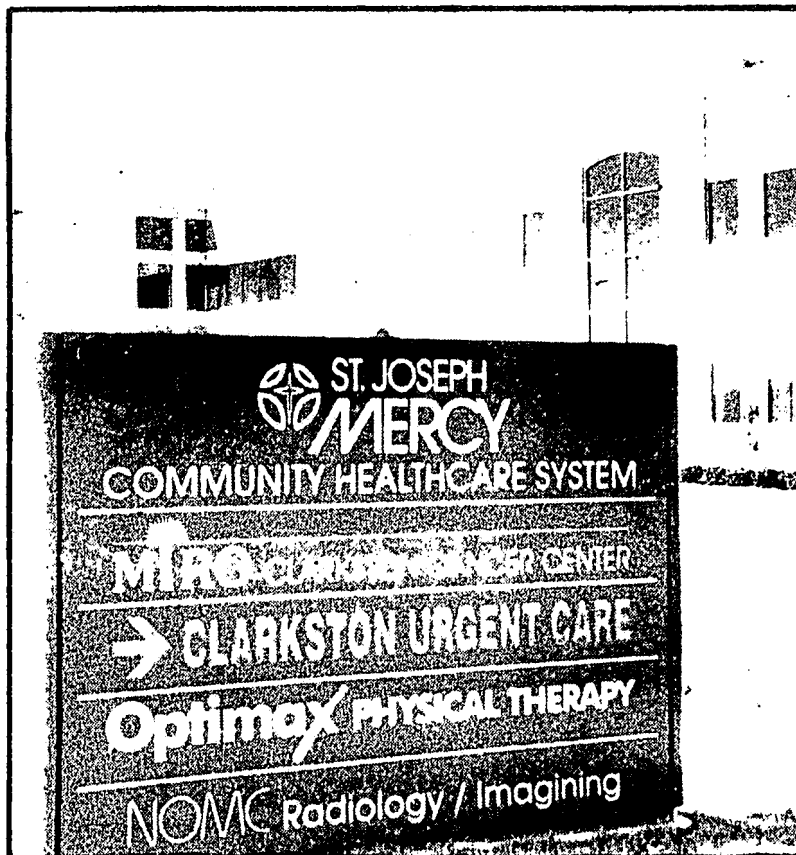
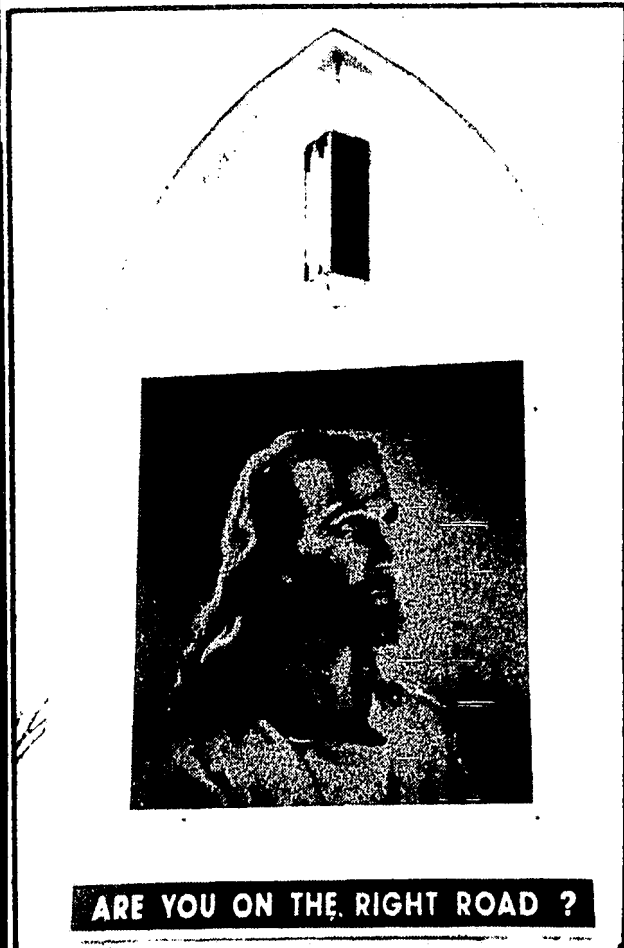
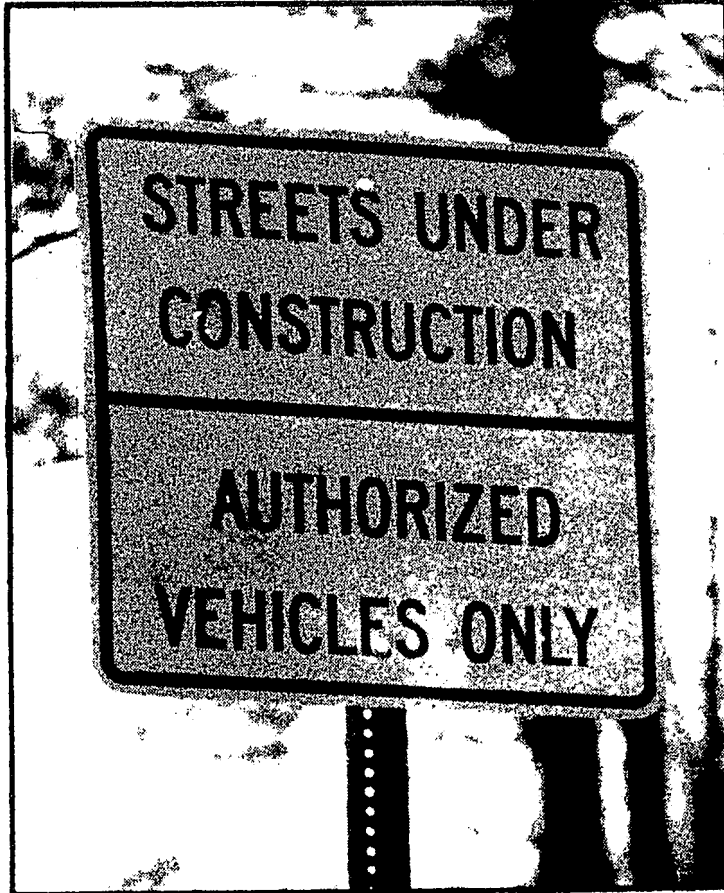
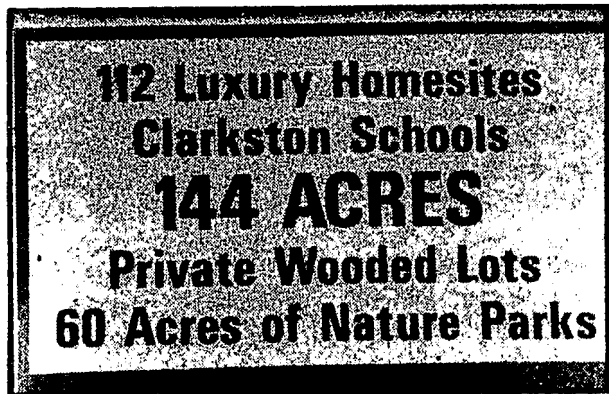
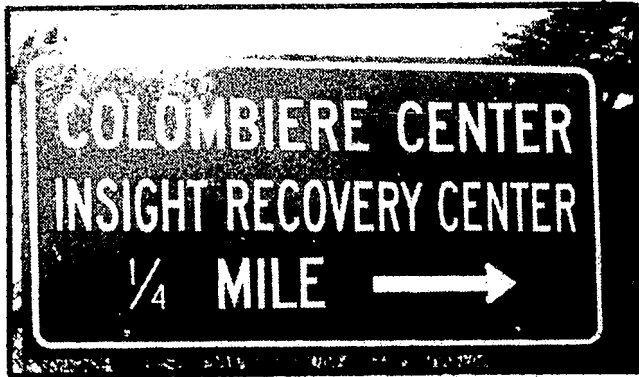
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PRICES & ITEMS IN THIS AD GOOD MONDAY, MARCH 16 THRU SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 1998 AT THE LANSING AREA KROGER STORES

The Sign of The Times . . .



Growth and Prosperity

COLORED INK

The Clarkston News'

27th Annual
Progress Edition
March 18, 1998

They take the fear out of computer buying

If you're not a techie, buying a computer can be a scary proposition. After all, you're investing a lot of money, and you want to make the right decision.

Going to your local superstore and perusing computers on display next to refrigerators and stereos won't reduce your anxiety. Rather, you'll wonder who's around to help you make an informed decision.

Sherwood Business Machines, home of The Family Computer Store, is just what the doctor ordered. Owner Michael Sherwood, who used to sell primarily business to business, opened The Family computer store in November. The Family Computer Store is devoted to helping families with their computer needs. Currently on Andersonville Rd. at White Lake Rd., they will soon be opening a new store on Sashabaw Rd. near Pelton.

With the catchy phrase "You can always count on Family . . ." Sherwood is anxiously awaiting the completion of his new building, which he's designed to look like the various rooms of a house inside. "We want to provide to home computer users the same service our business customers enjoy," he says.

Home computer shoppers can be divided into two groups: those buying their first computer, and those in serious need of upgrading. "A lot of people have a computer at home they bought three or four years ago that they haven't used in the last six to eight months because every software program they look at can't be used on their computer," Sherwood says. "They've been to the superstores, and now they would never go back because they found out they didn't get all the information they needed and the product is not what they thought they were getting."

At the Family Computer Store, that won't be a problem, because customers will walk away with custom built computers based on their specific needs.

Sherwood systems use an Open Architecture design that makes it possible to upgrade your computer as your needs grow."



From left, Jeff Hughes, Jim Raetzke, Pat Rehfus, Bryan Boadway and Mike Sherwood are part of the expert staff at The Family Computer Store. Not pictured are Tim Sievers, Clint Smith and Debbie Facknitz.

"We know this is going to be big in the next five years. We build systems from name-brand components, all custom," Sherwood says. "Three to four years ago, most people looked at building your own as not as good as buying a name brand or too expensive. They're finding out that getting a custom system that's exactly what you need and that's upgradable is best." Open system architecture means your computer is never obsolete. It can be upgraded by replacing individual components rather than the entire computer. And all open system components are designed to work together.

Service is another important offering of the Family Computer Store. With five service people on staff, Sherwood services what he sells. He's earned the A+ Service Center certification given by the Computing

Technology Industry Association. "That means we adhere to a code of ethics and our technicians have been certified," Sherwood says.

The Family Computer Store is also a member of the Microsoft OEM System Builders Program, a team effort between Microsoft and retailers which guarantees that customers are receiving only genuine, legal versions of software.

The Family Computer Store is currently located at 7820 Andersonville Rd., just east of White Lake Rd. Look for the grand opening at the new location in July. Hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 9-7 Thursday and 10-4 Saturday. Call 623-9000 for more information.

Relax . . .

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TCI expands TV horizons with digital technology

Does someone in your house love channel-surfing? With the latest technologies offered by TCI Cablevision of Oakland County, it will no longer be necessary to flip through channels with the remote control. But if you just plain like to, go ahead—you still can.

TCI is now offering customers in north Oakland County a digital on-screen guidance system controlled by a new remote unit. For as little as \$10 a month, viewers can plan their TV-watching schedules as much as a week in advance, search for programs by channel, time, category or name, mark them for recording, order pay-per-view movies right on screen—and gain new channels for both TV and audio only. And it's all possible on your already existing TV.

"It's the best thing we've been able to do to expand the lineup," says John McNeel, general manager at TCI in Royal Oak. Digital, he explained, "takes the same amount of space on our cable and it sends 12 channels over that same space that used to carry only one."

Customers of the new digital service who have basic service will gain 16 more channels right off the bat, plus 10 music-only channels. Those music channels offer a wide range of musical styles without commercials or disk jockeys—just music.

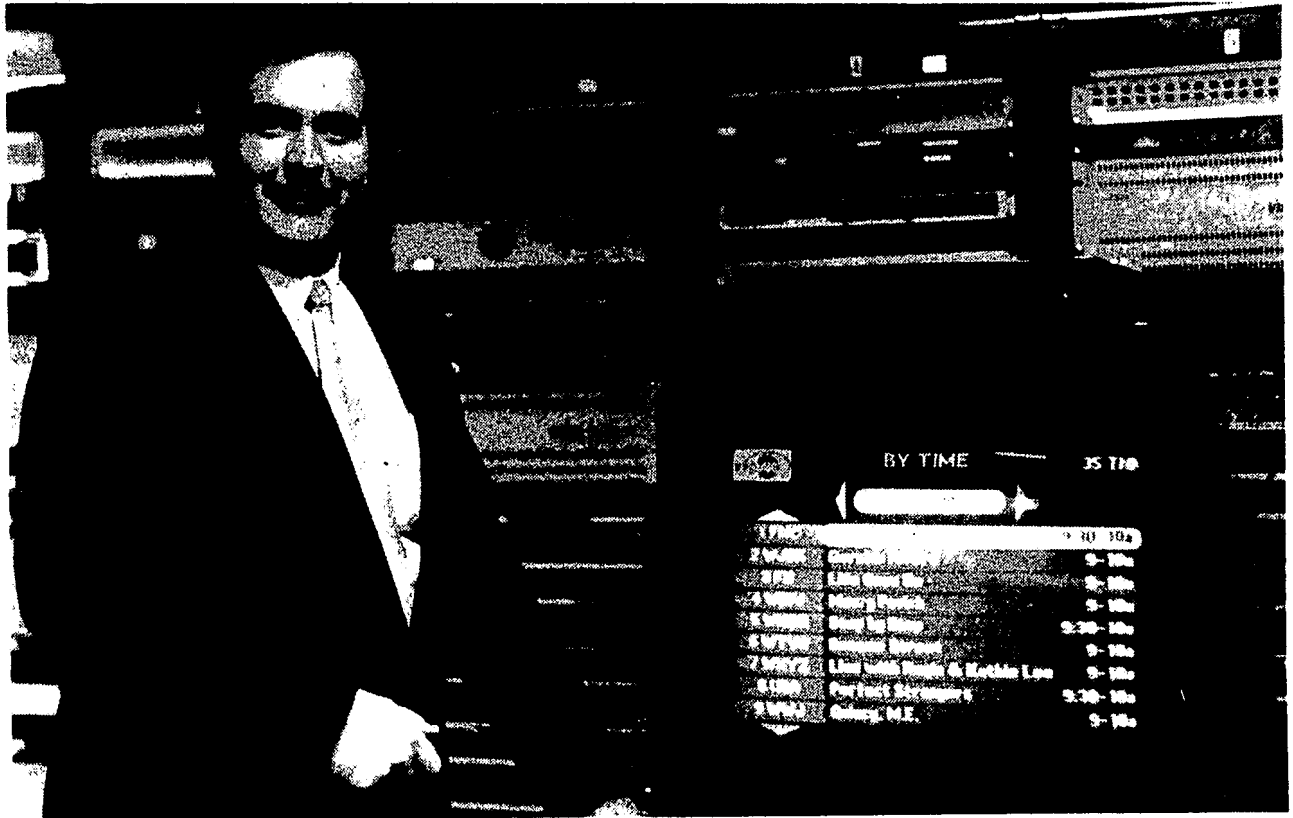
Among the 16 new TV channels are SCI-FI, The History Channel, BBC, Fox Sports World, ESPN News, Classic Sports and Turner Classic Movies.

If you already subscribe to a premium channel, picking up the new digital service gives you even more. For example, if you're an Encore subscriber, you will add three more affiliated channels—Encore Love, Encore Mystery and Encore Western. Get HBO? You'll get HBO 2 and HBO 3.

"The big thing we appreciate and think our customers will appreciate is this is designed with an on-screen cable guide," McNeel said. "Instead of just turning the TV on and flipping through 60 channels, this will allow you to take charge of what you're watching."

That even extends to parental control over what children are watching. With the new service, parents can block out selections by channel, rating and even title. A pass code is required to override the blocking.

When you subscribe, a service representative will



John McNeel is excited about the new Digital cable package from TCI.

come to your home and remove one or more of your existing cable boxes. He or she will install a new box and program the new remote unit to work with any other equipment you may have separate remotes for, such as a VCR or CD player. From then on, it can all be programmed with one controller.

With the new system, viewers will be able to continue to watch one channel while browsing to see what else is on. "You can surf without surfing," is how Dave Blakemore, Technical Operations Manager at TCI, explains it. "There's numerous ways to navigate. As a viewer you develop habits. And the new habits are more user-friendly. You'll build different habits than you previously had."

And great news—if you're browsing and a commercial happens to be on, the new display will tell you what the program is anyway. You don't have to wait for

the commercial to end. Couch potato heaven. Now if they could just find a way to order pizza via the remote

... "We're really proud of the package," says McNeel. "I've talked to customers and they've told me this is what they want. So we're really excited about it and we hope our customers will be really excited about it too."

Installation is \$12.95 and includes remote-control programming and a 30-day money-back guarantee. And if you're not ready to make the move yet, don't worry; the old kind of service isn't going to disappear. TCI, one of the nation's leading multiple system operators, believes in offering customers a choice.

"Cable has always been in the business of satisfying customers," McNeel says. "If we don't we hear about it directly; we're here in the community."

For installation, call TCI at 248-334-1144.

Home Health Care Keeps Families Together

For the first time you can remember, your mother, who has always been a picture of strength and vitality, is facing a long-term illness. As a result, she is unable to fully care for herself. You and your family are faced with a dilemma — "How do we get Mom the care she needs?" A nursing home is out of the question. So, what's your next option? That would be home health care.

During the past 10 years, home care has become a valuable health care service, provided by organizations like Personal Home Care Services, Inc. Care is available in the home setting by professionals such as registered nurses, home care aides, therapists and others, who provide service to the very young or someone just like "Mother."

Home health care is the choice for those who want to keep their family members together, and for patients who want to maintain dignity and compassion while remaining in the comfort of their homes.

Effective Oct. 1997, the Balanced Budget Act was implemented. This government measure is part of an effort to reduce Medicare spending. It will affect the

Medicare home care recipient and home care agencies. Here's why:

- There will be a dollar cap for home care visits. This cap is per beneficiary per year and may limit access to care for patients needing extensive clinical care.

- Some home care reimbursement will shift from Medicare Part A to Medicare Part B. This measure may impose a co-pay to the older adult patient.

- Venipuncture visits will be excluded as a skilled intermittent visit. This means that many homebound patients who cannot go to a clinic or hospital for blood draws will not receive this service.

- Many agencies may close or exit the home care business. This will limit access to care.

- As access to home care decreases, care will be transferred to the family or to a more costly setting such as the emergency room, hospital or nursing home.

As consumers and home care patients learn of the impact of the Balanced Budget Act, you are encouraged to contact your local politician to share how it will

affect you and your family.

Despite the changes that are taking place, home health care will remain an important part of the health care process. It offers a continuum of care as patients move from the hospital to the home setting. When choosing a home care agency to provide care for yourself or a loved one, begin by asking these questions:

- How long has the agency served your community?

- How does it hire its staff?

- Is the agency licensed, bonded and insured?

- Is the agency accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations — the organization that ensures that health care agencies meet a certain quality level?

- Can the agency provide all of the services that I need — from skilled nursing to medical equipment?

For more information about home care, call the Customer Service Department of Personal Home Care Services at 1-800-241-3434, or visit the home care agency's web site at <http://www.personalhomecare.com>.

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Since 1929 The Clarkston News family has been committed to fair and honest reporting of our community -- the Clarkston Area.

To subscribe, give a news tip or place an ad give us a call at 625-3370

Let Republic Bank finance your American dream

Clarkston's new bank has something many others don't — service that's up close and personal.

Instead of greeting tellers behind glass, customers can sit down on comfortable chairs, chatting about their bank needs at a desk. "It isn't a traditional-looking bank," says Kathy Karns, branch sales manager.

The new local branch opened at 20 S. Main St. in August. Even the decor isn't what you'd usually expect, with its homey oak furniture and charming wall wreaths.

When customers walk in for the first time, a typical comment is "Is this a bank?" says Karns. But, it's more than the atmosphere. Customers soon learn "they're not just a face. We greet them by name. We get to know the customers. And we keep in touch if we learn anything out of the ordinary. Republic goes after customer service. That's what differentiates us from the other banks."

Republic Bank first opened in August as a mortgage lender, says Brent Green, mortgage branch manager. "The location was prime because of the proximity to the real estate businesses."

But by December, it had grown to include a full-service banking system that now offers just about everything: checking and savings accounts, CDs, home equity loans, consumer loans, traveler's checks and more. The banking part of business is now located downstairs, the mortgage department upstairs.

The five staff members include Green, Karns, commercial loan officer Jeff Williams and mortgage loan originators Katy Calabrese and JoAnn Hood. Soon, they plan to add two personal bankers, who will handle people's personal accounts.

A grand opening is planned for the bank in May. The theme is timely with spring — "Come Grow With Us," says Karns. "Our customers will probably receive a small plant, and we'll provide refreshments."

Republic Bank is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for banking services, and by appoint-



Bank managers Brent Green and Kathy Karns are the friendly faces you see at the new Republic Bank in downtown Clarkston.

late evening hours go well for people who work all day," says Green.

Green says he wants people to know this bank is here to stay. "Our biggest challenge was getting this office and convincing people that we're here to stay, and we're a player in the banking industry."

One of their mottos is "Financing The American Dream." That's the focus of the corporation as a whole, says Green, adding that Republic, "a mid-sized bank," is based in 22 states with over 100 offices across the country. In the Flint region, of which Clarkston is now a member, there are 17 processors/closers, two underwriters and 18 loan officers, who manage mortgages, the main focus of their business.

Republic Bank is also the number-one SBA (Small Business Administration) lender in the state of Michigan. "We do the most small business loans for folks in Michigan." In the last three years, they've expanded from residential into three types of commercial lending, and are also tops when it comes to construction loans.

"In the last year we did \$65 million just in Genesee County," says Green.

But, getting back to the personal aspect, one of their loyal customers, Laura Fletcher, a Davison Realtor, says she's pleased she chose Republic. "They're really good with their customers and they're very personable. They'll even meet people at their homes. They're more than a nine-to-five business."

Green says Republic Bank has wanted to expand into Clarkston for years. They never planned to compete with NBD Bank, which ironically left the downtown as Republic was settling in. "Republic is a different kind of a bank," says Green. "It's more conducive to this environment," he says of the downtown, noting lots of customers like to walk — including a woman who has just stopped by with her dogs.

With a smile, he adds, "It's a great market, a beautiful sub area of Detroit. And it's just the place to be."



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THE ILLUSTRIOUS CLIENT
Giant Stuffed Portabella Caps
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CELTIC CHICKEN & BOURSIN SALAD
Warm Chicken Breasts Stuffed with
Boursin Dredged in Herb Crumbs
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ENTREES

MRS HUDSON'S BEEF POT PIE
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Chunks W/Fresh Vegetables

'THE NAVAL TREATY'
Roasted Plank Whitefish

SIR LOIN OF BEEF
Prime Rib with Demi
12 oz - Dr Watson Cut
16 oz - Homes Cut

CHARLES AUGUSTUS MILVERTON
Grilled 8 oz Royal Forest
Elk Chop

THOR-BRIDGE SAUTEED TROUT
Fresh Farm-raised Brook Trout

SANDWICHES

SCOTLAND YARD CLUB
Grilled Chicken Breast, Hickory Smoked
Bacon and Smoked Cheddar, Lettuce,
Tomato, Onion and Herb Mayonnaise
on Triple Deck Rye

FEATURED

FROM TIME TO TIME
'STAR OF RHODESIA'
Roast Duck with Fruit Compote



Lunch Prices from \$5.00 Dinner Prices from \$10.95

Clarkston Flower Shoppe

Special bouquets at a special flower shop

The first year in business has been very good for Shari Schulz, owner of the Clarkston Flower Shoppe.

"Even though we've only been here for a short while, it feels as if we've been a part of this town from the beginning," she says from her beautiful location next to the Birdfeeder on N. Main St. near I-75.

"We feel very fortunate to have the loyal following from our local customers. And it's just as rewarding when someone walks through our door for the very first time commenting on how they've been wanting to come in our shop."

A surprise gift of flowers is a joy, and Schulz wants the receiver to have a pretty package as well as wonderful flowers. So extra thought has gone into the vases, ribbons, cards and other touches that accompany the main event.

"We believe that service and presentation are equally as important as the product," Schulz says. "There's more to a good shop than good designers. It is our pleasure to go above and beyond for our customers."

That extends to the varieties of flowers available. "We label flowers in our cooler with identification and price. This is helpful when you need to place an order over the phone. We offer our customers the unusual varieties and tropicals as well as the basics. Chances are, though, you'll be more apt to find genestra as compared to baby's breath, and lisianthus instead of carnations."

The location inside the same building as the Birdfeeder is a bonus. The Birdfeeder is owned by her parents, Pat and Jerry Stroud, and her brother, Steve Stroud.

"Our customers love the fact that they can stop by and pick up their weekly fresh-cut bouquets and walk through an archway to pick up their wild bird seed at the Birdfeeder," she says. "The two businesses go hand in



Need flowers? Shari Schulz will do a great job at the Clarkston Flower Shoppe.

hand and attract a wonderful clientele. Because we're family owned, the businesses lend a very personal touch. People like to shop where they're known by their first name and greeted with a sincere welcome.

"When a customer visits our location, we want it to be one that is enjoyable. Not everyone comes in to make a purchase. There are people who just want to look around and get ideas and helpful suggestions. It's neat when you can inspire someone."

Schulz loves Clarkston, and considers providing such hospitality essential to maintaining that small-town feel she's come to enjoy so much, as well as just good business.

"With the floral industry continuing to grow, we know how important it is to take good care of our

customers. We go to every necessary length to ensure you receive a quality product. And that you are educated on the proper care and handling to ensure maximum longevity."

The mother of two girls, ages 6 and 9, Schulz said being in two places at once is her big challenge, and once in awhile the girls have come to the shop with her. One customer even came in asking for them once. She's increased her staffing due to the success of the shop and because she wants her customers to receive a top-notch product.

"I would like to thank my brother Steve for his continuous support and encouragement, and my husband Tom for his constant support and understanding and motivation," she says.

The Clarkston Flower Shoppe is a Teleflora florist and also does weddings. Corporate and house accounts are available. Hours are 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Monday-Friday and 9:30-4 Saturdays. Call 625-9711 for more information.

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Meeting the need for quality day care

Jean Dasuqi has provided day care in her home for 11 years. Now, she's on the brink of moving into a dream facility she's building on Citation Dr. just off M-15.

Lil' Peoples' Place will open in late April and is now accepting applications. Dasuqi, the mother of two, knows there's a need for more day care in the Clarkston area.

"I've always had a waiting list," says the Michigan State University grad. "I've always wanted to do it; it's what I went to school for." She has a degree in early childhood development.

The new facility is designed with children in mind. "Everything in the building is to the convenience of the child. The toilets are little, the sinks and fountains are reachable."

In the center of the building is the Parachute Room, an octagon-shaped room that opens onto five classrooms around its perimeter for various age groups. Each classroom has lots of big windows.

"The octagon room has nothing but space and toys," Dasuqi says. "It's for free play so when it's rainy like today, we can still play."

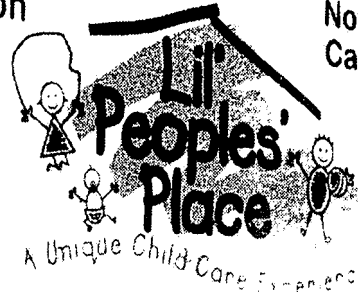
There will also be fenced play areas outside, including a separate area for toddlers. Dasuqi describes it as a playground within a playground. It'll feature rubber tiles "so my new walkers can be independent outside. They like that," Dasuqi says.

Architect on the project is Jerry Carter of Custom Homes. "Because I'd done day care in the house so long I knew what I wanted," Dasuqi says. "Jerry seemed to get real excited about it too. He's over there every week making sure it's done the way it's supposed to be."

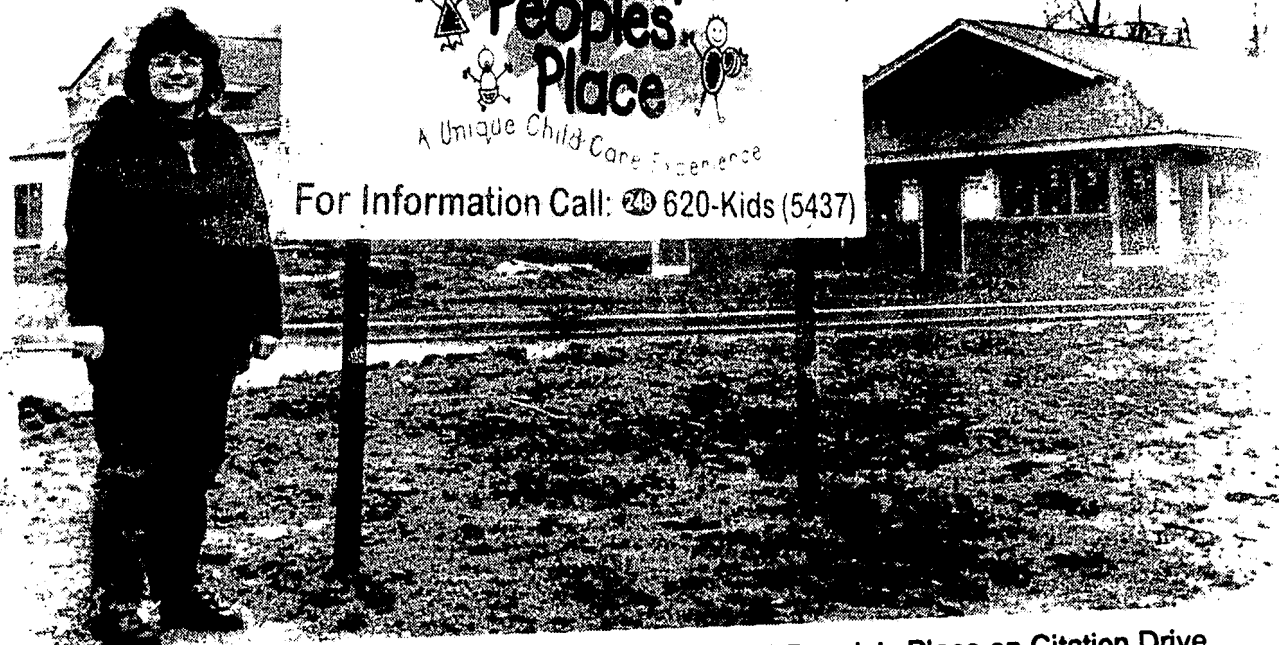
The school's day will center on learning. "We're going to focus on learning through fun. All children from 18 months on will be enrolled in a learning program called High Reach. Children learn the most when they're having fun. I've used it in my home for 11 years."

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Jean Dasuqi stands outside her new day care center, Lil' Peoples' Place on Citation Drive.

For example, if one day the kids are learning the letter P, they might wear pajamas, eat popcorn, and watch Pinocchio. "My sons say 'Mom, you take this overboard.' But they'll always remember that P sound."

"That's my goal for the center. You have to teach them when they don't know they're learning. They're just having fun."

Running a day-care center is not all fun for the owner, however. Some of the things Dasuqi must think about include security and communicable diseases.

Both are important to her. Though she'd rather it didn't have to be so, the building will be locked and admittance will be by buzzing in and cameras will monitor each room from Dasuqi's office. And keeping kids healthy, "That's major. So you bend over backwards," she adds.

Lil' Peoples' Place will accept children from age 6 weeks to 6 years and will offer a full preschool. It will be licensed for 76 children. For more information call 248-620-KIDS.

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Dr. Aenlle welcomes Dr. LePere's patients

Taking over the practice of a long-term, much beloved physician in the community while maintaining his own patients was a tall order for internist Anthony Aenlle, M. D.

When Dr. Ronald LePere retired, Dr. Aenlle was called in to fill the gap. He has now consolidated the two practices in a building on Dixie Highway, across the street from the Clarkston Cinema, and is beefing up both his staff and his square footage.

"We're in the process of slowly merging the two practices," he says. Marvelling at Dr. LePere's work ethic, he adds, "I don't know how he did it." However, he's got a pretty ambitious schedule of his own.

The office is now open 7:30 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday-Friday and 7:30-1 Saturday. Walk-ins are welcome. A new associate, David Bradlee, D. O., an internist and endocrinologist, has come aboard, and two temporary physicians from St. Joseph Mercy-Oakland have been helping out until a third permanent doctor can be selected. Pine Knob Pharmacy is also moving to the new building so the patients who were so used to having it inside Dr. LePere's office will feel right at home.

"I'm excited because we're increasing our volume as far as the number of physicians and the number of patients," Dr. Aenlle says. "Because of that we can add new things."

One of those new features is bone densitometry, the only such service offered in Clarkston. It will help the doctors evaluate bone strength, primarily in post-menopausal women.

"It's been around for a long time but the problem is we've really never had adequate treatment," Dr. Aenlle says. "Now we have treatment that's pretty specific for osteoporosis and they're good drugs."

Education will also be an important feature of the newly enlarged practice. Video and audio tapes as well as classes will be used to cover specific topics. Other services available on-site include x-ray, laboratory, ultrasound and OMT therapy. "We consider ourselves



(Front row, from left) Anthony Aenlle, M. D. and David Bradlee, D. O. pose with some of their staff: (back row, from left) Tracey Parsons, Judy Wolley, Cheryl Throesch and Gwenlyn Smith.

primary care physicians," Dr. Aenlle says.

Dr. Aenlle is a board-certified internist who has been in practice in Clarkston for 17 years. He is president of the Michigan State Medical School alumni and a past president of the Oakland Physicians Network, an organization of St. Joe's doctors.

His wife Beverly is his office manager. "She's been very instrumental in helping me with integration of the business, public relations of the practice and making sure everything is done properly," he says. "My forte is the medical. She helps me with the business. I definitely could not accomplish it without her."

The couple set up practice here because they liked Clarkston's small-town atmosphere. "My patients used to tell me where my kids were," he says. "We still have a little bit of that small-town atmosphere."

Because he's enjoyed being here so much, he isn't surprised his corner has become such a hotbed for doctors.

"It's a real nice community. It's a growth area and everybody wants to be in a growth area," he says. Clarkston Clinic is located at 6815 Dixie Highway; phone 625-1011.

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Sayles Studio records history with photography

A trip to Sayles Studio involves much more than a camera, some film and a light meter. According to owner Beth Ann Bell, the studio carries a much larger responsibility.

"The wave going on is that photographers have become the world's great storytellers," she said. "With our photos, we try to capture the relationships and the essence of a person."

Pretty heady stuff, but it's the only way Bell knows how to operate, and that's with her heart. When telling a story of children who get a portrait taken for their parents, she gets misty-eyed.

"I just have a passion for what I do," Bell admits. "This is a very happy business to be in, when you think about high school graduations and engagement pictures that we do."

Sayles has recorded Clarkston history through photos for 26 years, all from the same location. Bell's parents started the business 53 years ago, living in the second floor of the building. Bell lives there now with her new husband Jerry, who is the business manager and "an aspiring photographer."

Bell said one of her biggest challenges in the modern photography business is keeping up with all the advances in technology as well as the outside world in general.

"Some of the biggest trends have been black and white prints, with a 1940s look about them," she said. "We have also seen more family shots with casual dress and on-site, outdoor shots."

In the Sayles waiting room is an entire wall full of senior portraits, many featuring Clarkston High School seniors. Popular studio shots are shown along side outdoor pictures, students with their varsity sports gear hung all around, and black and white "glamour" shots.

Also found in the room are various pictures of the Stanley Cup, won by the Detroit Red Wings in June.

"Lisa Ilitch is a client of ours, and she was able to bring the Cup into the studio for a couple hours last



Jerry and Beth Bell are the owners of Sayles Studio at 4431 Dixie Highway in Waterford.

Christmas," Bell recalled. "We had it for 90 minutes, and we called as many of our clients as we could so they could have their picture taken with the Cup. It was quite a thrill. It was like having the King of England come visit."

As time marches on, Bell said she can't imagine a better way to make a living, sharing the good times so many people have through the camera.

"We've got some wonderful families in this area, and I want to say thank you to all of them," she said. "You are all wonderful."

Sayles Studio is located at 4431 Dixie Highway in Waterford. Hours are 11-6 Monday through Friday and 10-2 Saturday, and by appointment on Sundays and in the evenings. The phone number is 674-0413, and the fax number is 674-3697.

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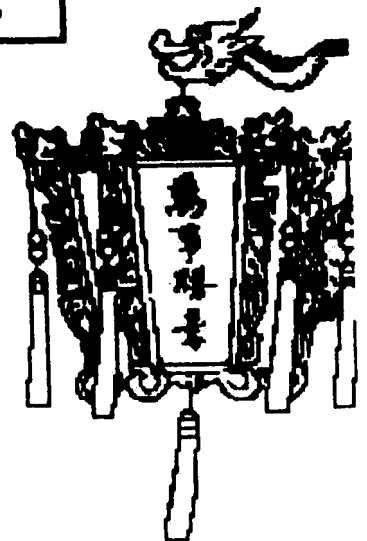
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Who could have known 43 years ago that a chance meeting between a boy and a girl in sixth grade would result in a business that has stood for quality for more than four decades.

Certainly not Burt Fangel, who calls his meeting and eventual marriage to his wife Phyllis "a Cinderella story."

Phyllis' father, George Brinker owned and operated a plumbing business and asked Burt if he wanted to work there after getting out of the armed forces. Burt accepted, and the tradition began.

"I wish Mr. Brinker could see this place today," Fangel said, walking around his store one sunny afternoon. "We wanted to keep his name on the business because he was a fine man."

Brinker's has been at its current location on Hatchery in Waterford for eight years, on Dixie Highway the previous 47 years. Up and down the aisles at Brinker's there are racks full of faucet fastenings, washers, and any number of other useful household items.

Brinker's is a kind of haven for do-it-yourselfers, especially for those who have classic-style furnishings in their home.

"We have access to specialty companies that can get us parts that are 50 years old," Fangel said. "There are a lot of nice, old homes around here, and the people like to keep that feeling of nostalgia. We can help them with that."

Brinker's is strictly a plumbing and heating store with knowledgeable associates always on hand to answer any variety of questions.

"There's always someone here who can help," Fangel said.

Some of Brinker's services include hot-water heating, lake pump repairs, humidifiers, and installation of equipment like dishwashers and disposals.



Burt Fangel and his wife Phyllis, owners of Brinker's Plumbing and Heating, show off some of the wide selection of faucets available at the store.

Among the brand names kept in stock are: American Standard, Mansfield, Grohe, Delta, and Price-Pfister.

The wide selection of faucets is one of Brinker's selling points, Fangel said.

"You have some places that sell 40 different faucets of the same company," he said. "Here, we have many different kinds of faucets, and we can order almost anything you don't see here."

Burt's and Phyllis' children have taken up the cause, getting involved with the business also. A daughter, Kristi Beno, is the store manager, and a son, Kevin, is the manager of the service department. Brinker's employs a master plumber, along with several other certified staff members.

After so many years of helping people improve the quality of their home's interior, Fangel still gets excited to go to work everyday.

"I'm beyond the retirement age," he says with a grin. "And I don't know when I will retire. But I enjoy this every day."

Brinker's Plumbing and Heating is located on 4760 Hatchery in Waterford. Hours are 9-6 weekdays and 9-3 Saturday. For more information, call 673-2121.

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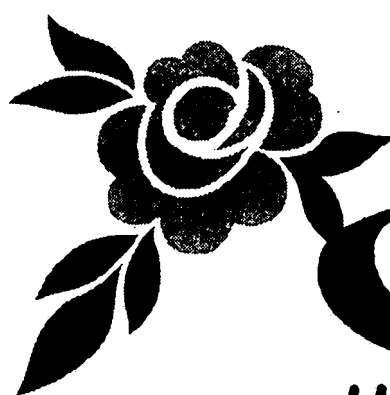
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Customers get pampered from head to toe at Terri King Salon

As a working mother, Terri King knows how hectic everyday life can be. She realizes both men and women want to look good — and feel good — as they go about their business, whether it's working at the office, raising families or both. And, because she's experienced, she knows they can benefit from the wide range of products offered by a good, full-service salon.

That's one reason why she started her own business, Terri King Salon, located at 5896 Dixie Highway, last November. She wants her customers to enjoy the pampering as much as she does — whether they stay for an hour or all afternoon.

"I love to be treated that way," says King, who offers much more than hair care. Besides the cuts, colors and perms, she employs a massage therapist, who does full body massages. Her staff also provides facials, paraffin waxing, manicures and spa pedicures.

As far as hair care products, Terri King Salon stocks the best — names like Paul Mitchell, Sebastian, Redken, Schwarzkopf and TIGI.

The salon is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Appointments may be made by calling (248) 623-5464. King shares space with Konfetti Kids next door, and the children's clothing store definitely complements her business.

King knows we live in a fast-paced society filled with stress and tension, so she's establishing "packages" that will help her customers to relax — specials for working moms and dads, brides-to-be and mothers-to-be, plus holiday packs for events like Mother's and Father's Day.

For example, a total body package includes a full-body massage, facial, paraffin waxing and a spa pedicure. But if you don't find a package that suits you, you



Terri King coifs a style for life-long friend Melanie Lafner.

can design your own.

Currently, a one-hour full-body massage costs \$50 and packages run \$75 and up.

"We can create a package you want for yourself, someone else or a special occasion," says King. "You could spend an hour or the whole day."

Although her salon is run as "a team effort," she wants to do everything possible to help employees

achieve their full potential.

"I wanted more for myself and to be able to share what I love doing so much — to help other stylists grow." That's why she decided to take her career to the next level as a business owner.

She couldn't have done it all without the support of her entire family, which includes her husband Bruce and 19-month-old daughter Mackenzie. And having a family helps her empathize with her customers. For example, "Being a working mom, I understand what mothers' needs are," she says.

A 1986 Clarkston High School graduate, King was raised here and knows the area's growing. She has more plans for her salon.

"I have a lot more goals for pampering men and women in the future," she says, adding that she's had a great response from both genders.

"I put this sign out once that said: 'Burned out? Get a massage.' I had so many men and women calling on their car phones," she chuckles.

Look for the money-saving coupons throughout this section and every Clarkston News edition!



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Youngsters get 'the look' at Konfetti Kids

Today's kids are just as fashion-conscious as their parents. And Konfetti Kids is a high fashion shop that carries all those cool and colorful styles they want. They also carry other trendy items to fit the needs of all kids in a conservative way that both parents and children will like.

Located at 5896 Dixie Highway, Konfetti Kids offers a full line of children's clothing by name brands that include Patsey Aiken, Blooz and Nautica. Boys' sizes are infant to 7 years, and girls' sizes range from infant to 14 years. Owner Carrie Doski describes her Kids clothing as high quality, yet affordable.

But one thing's certain. Youngsters have their minds made up when it comes to what they wear. She tries to keep up with the various fashions.

"The kids today usually have a huge opinion of what they want to wear and not wear. It's unbelievable," says Doski. Though they offer some trendy styles such as baggies, they aren't the "over-baggies. We're a conservative store." Children and teens also view "comfort" as a big factor, adds Doski.

Besides clothing, it pays to accessorize, accessorize, accessorize. That's why the shop stocks hats, bows, ribbons, jewelry, even baseball caps for boys. "If a baseball cap comes with the outfit, we get it."

In addition to children's fashions, Konfetti Kids includes a large baby department with very unique layette sets, and a large selection of stuffed animals. It's the perfect stop for birthday presents, with gift wrapping available. "We also offer gift certificates and layaways," says Doski. Shopping is convenient because parents don't have to fight the mall traffic.

Hours at Konfetti Kids are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call (248) 623-7606.

A few years ago Doski started her first enterprise: supplying private schools with custom-made uniforms, a business she continues today. Because students are close, they can stop by for fittings.

But she saw the need for up-scale children's



Lauren Doski, 10, and her sister Danielle, 9, try on some cute fashions in their mother's store.

clothing in this area and decided to open Konfetti Kids two years ago. As the area grows, she'd like to expand the business even further.

Next door, in the same building, is Terry King Salon. The two businesses definitely enhance each other, she says. After kids check out her clothes they can get their hair done, "or vice versa."

Doski believes community service is a big part of her venture, so she frequently donates items like stuffed animals and gift certificates to local charities. Recently, a "Princess Diana" Beanie Baby was auctioned at a school function.

Most of all, both parents and children can be comfortable when they visit the shop. "A very impor-

tant atmosphere we try to maintain here is very friendly and helpful. And I have very good employees here, which is half the battle of owning your own business," adds Doski.

Her whole family is supportive, and daughters Lauren, 10, and Danielle, 9, keep younger customers entertained. They also enjoy helping out with business.

"We even recruit the kids to sell Beanie Babies, those wonderful little things," adds Doski with a laugh. Her daughters love the fact that their mom owns a kids' clothing store.

"It's fun selling the Beanie Babies," admits Lauren. "We can just come in and try things on — but we have to ask if we can get it," adds Danielle.

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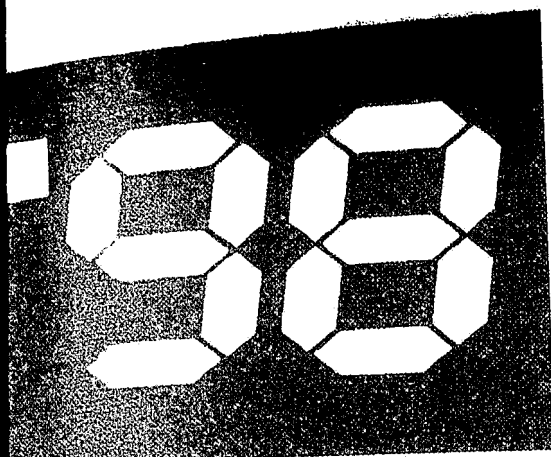
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A great new place for kids to hang out

Young people in Clarkston have a wonderful, safe new place to go to have fun. Whether it's to avoid being home alone after school, or to meet with friends on a Friday night, the Clarkston Christian Association offers new options for the entire community.

The CCA opened recently in a former grocery store at the corner of Sashabaw and Maybee roads. It's an outreach of sorts of Mt. Zion Church, which initially took on the venture to have more space for its own programs.

"It fulfills our basic philosophy of fulfilling the ministry of Jesus Christ, who showed us we're supposed to love our neighbor as ourselves," says Pastor Loren Covarrubias.

The idea of turning the store into a youth center was initially brought up at a meeting of the Clarkston Community Task Force for Youth, and struck a chord with Covarrubias. "As we thought about our own programs for our youth at church, we felt compelled to structure them in a way that would service our own church and the children of the community."

The 3,000 members of Mt. Zion's congregation knew the need was there. Mt. Zion already operates a similar facility in Waterford. And since opening CCA, the church youth group has doubled in size.

"We wanted to bless our own children and we know we need to bless other children as well," Covarrubias says. "We're not self-focused. It's give unto others and they shall give unto you."

"When Jesus was on earth, he took the responsibility of other people's problems, and that's what we wanted to do. We wanted to be problem solvers, not complainers."

But opening the CCA goes well beyond problem-solving. It provides a wonderful, safe setting for young people which will, hopefully, keep some problems from happening. Covarrubias notes that even President



Pastor Loren Covarrubias stands with the "low rider" which acts as a sort of juke box for the CCA.

Clinton said in his State of the Union address that 75 percent of juvenile crime is committed between 3 and 6 p.m., when children are often unsupervised.

The commitment required to transform a vacant store into a place kids would be happy to go to was enormous. But, Covarrubias said, his congregation didn't blink.

"The Lord is really moving in our church. Every time we put up a request for volunteers, we have more than enough. So this has been blessed with volunteers."

Funding, likewise, was provided by the church. Minimal admission costs are charged, and all except a

few key staff are volunteers from the church and the greater community. "In Clarkston we've had a lot of community support," Covarrubias says.

A tour around the facility reveals arcade games, music, skateboarding and in-line skating ramps, meeting rooms, a coffee house equipped for music, satellite TV and pool tables. A kitchen and Internet service are on the way. Original art work on a grand scale covers the walls. The church is blessed with talented artists who have contributed to the project to make it one of a kind.

"We just went on faith; we do everything on faith," Covarrubias says. "We just feel God impresses us to move in a certain direction."

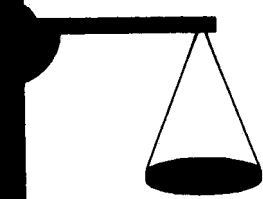
The CCA is available to middle-schoolers Monday-Friday, 2:30-6 p.m. with a \$2 admission charge. Ages 18-30 are welcome at the coffeehouse Friday nights for \$5. Ages 12 and up can participate in "aggressive skating" Tuesday-Thursday, 6:30-10 p.m. for \$5. Sunday night youth rallies are 6-9 p.m. for grades six-12.

In addition, some church events are held at the CCA. A series of Monday night classes for couples begins in March on the theory that if you help parents, you benefit kids. There is also Monday night Bible study. Covarrubias hopes to be able to loan the meeting rooms out to the community as well.

For more information, call 391-6166.

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Nearly 20 years of serving great Chinese cuisine

The food is as authentic as the atmosphere at Wing Lauk Restaurant in Waterford.

It starts with the exquisite ivory carvings, displayed in glass behind the front counter. "They belong to the family. Some came from Hong Kong, some from China," explains Tony Gee, who owns the restaurant with his parents, Diane and Leo.

Other touches include the red and gold decor, the Oriental vases, lantern lamps, paintings of pagodas and graceful fans upon the walls. It's a place where diners are comfortable in either elegant or casual attire.

The Gee family is beginning its third generation of serving great Chinese cuisine in the Metro Detroit area, dating back to 1947 when Tony's grandfather opened the first restaurant at Six Mile and Livemois. After 19 years at their current location in the Waterfall Plaza, tradition is still important.

"We place a high emphasis on using the highest quality products to prepare consistent Chinese dishes. The chef and this staff have a combined 40 years with us," says Tony. "We strive to continue to treat our guests to a great dining experience with prompt and courteous service, a pleasant ambiance and consistency in our preparation."

The restaurant specializes in traditional Cantonese, representing the family's background, but also features Mandarin and Szechuan dishes. Included are American foods, low-calorie and vegetarian dishes, a children's menu and cocktails, beer and wine. "Try the new Taiwan dark beer or the traditional Tsingtao beer from China," Tony suggests.

Wing Lauk also offers carry-out and private banquet facilities for everything from family gatherings and reunions to rehearsal dinners and business meetings. A Luncheon Combination special is available throughout the week.

The biggest challenge is "to continue to entice people to try new dishes and different preparations. Everyone has favorites," he admits. "But what we try



Owner Tony Gee poses in front of the restaurant. Pictured is the Chinese symbol for Wing Lauk, which means "always happy." Gee and his family hope to keep their customers always happy with their great Chinese cuisine.

to do is to also educate diners to the different preparations and the different tastes. Almost anyone can find a dish that they will enjoy because of the numerous dishes on the menu."

Most popular are stir fries, items with sauces, Almond Chicken, sweet and sour dishes and the spicy Szechuans. "We're also always coming up with new dishes. We listen to our guests. If it sounds intriguing enough, it becomes a special."

Tony frequently visits other restaurants to find out which dishes are popular, sometimes coming up with his own variations on items like "General Tsao's

Chicken:" lightly floured stir-fried chicken in a tangy mixture of pea pods, baby corn and onions. "A lot of people traditionally do it with broccoli. But this combination gives it a little more texture."

The challenge for the future will be continuing to create and introduce new specials, and to continue to look for new ideas, preparations and products, says Tony. Now 33, he joined the family business when he was 15. In time he left Wing Lauk to work for several of the late Chuck Muer's establishments, including Big Fish 2 in Madison Heights, where he learned more about the management aspect.

Two years ago he returned to help run the family business. "I never wanted to be part of the corporate part of a restaurant. I've always liked being on the floor, taking to people and running the restaurant," says Tony. "The whole thing is to continue what my parents have built. They're not ready for retirement," he says.

The restaurant's starting its fourth generation with Gee's own children, including a 13-year-old son, who's nearly ready to be a busboy, says Tony. His 3-year-old even likes running for people's tickets, he laughs.

The family made the right decision to locate here two decades ago, he adds. "The area struck us as an area with tremendous growth potential, yet it also has a strong foundation of residential and commercial. This is what we saw 19 years ago and that is still the outlook that we have today. We hope to be here another 20 years."

Wing Lauk is located at 5665 Dixie Highway, in the Waterfall Plaza in Waterford. The phone number is (248) 623-6337. Dining hours are Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 10 p.m.; lunch, Monday-Saturday till 4 p.m.



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Business keeps blooming at The Wild Orchid

Because they could foresee the area's potential for growth and the need for specialized personal services, the owners of The Wild Orchid made the right decision to locate their salon in Clarkston nine years ago.

In the last two-and-a-half years, business has more than doubled, say co-owners Gail Rudd and Caroline Dicks.

"I think the growth we projected is happening, attracting more small businesses and restaurants, allowing residents to shop and buy locally instead of going for quality to Rochester, Birmingham and Troy," says Caroline.

Conveniently located in Ritter's Country Square at 6684 Dixie Highway, the salon has many loyal customers from all over the area, because of personalized attention for each client and a full line of services.

"The quality of our service is important to us. Keeping our clients serviced and happy at the same time," says Gail, "makes them high maintenance. But we love every minute of it. We don't just rush them through. Everybody has their own prescription."

That prescription can be filled from a long list of services and products. The Wild Orchid offers custom styling, perms and coloring, with an emphasis on precision family haircuts for men, women and children. Some operators even specialize in men's cuts.

Long-hair specialists are also a part of the team, says Caroline. Pointing to teenagers and other clients, she adds, "We have a following for homecoming, proms and all special occasions from Holly, Brandon, Waterford, Lake Orion, Oxford and surrounding areas."

Other services include eyelash tinting, facial and brow waxing, pedicures, manicures, both acrylic and gel nails, makeup with consultations, ear-piercing, tanning and massage therapy. The salon carries a full line of Matrix products, as well as Redken. The staff includes 11 stylists, two nail technicians, a receptionist and a clinical massage therapist.

Two years ago, the salon added a nail room with state-of-the-art ventilation, eliminating all acrylic odor. Tracy Duong handles acrylic nails and Diana Graves, with seven years of experience, specializes in gels.

A year ago, both tanning and massage therapy were added. The Peacock Tanning System was decided on by Gail and Caroline because "It's like a stand-up bed. It's more intense than lying down, so you can complete your session in 15 minutes. That's the max," notes Gail.

Nancy Egan is the massage therapist, specializing in three types of massage: deep tissue therapy, clinical massage and relaxation massage. She has 14 years experience in her field.



Teamwork makes it happen at The Wild Orchid salon. Staff members include, left to right: first row (floor), Tracy Duong, Lisa Pytel, Ann Fischer; second row, Nancy Egan, Lisa Davis, Eve Clark; third row, Tina Sosville, Gail Rudd, Caroline Dicks, Shelly Rudd; fourth row, Dawn Chamberlain, Nancy Upperstrom, Diana Graves, Tiffany Graff, Lisa Sizeland

An important focus of the staff at The Wild Orchid is teamwork. Though each member works well alone, "We have a great sense of camaraderie because we all work together," says Caroline. "We draw from our combined knowledge to meet each customer's needs."

And, their clients seem to love the final results because they keep coming back. Caroline says it's

challenging to keep the right balance between current fashion and the client's own individuality.

"We are trendy in the sense that we want everyone to keep their individual look, but when they walk out of our salon, they're in style."

The Wild Orchid is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. until selected evening hours. Appointments can be made by calling (248) 625-6200.

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Smiles and respect always at Carlton Manor

Nestled among tall pines in a woody setting, Carlton Manor offers a home-like atmosphere for the elderly woman who can no longer live on her own or has become more dependent on others.

Services include 24-hour supervision by a qualified, caring staff; administration of medications and treatments, as ordered by each resident's doctor; prescription delivery; a visiting podiatrist; three nourishing, well-balanced daily meals; and excellent personal hygiene care.

Carlton Manor also offers beautician services, all laundry needs, social activities, and both long- and short-term care, plus day care, at affordable prices. Four private rooms, including one semi-private room, are available. The facility includes two full-size bathrooms designed for the elderly. The home is licensed by the State of Michigan as an adult foster care facility and is insured as such by an independent provider.

The typical resident is a generally a widow, in various stages of Alzheimer's disease, dementia, diabetes or other health concerns, says owner-administrator Jim Carlton, who opened Carlton Manor in August, after a four-year partnership at another facility.

He describes Carlton Manor as "a dignified alternative to nursing homes." Because it's a small facility, it's able to focus on the individual.

"I enjoy it," says Jim. "Mostly because of the fact that we can give the elderly a nice, home-like atmosphere as opposed to a nursing home. The layout is such that there are no steps for anyone to climb, with everything all on one level."

Though, he agrees, it's difficult to move from one's own home, he's seen so many of his residents change from unhappy to happy because of the personalized attention. "When you have a smaller facility, you can do that. That's rewarding," says Jim.

"In nursing homes, they tend to keep people apart from each other," says Jim. "Here, we can play games with them. We have popcorn nights, ice cream nights; we can take walks around the neighborhood. That's a lot more pleasant."

The staff includes Marjorie (Marge) Yeomans, a residential care specialist with 21 years of experience in working with the elderly and mentally handicapped; Kelly Belcher, also a residential care specialist, and home manager Elva Flores. A 24-hour on-call nurse is also available.

A beautician visits, and women get their hair



Resident Georgia Swanberg has her nails done by staff member Marge Yeomans.

styled and curled by the staff daily. Nails are done as needed. "When somebody comes in here, they're going to see pretty women," says Jim. He also points to his staff's home-cooked meals, and jokes that they're all putting on a little weight.

It's not your typical nursing home fare, where each resident receives small portions. "That's another little bugaboo of mine — they eat till they're full." That includes snacks, he adds.

It's important to keep the place cheery, the place upbeat. Jim remodeled extensively with fresh paint and wallpaper before he opened.

Women are encouraged to furnish their rooms with items from their own homes, whether they're bedspreads, furniture or drawings from their grandchildren. Jim tries to keep the ladies socially active.

The staff is always ready to help, just like their families. "They get help with letters and they love to be read to," says Marge, who often does the ladies' nails.

"Lots of them tell stories."

When the women get homesick, and they do, "You just sit down and talk to them," says Jim, "take a situation at a time." Sometimes it means a phone call to the family. "They get through it," he adds.

Birthdays are remembered and the staff also invites the residents' families to Christmas parties and other occasions. They may go on outings, including vacations, if supervised by their families.

The staff is committed to providing the highest level of quality care available anywhere, says Jim. Currently, he's readying a "Hall of Fame" for one wall, where residents' photos will be displayed.

Of his staff, Jim says, "That's where I'm blessed. I've got people who love doing this. And the ladies love it. I make it fun around here so they don't want to leave."

Carlton Manor is located at 12264 Carriage Trail Circle in Davisburg. Call (248) 625-2822 or 634-7727 for more information.

Century 21 Hallmark West racks up the trophies



Bill and Carol Mountain show off two of the many awards won by Century 21 Hallmark West. The franchise was awarded with the President's Award, recognizing it for its quality of service and production.

They were again recognized for the third consecutive year as a national President's Award Winner by CENTURY 21 Corporation at the International Convention held in San Diego this past week. The President's Award was given to only 96 offices out of 5,000 in the company.

Combining high sales production and top-quality service has been a tradition of the CENTURY 21 Hallmark West real estate organization for over 29 years. Owners Bill and Carol Mountain, Clarkston residents for over 26 years, have led the growth of their company to three offices, more than 90 marketing consultants and a 15-member support staff.

"The heart of our company is the talented and dedicated marketing consultant staff who work professionally with sellers and purchasers to meet their real estate needs. Our marketing consultants are among the very best in the business," stated Bill Mountain. The company also received the International Quality Service Pinnacle Award, based on surveys sent back by customers after the completion of their transactions.

CENTURY 21 Hallmark West, because of its size, and recognizing the needs of the consumer, is very departmentalized. They have a national relocation and referral division, a closing department, an educational

division, and a mortgage company.

CENTURY 21 Hallmark West is also heavily involved in community charity work, with one of the highlights the 12th Annual Easter Seal Bowl-A-Thon. This year's event will take place at Cherry Hill Lanes at 1 p.m. April 4. The 11 previous Bowl-A-Thons have raised more than \$175,000 for the National Easter Seals Society.

"It's a great program, because all the money raised stays in the community," Carol Mountain said. Bill Mountain has been on the Easter Seals Board of Directors since 1988.

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Clarkston welcomes Salon Bonjour

Let's face it. Hair salons are a booming business right now, so it can be tough to separate one from the other.

However, ask GerriAnn Scholtz, co-owner of Salon Bonjour on Sashabaw Road, what makes her salon unique, and she doesn't hesitate.

"We like to keep a friendly and clean environment," she said. "I've found that our customers like to have a relaxed atmosphere when they come in. That's why we serve coffee and cookies while people wait."

Salon Bonjour has been open for eight months, and Scholtz says, "It's been a great start." In the salon business, many customers come through referrals, making word-of-mouth a key to success.

"Our customers have been great about giving us referrals," she said. "It's comfortable here, and we pamper our customers, and that's why they come back."

Although there's more to Salon Bonjour than just a nice atmosphere, there is also a high quality of work each hair technician likes to maintain. Scholtz has been in the business for four years, as well as co-owner Mary Jo Essa. Suzanne Iler, a licensed cosmetologist, has 10 years experience, Heidi Whiteman a licensed nail technician for seven years, and Sheila Salo, licensed in nail and hair work, for three years. The receptionists are Kelly Lynch and Kari Gibson.

Salon Bonjour stays open 11 hours a day during the week and seven hours on Saturday. "The long hours are to accommodate as many different schedules as possible," Scholtz said.

"We'll do what we have to do to get the job done," she said. "Sometimes we even come in at 7 a.m. on Saturdays."

Salon Bonjour also carries a full line of Aveda hair and body care products.



The people who make Salon Bonjour a relaxing atmosphere are (L-R): Sheila Salo, Mary Jo

Essa, GerriAnn Scholtz, Kari Gibson, Heidi Whiteman, Kelly Lynch, and Suzanne Iler.

"We always try to work as a team," Scholtz said. "If one of us gets behind, someone else comes in to help out. Everyone here is licensed to work on hair or nails, making us a very versatile staff."

Salon Bonjour is located at 6215 Sashabaw Road, Suite B in Clarkston. Hours are Tuesdays-Friday 9-8 and 8-3 Saturdays. The phone number is 620-5577.

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Kroger co-manager Jim Akers and meat department manager Dennis Gruno show off a slab of ribs from the service meat department.

The Kroger Company of Michigan prides itself on providing what its customers want. In Clarkston, that means quality meats. And meeting that demand has made the Clarkston store the company's highest-sales-volume meat department in Michigan.

The Clarkston store is under the direction of new manager Dennis Barber, who transferred recently from the White Lake store.

Co-manager Jim Akers says it's quality product and good staff which combine to make the store a success. "The people set it apart. I've got experienced people working in the meat department. And it's the product that Kroger buys. Kroger buys good product and you have to have people that know how to handle it properly. The people we have here care about customer satisfaction, as well as rotation and sanitation."

At the Clarkston store, Kroger offers packaged meats along with what's called a service meat department, where customers can make choices on top-notch cuts and have them wrapped.

Why do both? "It's to give the customer a choice," Akers says. "We sell premium, quality, upscale product there and there is a demand in Clarkston. We carry a large selection of beef, pork, chicken, veal and packaged lunch meats."

The service meat department is right alongside a service fish counter. With fish, quality product and staff are especially important. "You've got to have fresh product and people who know how to handle it," Akers says.

There are other areas of the store Kroger is proud of, including produce, deli and bakery. Selection is large and customer convenience and the wishes of local

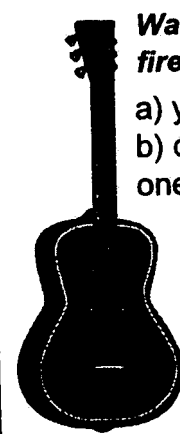
residents are important.

"You get into a particular market area and the needs and desires of the customers vary from location to location," Akers says. "And you've got to have a store large enough to carry a full selection."

"There is much more demand for convenience now than five, 10 or 15 years ago. It's a reflection of the time and two-income families."

Location is a big factor for the Clarkston store, which is at 6625 Dixie Highway at the intersection of Maybee Rd. The store is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, based on customer demand, and in addition to the full line of foods offers a Comerica bank branch and a pharmacy.

"It all goes back to convenience," Akers says. "With today's lifestyle, customer service is a must. Kroger's challenge is to be ready when families come to shop."



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Nichols Heating & Cooling strives for customer comfort

Most of us are creatures of comfort. When we're too hot, we're cross and listless. When we're too cold, we're downright miserable.

The goal of Nichols Heating & Cooling is to make sure neither of those extremes happens to their customers in Clarkston and north Oakland County. Their high-quality products and services keep homes and businesses cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

Established as a full-time business in 1976, the company deals with the sale, installation and service of heating and cooling equipment like furnaces, air conditioners, humidifiers and air cleaners. Famous brands include Carrier and Comfortmaker.

Nichols Heating & Cooling offers the full spectrum of service, including maintenance and duct cleaning. Formerly located on Dixie Highway, the business moved to its new site at 7824 Andersonville Rd., on the corner of White Lake Rd., in 1994.

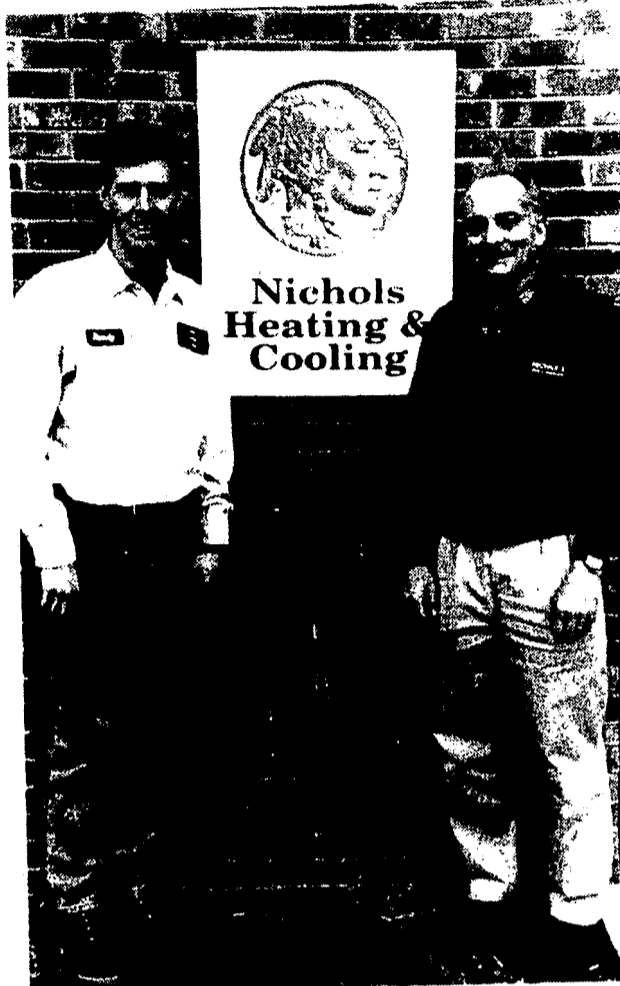
Office hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, with 24-hour emergency service available. The phone number is (248) 623-6628.

Its aptly named owner, "Therm" Nichols, says his biggest challenge is to meet the needs of his customers during all four seasons. "A great deal of our business is driven by the weather, economy and time of year."

Preventative maintenance is a key factor, and Nichols encourages his customers to have annual furnace and air conditioning checks. "Heating and cooling is often neglected. You take your car in for grease, oil and a filter to make sure it's running properly, cleaned, lubricated and all that stuff," he says. Why not, then, your furnace or air conditioner?

He laughs. "It's been sitting down there for 10 years. Have you ever looked at it? You say 'no.' Well ..."

That's why a preventative maintenance program,



Left to right, Randy Young and Therm Nichols are the partners of Nichols Heating & Cooling.

offered by Nichols Heating & Cooling, is needed. "We arrange to go out to their homes, without them sitting at home waiting for them to call us," he explains. Most

furnaces need to be replaced within 12-25 years, he adds.

Nichols is pleased to announce a long-time employee, Randy Young, has joined him as a partner. Young was a heating and cooling student at Oakland Technical Center Northwest, where Nichols formerly taught major appliance servicing. He started with Nichols as a junior in high school and has grown up with the business.

"He's been a real good service tech, sales person, installer and leader, the whole bit," says Nichols of his new partner. Over the years, the business has increased from one to 20 people. "There's been a demand for help in management," he explains.

A Clarkston resident for 30 years, Nichols and his family stay active in the community. He thinks Clarkston is a great area in which to live and work. "It's just a natural to stay close to home."

Like the area's population, the business plans to keep growing. "We are continuously changing to stay abreast of this changing world, to do an even better job of following up with our many customers," Nichols says.

But regardless of growth, they plan to continue the personal touch—through wind and sleet and snow. During the worst weather "the schools are closed, the roads are slick and people still want you to come out," he adds. "Even though we're growing, we think it's important to provide that personal service as much as we can."

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221 B Baker Street

Restaurant honors the Great Detective

What used to be a pizza place on Dixie Highway in Springfield Township has been turned into an enchanting English pub that honors the memory of Sherlock Holmes.

Fran and Ed Avey, both of English descent, have opened 221 B Baker Street just a mile north of Davisburg Rd. It's not far, but it's in some ways a world away.

The interior is done up in clean white walls with black accents, and all around are memorabilia of Holmes—newspaper articles, framed likenesses, tea things, pipes and magnifying glasses. In the entry is a small, handsome bar at which Dr. Watson might have felt at home.

Fran Avey gets misty-eyed talking about the family camaraderie that made her dream a reality. All four of the couple's children helped with the labor which turned the vacant spot into a charmer she dreamed up while working in her Oakland Township garden. It's she who has the culinary background.

Fran has 18 years of experience in the food-service industry. She's done catering, including The Palace, the Silverdome and Holiday Inn Auburn Hills. She was maitre d' for one season on a Detroit riverboat, and catering manager at Wayne State University for four years, where her duties included the theaters, the medical center and the president's apartment, where she occasionally presented high tea.

Ed, meanwhile, who works for Ameritech, discovered his interest in cooking in a round-about way,



Fran Avey sits among some of the English decor she's brought to her new restaurant, 221 B Baker Street.

cooking for the kids while Fran was off coordinating cooking for her employers.

"I just think we need a place like this," Fran says, surveying her white-tablecloth-covered tables. "Anybody can get chicken fingers and pizza anywhere."

Oh, the menu. Many dishes have English-sounding names, but what you'll find on the plate is more than fish and chips. Planked whitefish and salmon will be staples.

"We have Mrs. Hudson's (Sherlock Holmes' landlady) soups and breads and desserts," Fran says. On the healthy side, the vegetarian line will be dubbed "Dr. Watson's Prescriptions" after Holmes' friend and chronicler. At the bar will be "Professor Moriarty's Mixtures," named after Holmes' evil nemesis.

"And we're learning more as we go," Fran says. "My husband, every time he watches Holmes movies on TV, he comes up with more ideas."

Clearly, they're having fun with the concept, as Holmes fans have for decades all over the world. "There are people that still write to that address which is now a bank," Fran notes. "And the secretary answers 'Sherlock Holmes is alive and well and keeping bees in Sussex.'"

The restaurant opened Jan. 22 and is awaiting a liquor license. 221 B Baker Street is open for lunch and dinner, Tuesday-Friday, and dinner only Saturday-Sunday (closed Monday). A children's menu is offered. For more information call 922-9020.

Looking for a job? Need to hire an employee?
Look to the Help Wanted and Work Wanted ads in The Clarkston News. 625-3370



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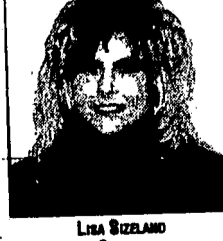
TINA SORVILLE
STYLIST



EVE CLARKE
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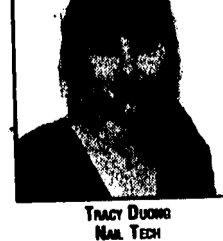
ANN FISCHER
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LISA SIZELAND
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LISA DAVIS
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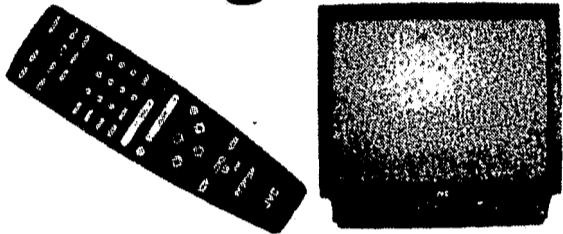


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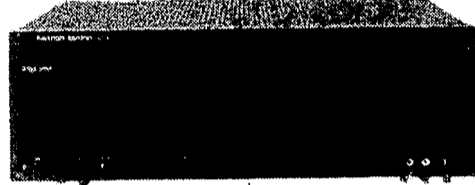
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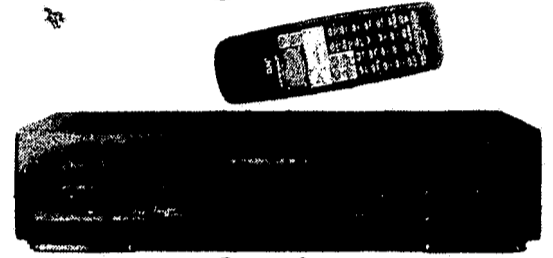
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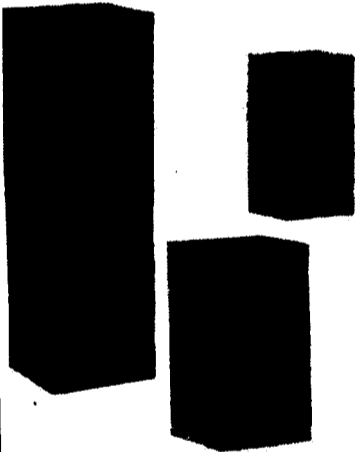


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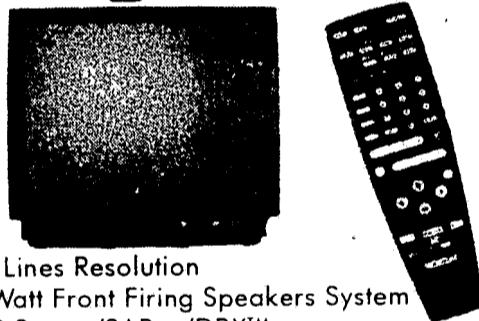
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Oxford Bank

A real community bank since 1884

In last year's Progress Edition we introduced the slogan "A Real Community Bank." You have since read it in our newspaper advertising, watched it on our cable T.V. spots, and probably saw it on our billboards while driving to or from work. The message is clear, Oxford Bank is a *real community bank*. But what should this mean to our customers?

Most banks in our area, at one time or another, have portrayed themselves in their advertising as a *community bank*. But the business of banking has changed dramatically over the past 10 years. The big banks have grown far larger than anyone might have imagined as they spread their operations across one state line after another. New technology has multiplied the ways that banks can deliver services to their customers.

Changing banking laws and regulations have allowed banks to offer numerous new products and services. The trouble is that if you live in Oakland County and need to talk to a decision maker, you might just find that the rules for your *community bank* are being made by someone in Chicago, Minneapolis, Australia, or soon, Cleveland.

Oxford Bank has tried to combine the best of the new with the best of the old, and views its role in the community a bit differently. We have grown with this area since we first opened our doors in 1884, helping local residents build that first home, buy that new car or truck, and expand their businesses.

We invest in our future by supporting the future of the area. This support is not limited to the dollars we reinvest as loans to area residents and business owners. Equally important is the active role we take in our school districts, our downtown development organizations, and the many civic groups within our communities. For our key decision makers this is home, and we take pride in seeing the results of our decisions all around us as we go about our business day.



Three of the many friendly tellers at Oxford Bank are (from the left) Kelley McCotter, Terese Aho and Jennifer Zwolen.

At Oxford Bank, customers enjoy a tremendous array of proven products and services, including world-class technology. From global ATM networking and direct deposit services, to home banking via the telephone or the internet, we are *on-line* with our customers' needs, while remaining *in-line* with our pricing.

And in a world where technology claims to make

our lives easier, we believe it is still people who make our lives better. At Oxford Bank, we are dedicated to the principle of treating every customer exactly like we would want to be treated if we were the customer.

Experience Oxford Bank ... *a Real Community Bank*.
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SEE what you've been MISSING!



"Call To Attend Our Free PRK Seminars"

Oakland Eye Care and Dr. Thomas Biggs are announcing their practice location in Clarkston and soon in Oxford.



- Complete Eye Exams for Glasses/Contact Lenses
- Cataract Specialist
- Eyelid and Plastic Surgery
- PRK Laser Surgery for Nearsightedness

**For An Appointment
Call (248) 620-3000**

Oakland Eye Care offers full range of service

One of the few ophthalmologists in north Oakland County is located on Main St. in Clarkston and plans to have an office in Oxford. Dr. Thomas W. Biggs offers care for people who just need their eyes examined for glasses, for those with eye problems, for those seeking eyelid plastic surgery or even the latest in laser vision correction.

There are several specialties surrounding eye care, but only ophthalmologists go to medical school. Optometrists go to optometry school and do eye exams as well as treat some eye diseases. Opticians are certified in the making of eye glasses only.

"An ophthalmologist is a physician who specializes in eye exams and eye medical and surgical care," Dr. Biggs says. Eye exams for glasses and contact lenses are a large part of his practice, but he also sees a number of eye health problems.

"There are a number of people I see who are referred by their optometrist or physician for eye problems and emergencies." Eye surgeries are also a large part of his practice.

PRK, or photo refractive keratectomy, is a newer part of his practice. PRK is a laser procedure to help correct nearsightedness and astigmatism which helps reduce the need for glasses," Dr. Biggs says. It's been approved for use in the U. S. for about one year, but has been researched here and done in Canada for much longer, "so we know it is a safe and effective procedure."

There are other surgical procedures for obtaining the same ends, but "PRK I feel is the preferable procedure," Dr. Biggs says. "I would consider it an advancement on RK (radial keratotomy). If you're a candidate, about 95 percent of people had driving vision or better after the treatment." PRK is done on an outpatient basis, generally at Royal Oak Beaumont Hospital. Dr. Biggs offers free seminars on PRK for people who are interested in learning more about the procedure.

Cataract surgery is another part of Dr. Biggs'



Dr. Thomas Biggs keeps patients seeing and smiling.

practice. "There are constant advances in cataract removal. I perform the most current cataract surgical techniques. I also do eyelid plastic surgery for people with cosmetic or eyelid health problems."

And, like any good doctor, Dr. Biggs stresses prevention. Even if you don't have eye problems, it's a good idea to get exams on a regular basis. Up to age 40, that should be every three years; from 40-55, every two years, and over 55, every one to two years. People with eye problems may need to be seen more frequently.

"Many people feel that if they are seeing well they

don't need to have their eyes checked. But many eye problems do not affect vision or only late in the disease." In practice now for seven years, Dr. Biggs previously worked in Warren before opening Oakland Eye Care at 5825 S. Main, Clarkston. He is also planning to see patients in Oxford in the near future. "We opened or practice in Clarkston and Oxford because we had always wanted to live here."

Office hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday, with evening appointments available. Call him at 248-620-3000 for more information.

WHY CLARKSTON LOVES...

- ✓ IS IT GREAT SERVICE?
- ✓ IS IT CONVENIENT LOCATION?
- ✓ IS IT MANY CONTRIBUTIONS & SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNITY?
- ✓ IS IT CUSTOMERS ARE NEVER TAKEN FOR GRANTED?
- ✓ IS IT FRESH SELECTION OF MEAT?
- ✓ IS IT **Xpress** CHECK LANES?
- ✓ IS IT WE'RE OPEN 24 HOURS?
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CHEESE SHOP



Prepare now for spring and summer

University Lawn has what your yard needs

It is getting to be that time of year when the grass starts growing, trees need trimming, weeds need whipping, and leaves need to be raked.

University Lawn at 945 University in Pontiac has tree trimmers, tractors, mowers, brush cutters, generators, saws, garden tillers, power washers, chippers, and just about everything else that is required for lawn maintenance.

No matter what your engine is on, University Lawn can get you a replacement engine or service your old one.

Owners Joel Wicker and Mark Waite, both Lake Orion High School graduates, took over the existing business because it very close to quite a few major roads.

University Lawn is one mile west of Opdyke Road, and 1 1/2 miles west of I-75 on University Drive, making it very accessible coming to or from work.

University Drive after construction is now five lanes, also making it easier to get to University Lawn.

The store has a fully equipped service center, sales, and parts. University Lawn also has a large showroom, displaying some of the products that can meet your needs. They offer pick-up for servicing equipment, or delivery on your newly purchased items.

"Any of the products we sell, we service," says co-owner Joel Wicker. "University Lawn is a convenient stop for the guys coming to and from work, it is easy in and easy out...especially with University now being five lanes." The store is close to I-75, M-59, and M-24.

University Lawn does not just have lawn mowers, they have pumps, generators, cut-off saws, snow blowers, and many other products geared toward outdoor power equipment.

They offer top brands such as Snapper and Simplicity, and also have a sports series line-up by Simplicity including both a Green Bay Packers and Detroit Lions snowblower, and a University of Michigan National



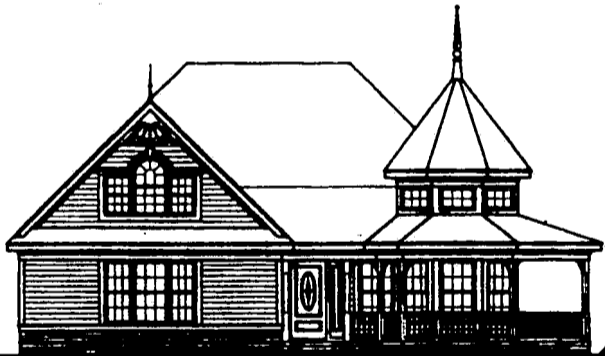
Any products University Lawn sells, they also service -- and they sell a bunch. Give them a call at 373-7220.

Champions tractor-mower.

Open Mon.-Fri. from 8:30-5:30, and Sat. 8:30-3:00, you can stop by and see University Lawn's showroom or call 248-373-7220 to obtain information.

The spring and summer weather seems to be coming much earlier than usual. University Lawn can help you prepare for needs in lawn maintenance and outdoor power equipment.

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Additional information under Davisburg Fountain PUD Project
See also Davisburg Fountain PUD Project story

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"Therefore your gates shall be open continually." Isa. 60:11

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday

Morning Services at 8:30, 10:00 & 11:45 a.m.
Kidz of Zion Children's Program at 8:30, 10:00 & 11:45 a.m.
Bible Training Classes at 6:00 p.m.
AlleNation Youth Service at 6:00 p.m. at the CCA

Monday

STEPS To Life Enrichment Classes at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Healing & Communion Service at 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday

Communion Service at 7:30 p.m.
Kidz of Zion Children's Program at 7:30 p.m.
AlleNation Youth Ministry Classes at 7:30 p.m. at the CCA

Thursday

Choir & Orchestra Rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.

Friday

OCA Family Night at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday

Spanish Service at 7:00 p.m.
Teen Hangout at 6:00 p.m. at the OCA

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**MONDAY
EVENINGS**
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- Single's Issues
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Clarkston Christian Association

5529 Sashabaw • Clarkston, MI

Located at the intersection of Sashabaw and Maybee Rd., this renovated shopping plaza is dedicated to serving the families of the community. Future plans include: a coffee house, rollerblading area, video games, billiards, dance school, family support classes, after-school latchkey and tutorial programs.

Call 620-4900 for more details!

Oakland Christian Association

1585 Crescent Lk. Rd.
Waterford, MI • 674-0368

The OCA serves the youth, seniors and families of the community by promoting healthy lifestyles. Facilities include: rollerblading in-line hockey arena, basketball, billiards, racquetball, walleyball and fitness room.

Visit Family Night at the OCA on Fridays at 7:00 p.m.



For More Information: (248) 391-6166

Solleys Appliance and Fireplace celebrates 50th year

Solleys Appliance and Fireplace is a familiar sight to anyone who travels M-15 north of Clarkston. And well it should be. The family-owned and operated store is celebrating its 50th year of business in 1998. Started by Al Solley Sr. as a refrigerator repair business in 1948, it quickly grew into a sales and service business as customers learned to respect the quality work and honesty of the Solley family.

Much has changed in 50 years. A refrigerator that was once expected to keep a few days supply of food cold now keeps a week's worth of food fresh, defrosts itself, and dispenses ice cubes and chilled water. And what would your life be like without a microwave oven?

"By necessity, there's been an evolution at Solleys," says Alan Solley Jr., who now owns and manages the store along with his sister Allyn. Several additions have been made to the original building. The number of display units that once would have been considered a wide selection of appliances simply would not be a good representation of what is available today. The showroom is much larger than what is apparent from the front of the building. People often remark on their surprise at the wide selection of appliances, woodstoves and fireplaces.

"The products we sell have changed, but we haven't changed our focus on service. We are with our customers every step of the way. We pride ourselves on providing customers with the information they need to make an informed decision on what unit will best suit their needs," said Alan Solley. "That customer also deserves to have that unit delivered and installed properly, and if it ever needs to be serviced or needs a replacement part, they can call Solleys to handle that as well."

Asked how a small store can compete with the large chain stores, Alan remarks that "it takes a great deal of hard work and a little help from my friends at Key America."

In 1983, Solleys Appliance joined the Key America Buying Group, a cooperative of more than 400 stores nationwide that combines their buying power to negotiate with manufacturers to secure better pricing.

"The buying group pricing along with our low overhead allows us to provide prices in line with our competitors, and our knowledgeable staff puts us a leg up on the competition.

"We can do a lot of things the superstores can't do," he continued. "We solve problems for our customers. Whether it's finding just the right fireplace for their new home, or delivering the refrigerator in time



The employees of Solleys Appliance and Fireplace are always quick to help out with many different appliance needs. Pictured are (L-R):

Allyn Thurlby, Cristilynn Grey, Scott Grey and Alan Solley. In the back is the Maytag Man, also known as "old lonely."

to save the groceries from spoiling. The superstores don't care enough to do the extras that we have always done."

Alan and Allyn literally grew up in the appliance business. Their family home was next door and they often worked at jobs around the store after school and during the summer.

After graduating from Albion College in 1979 with a degree in economics and management, Alan went into the family business full time. He hasn't regretted his decision, although it is a very demanding career.

"The hours aren't good," he quipped. His day starts at 7 a.m. and often ends after 7 p.m., but he adds, "It's very satisfying to see your efforts appreciated by your customers. Each time a customer calls to thank you for the service they received, or writes a note, or returns to make additional purchases, that makes it all worthwhile."

Some letters written from customers to Solleys: Alan, Tom and Scott,

Your prompt, knowledgeable and efficient service is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,
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Alan,

Thanks for your prompt and courteous service in always fulfilling our needs at the group homes. We appreciate your efforts.

Sincerely,
R. Cowart

Dear Alan,

Just a quick note to thank you for your fine service in buying our new appliances. We are very happy with them. Again, thank you for your fine service and quality products. They make my new kitchen much better!

Sincerely,
J. Agnew

'Golden Rule' still applies at Livingston Agency

Livingston Agency Allstate Insurance doesn't really have one target market for its services. The



Judy Livingston's desk shows just how busy she stays in helping insurance customers everyday at Livingston Allstate Insurance.

market is pretty much everyone.

"We serve anyone who owns a house, a car, lives in an apartment, a mobile home or a condo, well, just about anyone," said Judy Livingston, owner of Livingston Agency Allstate Insurance at 6310 Sashabaw. "I like the fact that when unfortunate things do occur, you can be there with a helping hand to people who need it." The staff includes Judy, Patty Smith, a licensed sales associate, and Liberty Fish, a Clarkston High School co-op student.

Judy said she lives and works by one simple rule, known as "The Golden Rule."

"Treat people the way you would want to be treated," she said. "It's what I believe in in terms of the quality of service I give to people."

Judy also feels it's important to play a role in the community. She is a member of the Clarkston Chamber of Commerce and is the current president of the Waterford Rotary Club.

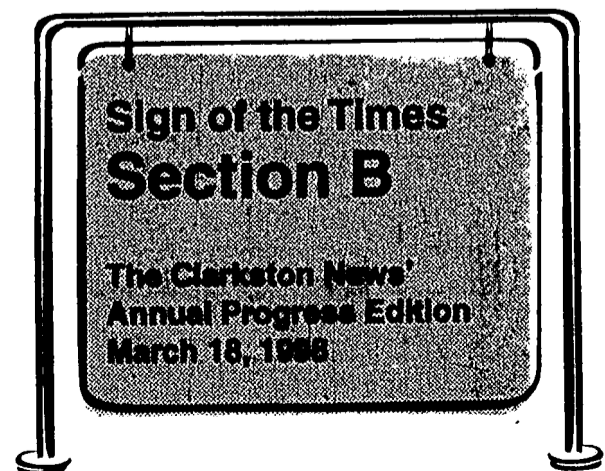
"In the Rotary, we donated \$7,000 in scholarships each year," she said. "We do a lot of community work with people like the Goodfellows. The Rotary and the Chamber are both great organizations, and I'm proud to be a part of it."

A benefit of being an Allstate agent is the backing of a large, nationwide company. It gives Judy the flexibility to help local people with issues like moving or policy transfer as well as having the resources to back it up.

"Allstate is one of the largest companies in the United States, so it's a very secure company," she said. "Through our computer system, we can access anyone in the country under the Allstate banner."

Judy has lived in the Clarkston area since 1969 and said she enjoys doing business in her hometown.

Livingston Agency Allstate Insurance is located at 6310 Sashabaw, Suite B. Hours are 8:30-6 Monday through Friday, and 9-1 Saturday. The phone number is 625-0117, and the fax number is 625-5458. You can reach Livingston through the Internet at JudyLive@aol.com. Twenty-four hour customer service is also available by phone.



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Businesses grow through group's networking

It takes teamwork to make it happen for each member of North Oakland Business Group.

"Our mission is to become the best network group in Oakland County, and our purpose is to bring referrals for each others' business," says president Bob Sakuta, a marketing consultant for Century 21 Hallmark West.

He explains the group as a team of professionals who decided to band together in order to make their businesses even stronger and more profitable through a unique idea of telling their clients about each other's services. The group, a member of Clarkston's Chamber of Commerce, meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 7 a.m. in a conference room at the Century 21 office, 6547 Dixie Highway.

For example, as a customer browses in her store, Clarkston Flower Shoppe owner Shari Schulz might tell her about Gary Haner's Prepaid Legal Services Inc. if she's looking for a good lawyer. And, if one of Haner's customers wants to stop for a bouquet for his wife, Haner can tell him about that great flower shop in downtown Clarkston.

All the members agree they've benefited by the system.

"I've been with the group since last April," says Schulz. "And I've done an incredible amount of business because of the group. Many of my new contacts come from the other members."

Haner agrees. "Each meeting results in business contacts which would be otherwise missed or unknown."

Another member of the group, Jim Ciotti, is a Waterford distributor of Performance Lubricants (oil and gas additives) who specializes in products for automotive racing — not your everyday shop on the street. "Through referrals, it's helped market my products extensively," he says.

For Debi Cook, a general member of Diversified Capital Funding LCC, an alternative financing company, "It's a chance to share with others. Because a lot of people don't know there are other alternatives to the bank."

Jim McMurray, a senior agent for Allstate Insurance in Ritter's Farm Square, says, at the meetings, each member takes about one minute to explain his or her business — "who your customers are, what you're



Pictured are several representative members of North Oakland Business Group: left to right, Gary Haner, Debbi Cook, Jim Ciotti, Shari Schulz, Jim McMurray and Bob Sakuta

all about, and what they're looking for so we can recommend someone." That helps them understand each other's business better. They also try not to duplicate what's already in the club, he adds, noting there's "only one financial planner, one mortgage guy," etc.

Other members of the current group include Phyllis Coon, a marketing rep. for Aibl Advertising Promotional, which does imprinting for various products like pens and coffee cups; Marc Cooper, owner of The Impressive Type, a printing company; Tom Schutz, a financial planner for American Express Financial Services; and Jon Peddemors, a loan officer and owner of Starpointe National Mortgage.

The group was born a year and a half ago after some members noticed networking groups outside the

local area. "So, we said, why don't we get a group of folks involved from our own community?" says Sakuta. Membership is growing and they hope to add more people. Those who are interested are invited to come to the meetings, where a continental breakfast is served. "Remember to bring lots of business cards," says Sakuta.

It's always a challenge to help each other, he adds. "The greatest challenge as members is to always be concerned about who in the group could benefit from someone we know. But, as a group it's about more than just growth of our business. I think we've all gained personally from our relationship with members of the group."

For more information on North Oakland Business Group, call Bob Sakuta at (248) 625-6900.

True Italian atmosphere

Joe Bologna has success with Clarkston Restaurant

Joe Bologna's Restaurant has been through an evolution since its opening in 1985, and with its new Clarkston location, that evolution has reached new heights.

Joe Bologna's started off as just a pizza carry-out restaurant in Sterling Heights. As business boomed, the services of the restaurant expanded to St. Clair Shores, including a sit-down area, a bakery and dessert dishes.

When the Clarkston restaurant opened last year, it took the best of everything from the food selection to the true Italian atmosphere created in the decor.

"This restaurant (in Clarkston) was in Joe's hands," explained Chef Bob Halasa. "He and his wife Adelle have always wanted to live here, and they wanted this restaurant to have the best of what the other restaurants offered."

The Clarkston restaurant became full service as it opened in 1997, a cross between the Sterling Heights and St. Clair Shores locations.

"We've had a tremendous first year," Halasa said. "It has exceeded our expectations, and they were pretty high to begin with. This location has been everything we thought it would be."

A big part of the Joe Bologna experience comes in the appearance of the inside of the restaurant, as well as the menu design.

Halasa designed the menu, along with Adelle Bologna. Joe Bologna himself designed the wine menu. Adelle's brother, Robert Brengman, is the graphic designer on the restaurant's interior.

"We have a certain look, and it is a selling point for us," Halasa said. "We have the oil bottles on the tables; that's something unique."



Chefs Bob Halasa and Gani Velijej show off one of the many delicious dishes served at Joe Bologna's Restaurant in Clarkston.

In keeping with the Italian dining experience, Halasa said certain wines are paired with certain dinners to complement each other.

Joe Bologna's will also be starting a monthly seven-course dinner on Mondays.

"We'll have a seven-course dinner with all the trimmings for \$39.95. You can't beat that," Halasa said. "We're looking for a more upscale meal experience, so call ahead and make your reservations beforehand."

Bologna's also features a Sunday Brunch served from 12-3 for \$8.95.

Joe Bologna's is located at 7071 Dixie Highway in Clarkston. The phone number is 620-8500, and the fax number is 620-8555.

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New spot on Dixie for Salon Williams

Salon Williams has moved to a bigger, brighter location in the Waterfall Plaza on Dixie Highway. And owner Ida Williams couldn't be happier.

"Our big problems at the other location were visibility and parking. Those are the two things that prompted us to start looking," she says. Speaking about a month after moving into her new digs, Williams said she brought all her staff—25 people—with her in the move and plans to add more by summer.

"Basically we're offering the same services but we're going to have expanded hours, including Sundays. These days people are so busy and women have a hard time getting in during traditional hours."

Right now, 15 stylists offer a full hair-service menu. In addition, five nail technicians offer manicures, pedicures and art nail services. There is also a facialist, a full-time massage therapist, facial and body waxing, and computer hair-style imaging.

"There's not a lot of other salons in the area offering computer imaging on a full-time basis," Williams says. "It really is helpful for people to be able to see before they venture into a new hair style."

"About half are ready for a change; the imaging just confirms that. Some go home with a photo and videotape and show their peers and family members before making the change."

Salon Williams also offers the Jeffrey Bruce line of cosmetics, and brings Mr. Bruce in several times a year for consultations with clients. "Many of our staff have trained with him personally," Williams says.

Bruce's next visit is scheduled for April 20 and appointments are now being taken. "The make-overs we do with him are always really amazing," she adds.

With 25 years experience in the salon business, Williams' underlying philosophy still works in the 1990s. "We really, I think, are a customer-service-oriented business. I believe that's so important in the '90s. There are a lot of hair salons. But I feel people tend to be loyal to a place where they get quality service and



Ida Williams (second from left) at home in the new location of Salon Williams on Dixie Highway.

I think that's one of the things that's helped us build our clientele."

Moving to a new location allowed Williams to improve some amenities. "It allowed us to update the technology," she says, pointing to an example clients will really appreciate—ergonomically designed sinks. Now, when you tilt your head back for a shampoo, you won't have to worry about your neck. "That's the thing customers have mentioned most," she says. The sinks are positioned so they're easier on the employee's back as well.

Another improvement is steam processing for coloring and perms, which takes one-third the time of the previous technology. "You can do it on a lunch hour," Williams says. There is also computer storage of color records for more accurate duplication, visit after visit.

Hours at Salon Williams are 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday, 9-8 Tuesday-Friday and Saturday, 8-5. Watch for an announcement about Sunday hours in the near future. Walk-ins are welcome, or for an appointment call 623-6654.

Great Lakes Power Wash gets results

The best way to appreciate the work Great Lakes Power Wash in Burton does is to look at a deck or wooden fence before they get ahold of it.

The dingy, bluish-gray tinted wood suddenly shines with the healthy gleam of golden-brown wood tones.

It's the before-and-after look that Great Lakes Power Wash prides itself on.

"We take pride in every job, big or small," owner Don Sturgis said. "We specialize in deck cleaning and sealing in the cedar and redwood types."

Great Lakes Power Wash, although based in Burton, just east of Flint, has served much of the Clarkston area since 1978. Sturgis says around 90 percent of the company's business comes from the Clarkston, Brandon, Grand Blanc area.

Sturgis said the business started in Las Vegas, and moved to Michigan a few years later.

Great Lakes Power Wash has done a lot of woodwork in the Deerwood and Deer Lake subdivisions in Clarkston.

"The North Oakland County area is right where we like to work," Sturgis said. "It's just the right spot for us to be in right now, with all the new building and home improving going on there."

Great Lakes Power Wash also heads north to do much of its work, like Mackinac Island. Sturgis said his company has cleaned more than 3,000 decks in the island area alone, not to mention the street and building cleaning done to help preserve the island's historic nature.

In the coming year, Sturgis said he plans to open two more Southeastern Michigan locations, along with one up in Gladwin County.

Great Lakes Power Wash is in business from March through October each year. The hours are 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The phone number is 810-257-2123.



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Davisburg Fountains will retain 'small town feeling'

Picture sitting on a patio at a family-style restaurant. A gentle breeze is blowing on a sunny day, as the fountain makes the soft splash-splash sound of summer.

That's the vision of Tim Birtsas, president of RBI Development Co. with the Davisburg Fountain Planned Unit Development.

Construction on the three-phase project could begin as early as May, pending approval from Springfield Township officials.

Included in phase one is the Fountain Hills of Davisburg, consisting of 10 single-family home sites, located adjacent to Davisburg Elementary School on Davisburg Road.

Also in phase one will be the improvement of the existing driveway leading to the Davisburg Medical Center off Andersonville Road to a three-lane county road. This will provide immediate access to the new United States Post Office. Construction on the post office should begin immediately upon PUD approval.

"I want this project to be able to retain the small-town feel of Davisburg," Birtsas said. "I am working with the Springfield Township Board of Trustees and the Planning Commission to protect the existing character of Davisburg, and to direct future growth where it's needed most."

Phase two will consist of 30 detached condominiums with 10 predetermined elevations of Victorian, Greek Revival, and Italianate architecture. The roads in Davisburg Fountain Village were designed with oversized botanical garden cul-de-sacs, complete with fountains and seating areas.

Also included in phase two is a family-style restaurant. It's proposed to seat as many as 112 people, with a Victorian-style elevation with a covered porch and patio. All the elevations, including the condos, office buildings, retail center and restaurant were designed by Jerry Carter of Custom Home Design. Carter



The "Roosevelt" House

has an excellent reputation with historical architecture and compatibility with the existing community.

Phase three concludes the project in Davisburg Fountain Square with the completion of a 15,000-plus-square-foot retail center. In addition, the two office buildings shall be constructed in this phase if they aren't already completed.

Next to the restaurant and the retail center will be a one-acre park that will have a water fountain as its centerpiece, with a surrounding greenbelt. Birtsas said it's important to him to have that type of scenery to maintain the homey feeling Davisburg creates.

"My vision for the overall project is to have the same type of feeling you get at Greenfield Village," he said. "It is also important to know all three phases will be tied in with a five-foot asphalt pathway for accessibility to the entire project as well as downtown Davisburg."

In addition to the Davisburg project, Birtsas hopes to be getting started with a project in the city of Clarkston, called Clarkston Village Place, a four-unit deluxe condo to be located on Main Street at the north end of town.

You can reach Tim Birtsas by calling 620-2248.

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Damman Hardware's mission: best service

For the do-it-yourselfer in the house, there are few places better to go than Damman's Hardware.

A quick stroll through the Damman's on Dixie Highway reveals drawers full of gadgets like washers, screws and other useful household items.

But there's more to Damman's than just matching up paint colors and bread makers. According to Clarkston Store Manager D.J. Hardenburg, Damman's service stems from a mission.

"Our business mission helps to bring people back into the store," he said. "Our top priority is to help people feel at home when they come in here, and our mission helps us do that."

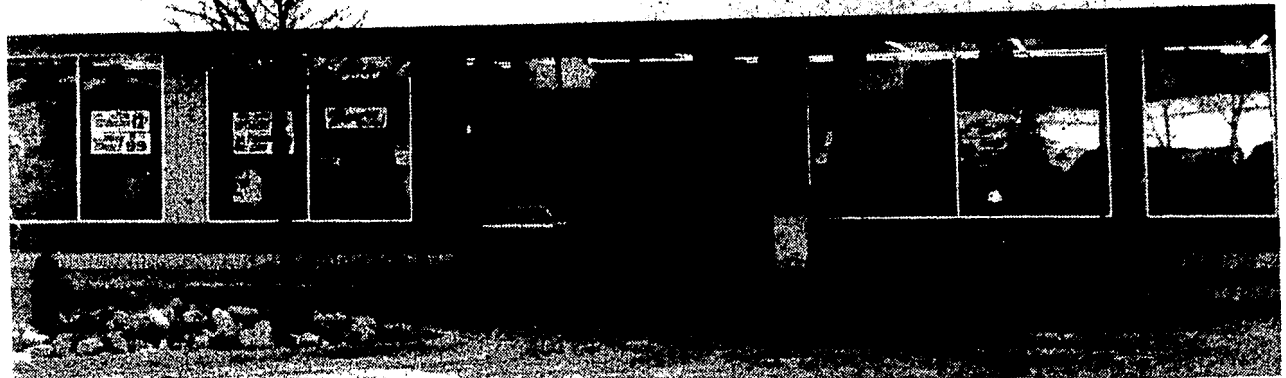
Damman's states its business mission on the back of each business card it hands out to customers. It states: "Damman Hardware is a hardware retailer focusing on convenience and customer service. Damman's provides a wide assortment of quality hardware, houseware, and home maintenance products delivered by caring and knowledgeable Associates."

Using that mission statement as its backbone, Damman's uses its wide-ranging inventory as its heart. In describing the various products Damman's offers, Hardenburg says, "You name it, we got it."

"We can color match a paint with almost anything, even the color of someone's shirt," he said. "We carry lots of plumbing and electrical appliances, perfect for all the do-it-yourselfers. We know it's the cheapest way for them to go, is to do it themselves, and we do what we can to make that possible."

Damman's is entering its ninth year in Clarkston, carrying with it a reputation for quality and service that dates back to 1920, when A.L. Damman opened his first store on Mack Avenue in Detroit.

DAMMAN HARDWARE



Damman Hardware, located at 6669 Dixie Highway.

Since then, Damman's has spread to 17 Metro Detroit locations, including West Bloomfield, Troy, Sterling Heights, Rochester, and Clinton Township. Hardenburg explained the company's policy on having many locations in the area.

"The neighborhoods don't come to you, so you have to go to the neighborhoods," he said. "We want to be in locations where there is mass house-building taking place, and Clarkston certainly fits that description. With many new homeowners in an area, Damman's is a natural place for them to come in helping them get

started."

The Clarkston location has quickly moved up the charts and now ranks as the fourth-largest store in terms of sales in the company. Hardenburg said business has increased almost every year, much the same way that Clarkston has grown every year.

"We are here because of the strong residential makeup of the community," said Executive Vice President William Damman.

Damman's is located at 6669 Dixie Highway in Clarkston. The phone number is 620-1144.

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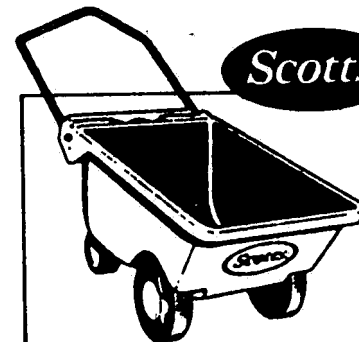
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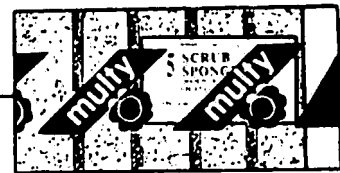
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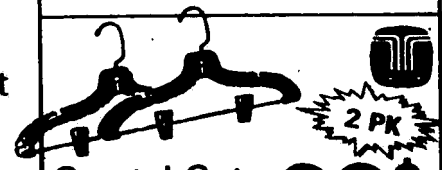
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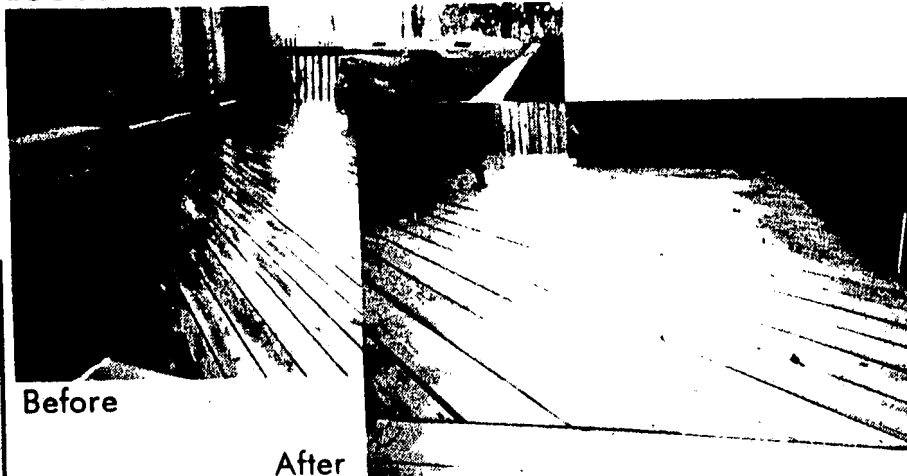
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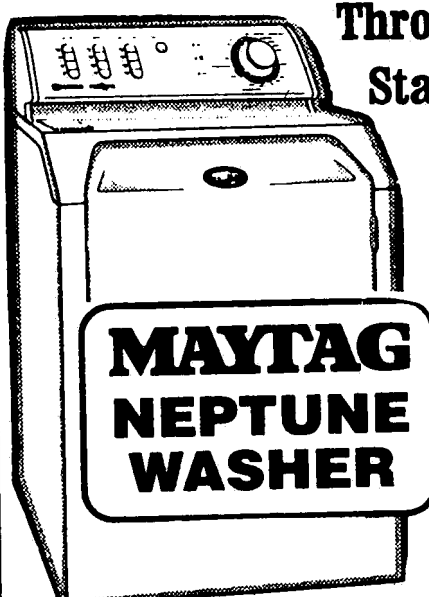


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Salon Bonjour, Inc. Welcomes

Salon Bonjour proudly welcomes Suzanne Iler and Sheila Salo. Suzanne has been working as a stylist for 10 years, creative and precise at her work. Her specialties include highlighting and up-do's.

Sheila has two years as an experienced nail technician, excellent at her work as well as a pleasant personality. Sheila offers an array of services of artificial nails, acrylic, gel and fiberglass wraps. She also offers manicures, pedicures and paraffin waxing.

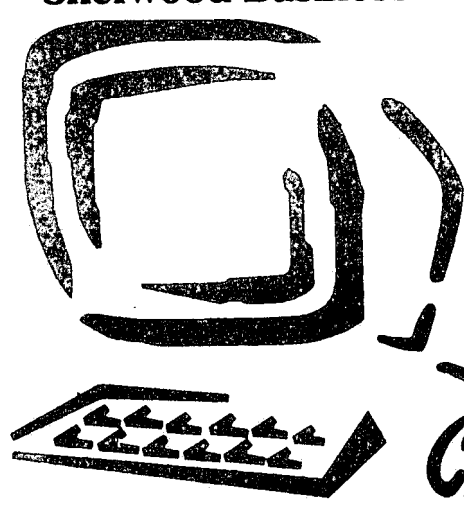
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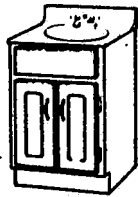
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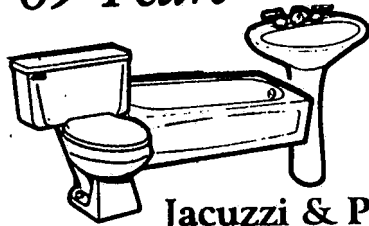
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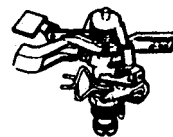
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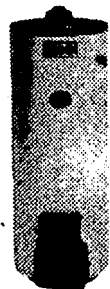


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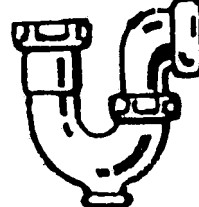


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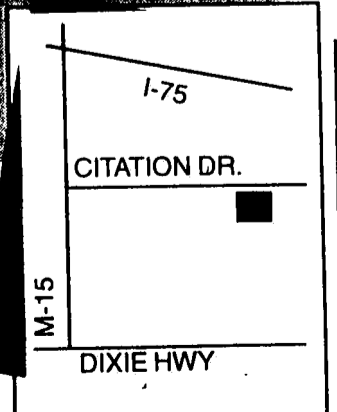
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Electronics galore! *Orion Electronics moves to new digs in Independence Twp.*

Looking to buy a new television, VCR, or stereo? Orion Electronics is moving from 20 W. Clarkston in Lake Orion, after two and one-half years to 4728 W. Clarkston.

"The extra space will allow us to have a true showroom," says Orion Electronics co-owner Chris Gilley. "We have been overwhelmed with servicing with service repairs, it took up a lot of room."

Gilley co-owns the store with Terry Edwards, and their new store will be approximately 1 1/2 miles west of Baldwin on Clarkston (at the corner of Eston).

Products featured at this store are Hitachi, JVC, Panasonic, Harmon-Kardon, DCM, and Infinity. Besides selling TV's, VCR's, stereos, compact disc players, and projection TV's, Orion Electronics also does repair services on those items.

For people looking for a repair service, or hoping to replace one of their old electronics, Orion Electronics goes the extra mile for their customers- compared to larger stores that can't give that one-on-one attention.

Gilley and Edwards work to give customers one-day service, or the quickest possible service, and they have over 20 years experience in the field of service.

Open Monday through Friday from 10-6, and Saturday's 10-4, Orion Electronics will be in their new building in the weeks to come. The number for the current store is 248-814-8732, and for the new number at 4728 W. Clarkston you can call 248-394-1800.

For some of the best sales and service around, stop by Orion Electronics in Lake Orion.

The new location of Orion Electronics is easy to find . . . on the north side of Clarkston Road, just east of N. Eston.

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Family's insurance business keeps growing

In 1921 Al Bourdeau started his insurance business, working from the trunk of his car. It was one heck of a sales job.

According to Al's grandson Michael, "He would be at a stop light and tell people, 'You've got a beautiful car; you should have it insured.'" His wife Lora often helped. "She used to go door-to-door, selling policies and collecting."

Four generations later, the process is a little easier and great-grandson Timothy is running another branch in Clarkston, in addition to those in Farmington Hills, Port Huron, Williamston and Flint, where it all began.

Many family members are involved, including Timothy's father, several uncles, siblings and cousins. "We have about 90 employees; 40 of those are related somehow," he chuckles.

"It's been pretty remarkable," says Timothy, continuing to speak from his office on Dixie Highway. "I had no idea business would be as good as it is. Seven years ago I started with 400 accounts. Now we have 6,200 clients in the Clarkston office."

Named after his great-grandfather, Al Bourdeau Insurance Service sells all types of insurance, says Timothy, including auto, home, business, life and health. "If there can be a policy placed on something, we can do it."

"Also, we're an independent agency, so we have about 20 different companies we write for, including Citizens Insurance, which is the largest writer of insurance through an independent agency. We are the number-one agency for Citizens and we're the number-one writer for Frankenmuth Mutual."

The Clarkston branch consists of three agents and five account managers, where Timothy is also an agent and the office manager.

"It's been nice for me downtown in Clarkston



Timothy Bourdeau, a fourth-generation partner of his great-grandfather's business, stands next to the Al Bourdeau Insurance sign.

because I've had a chance to develop myself." The business has a long history in Flint, he points out. "Then you come down here and no one knows who Al was." Being in the insurance business, things change all

the time. In the early days, his great-grandfather was selling fire and tornado insurance; years later the no-fault laws changed the climate for car owners.

Now "there's such a change in the marketplace, with all the competition. The rates change so frequently. But, even with the competition, we feel we still provide the best price for our clients. We always make sure they can get the best policy possible, because I don't want them to find it somewhere else if I can get it for them."

He makes a point that there's a profile they look for. "We are very protective of our loss ratio. We are really strict about who we insure. We're looking for real quality clients, we're looking at people who will let us provide all their insurance needs, and who can grow old with us. It just makes for a more solid account and the retention is twice as good."

The most challenging aspect of business is taking care of all the clients, says Timothy. "It's such a neat community. When I first came here, it was really exciting to meet so many people and build friendships. As the community grows, I look forward to building even more new clients and more new friendships."

He continues to follow the motto established by the company's founder.

"To quote my great-grandfather, what he said is, 'You take care of your customers and business will take care of you.'"

Al Bourdeau Insurance Service is located at 6696 Dixie Highway; phone (248) 625-0020.

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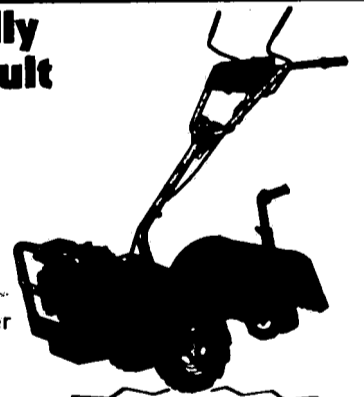
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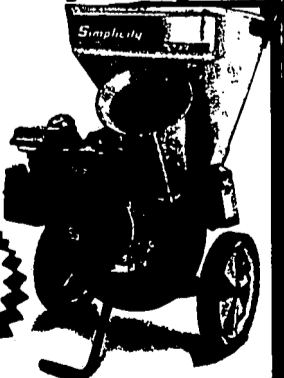


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Will provide luxury condo living on Main St.

The standard of living in the city of Clarkston is about to be raised.

At least that's the hope of developer Tim Birtsas, president of RBI Custom Builders, with his proposed new four-unit condo project, Clarkston Village Place.

The project, held up in political red tape for most of the past year, has the approval for a use variance in a single-family zoning district by the city's zoning board of appeals and he hopes to get construction going this summer.

Birtsas said he expects to meet with the planning commission for site plan approval in late spring.

"This will be a top-of-the-line, quality construction project," Birtsas said. "I expect it to be very special, especially since there are no other condos on Main Street."

Birtsas said the attached condos will be 2,400 square feet apiece, and have a separate two-plus car garage. The proposed elevation contains Victorian-style architecture that fits in with the historical flavor of downtown Clarkston. The elevation was designed by Jerry Carter of Custom Home Design, who has an excellent reputation in historical architecture, Birtsas said.

"Many people who have lived here for 30 years or more want the opportunity to remain in the village of Clarkston with the freedom of homeownership without the responsibility of maintenance on their home," Birtsas said. "It's an idea supported by the surrounding neighbors and has a favorable response from the community."

He said there would be plenty of storage space in each unit, along with two fireplaces, one on each floor.

The open floorplan was designed to accommodate empty-nesters and retirees, he said. The units will be two floors each, with all the primary living areas located on the first floor, including a master bedroom with two walk-in closets, master bathroom with sepa-



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rate bathtub and shower and vanity, utility room, guest bath, great room with two-way fireplace, dining room, kitchen and study.

He also developed Stonehaus Court Estates in Springfield Township on Softwater Lake, which established the high quality of his projects.

Birtsas, a former Major League Baseball pitcher, is also planning a major project in downtown Davisburg,

the Davisburg Fountain Planned Unit Development. The project has three phases: the Fountain Hills of Davisburg, 10 single-family home sites; Davisburg Fountain Village, with 30 detached condos with 10 predetermined elevations; and Davisburg Fountain Square, which provides a post office, restaurant, a retail center and two office buildings.

You can reach Tim Birtsas by calling 620-2248.



The Clarkson Clinic is moving to the office of Dr. Anthony Aenlle at 6815 Dixie Highway (across from the Clarkston Cinema).

The newly expanded office is open 12 hours a day (7:30 a.m.- 7:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday and 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturdays. Physicians on staff are board certified.

The office is designed for your convenience offering state-of-the-art technology and on-site services such as:

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One of the most recognizable aspects of TruGreen-ChemLawn is the many trucks it deploys. TruGreen-ChemLawn has 38 trucks at its disposal from its Waterford location.

"TruGreen-ChemLawn is the largest company of its type in the country," said marketing manager Scott Weaver. "We have 280 branches nationwide and have revenues of over \$800 million per year."

TruGreen-ChemLawn services more than three million customers yearly and has 15,000 employees. Among its services are: residential and commercial lawn care, residential and commercial tree and shrub care and maintenance, home delivery of fertilizer, interior plant care and landscaping maintenance.

The Waterford branch serves much of Oakland County, ranging from Milford and north Farmington Hills, to Auburn Hills.

TruGreen-ChemLawn recently acquired its largest competitor, Barefoot Grass, another step in helping out its large customer base.

"With the kind of buying power we have, we believe we can provide the best quality of service available," Weaver said. "With that, our prices can also be the most competitive."

TruGreen started in 1973 with its first branch in Troy. On May 20, 1992, TruGreen's parent company, ServiceMaster Limited Partnership, acquired controlling interest in ChemLawn, merging into the largest lawn-care company in the country.

Another asset of TruGreen-ChemLawn's service



Lawn specialist Jarred Wallace stands next to one of the familiar white and green trucks used by TruGreen-ChemLawn.

work. Along with Terminix, ServiceMaster, Merry Maids, American Home Shield, AmeriSpec, Rescue Rooter and Furniture Medic, TruGreen-ChemLawn can offer discounts for cross-company usage of the other companies in the group.

"We are also getting into the retail fertilization and home delivery business," Weaver said. "You can buy some of our products at places like Target and Builder's Square. It's a nice opportunity for us, and it can enable do-it-yourselfers to use our quality products. It's already been a great success for us."

TruGreen-ChemLawn is located at 5401 Perry Dr. in Drayton Plains. The phone number is 674-0941, and the fax number is 674-3150.


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Perfect smiles with high-tech dentistry

When the typical kid walks into a dentist's office, he usually has two questions, says Dr. Jack Shader.

"Is he nice, and does he hurt me."

Shader, an established dentist in the Clarkston area since 1977, tries his best to answer both of those by making little ones feel comfortable and making their time in the chair as painless as possible.

But being a good dentist is more than the chair-side manner. You have to keep up with technology and offer the best in products and work.

At Shader's office at 6300 Sashabaw, the location he's had for the past 13 years, convenient dental care is offered for the whole family. A patient can find nearly every kind of service when it comes to dentistry.

"We provide a full-range of services, all our own root canals, braces, implants," says Shader. "So, in general, you don't have to go see a stranger when you have a toothache or need a root canal."

Dentistry for children is fairly uncomplicated, just teaching them hygiene and making the experience pleasant. "Children are some of the fun aspect of the business. The challenge comes in as more for adults. That's where the upsurge in technology is really very interesting."

The goal for most people is the perfect smile, "making people have the smile, contours, etc. that they have always wanted," says Shader. There's an emphasis on technology and aesthetics, including porcelain work, tooth repositioning, bonding, bleaching and whitening.

It all starts with a closer look. Gone is the image of a dentist probing through a patient's mouth with a tiny mirror, trying to tap and track down the problem. Now, with new technology, a tiny fiber-optic camera takes a picture of the patient's problem area. The resulting image is magnified 30 times and projected on an overhead monitor.

"It lets the patients see what we see," says Shader.



Dr. Jack Shader and his family.

Watching the closeups is often a wake-up call. "When a patient sees an existing or a potential problem, it motivates him to see what needs to be taken care of," says Shader.

Also outdated are extensive drilling procedures,

and the old ways of filling cavities. "There are other ways to improve your smile and expression without the extensive drilling that used to be required," says Shader. Traditional silver fillings are pretty much a thing of the past, he notes. Instead, white bonded filling materials are preferred because they're less noticeable.

Crown work is also less noticeable, thanks to the porcelain that replaces the traditional gold. "Most people don't want it because of the color. They want their teeth to look natural."

However, Shader adds, insurance companies still try to get away with covering the cheapest materials possible, like silver. "They're not necessarily the best. People have to decide, is an extra \$10 or \$15 worth the cost of what the insurance doesn't pick up."

Another way to tackle decay is through "drill-less cavities," where the process is to "blow away decay rather than drill it." One's appearance can also be improved through the technique of laser technology, where soft gum tissue can be shaped and sculpted. That process can also help heal gum disease, he adds.

A University of Michigan graduate and a former resident of Birmingham, Shader moved his practice and family to Clarkston because he likes the area. With all the growth, his business has increased tremendously. So, three years ago he hired an associate, Dr. Mark Dennis, a top University of Detroit graduate.

Because he believes in being on the cutting edge of dentistry, education is very important, not only for his patients, but for himself.

"It's the continuing education. It's the willingness of the dentist and staff to keep up with new technologies that separate the dentists that are available, and most in the local area are good," he says. "There's a lot of us around."

The office is open Monday through Friday; Saturday appointments and evenings are also available. Call (248) 625-9444 for more information.

Legal services for a community's needs

Robert and Kelley Kostin have the best law office in town.

From a historic former home in downtown Clarkston, the couple operate a full-service law office. "We've been here for four years and we love it," said Bob Kostin, who has been practicing law for more than 20 years. Kelley Kostin has been an attorney for seven years and also serves as a magistrate in the 52/2 District Court for the Honorable Gerald E. McNally.

"We are a full-service law firm. We take pride in offering experience in handling our clients' needs including criminal, civil, custody and divorce proceedings (family law), personal injury and also real estate." Long before lawyers began to advertise, the Kostins were offering free initial consultations. "We never have charged for our initial consultation," said Kelley Kostin. And though navigating through the congested court system is a challenge, "I believe we're perceived by judges and our colleagues to be excellent attorneys; I really do," Bob said. "We have a strong history in litigation."

In addition to Bob and Kelley's vast legal background, the office offers an experienced legal support staff. Sue Jackson has been a loyal 17-year employee of Mr. Kostin's. Tracy Talbot has worked part-time for seven years and Ann-Marie McCafferty, the newest addition to the office; has six years of prior experience, formerly working in the Oakland County Prosecutor's office.

Residents of White Lake, the Kostins love working in downtown Clarkston, where they moved their practice four years ago from Bloomfield Hills. "We like the small-town atmosphere with wonderful proximity to the courts and interstate highways."

Office hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m., with extended hours available by appointment. The office is located at 11 N. Main St. and has parking located behind their building. Call (248) 620-1030 for more information.



Kelley and Robert Kostin (front row) are assisted in their law practice by (back row, from left) Tracy Talbot, Ann-Marie McCafferty and Sue Jackson.

Robert and Kelley Kostin
11 N. Main Street
Clarkston, MI 48346

Watch For Our Weekly Series
In The Clarkston News
THE LAW AND YOU



Personal service is big at Gott's Auto Service

The certified mechanics at Gott's Auto Service live by a simple philosophy, displayed in the office of owner Robert Gott Sr.

"The bitterness of poor quality lingers long after the sweetness of low prices and cheap service is forgotten."

An emphasis on personal attention and service are two qualities that have helped Gott's Auto become a mainstay in Clarkston since 1980.

"Personal service is very important to customers," Gott said. "If there's a problem, they can talk to me directly. That way, customers can be confident the problem will be diagnosed correctly and the job gets done right."

Gott's Auto can dispatch several Auto Service Excellence (ASE) certified mechanics to any repair job on a car, ranging from air conditioning to brakes to shocks. Mechanical and electrical problems are no problem for his team, which includes Bob Gott, Vinnie Ventiniglia, Tim Vogel, Rick Verschere, Lisa Morgan and Corina Greer.

Gott is also a member of the Clarkston Rotary, something Robert takes a lot of pride in.

"The Rotary is a service organization that raises money to help on scholarship programs in the Clarkston area," he said. "Being a Rotarian shows that you put service above self."

A typical day finds Robert getting constant updates on all the different repair jobs currently underway at Gott's Auto. He says it's important for him to stay updated on all repairs going on.

"That way, I can personally convey an update to any customer who wants to know," he said. Just another personal touch that Gott's stands by.



The employees of Gott's Auto Service take pride in catering to the customer. Pictured (L-R) are: Jim Turner, Lisa Morgan, Corina Greer, Robert Gott Sr., Tim Vogel, Bob Gott, and Rick Verschere.

Robert's background in auto mechanics stems back to his high school days. Right after graduating, he started at a car repair shop in Detroit. When its owner retired a few years later, Robert took over the business, and the rest is history.

The business has extended into the Gott family, as two of Robert's children - Lisa and Bob - each work at Gott's Auto.

Gott's Auto is located at 5709 Maybee Road in Clarkston. The phone number is 623-0119.

There's life beyond oak at Woods of the World

It's not just the beautiful wood floorings that make you feel like you're visiting another country.

Woods of the World owners Reid and Dana Easton have embellished their store on Dixie Highway with masks, vases and sculptures from Africa, South America and the Orient. A superbly crafted wooden giraffe beckons folks at the door.

Providing quality and upscale wood flooring since 1990, Woods of the World began in Ortonville, where its warehouse still stands. They opened their new showroom at 5421 Dixie Highway in January, but will move and expand the warehouse out back to include even more products and varieties.

Real wood flooring is all they do, notes Dana, but there's an amazing list to choose from — 50 to 75 species from all over the world. The usual domestics like red and white oak, maple, hickory, poplar, cherry, ash, birch and walnut are available, but the emphasis is on exotic and harder to find species from Africa, Central and South America, the Orient and Australia. Prices range from \$3.25 per square foot and up.

Some of the most popular varieties include Purple Heart and Brazil Wenge from Africa, Cypress Pine from Australia, and an orangey Goncalo Alves from South America.

Some of the natural patterning, like that found in

Zebra Wood, is remarkable. "Any woods you see, that's all natural," says Tom Higginbotham, showroom salesperson. He also notes that the natural patterns come out differently in some pieces, due to the part of the tree they're cut from.

In addition to the wood floorings, specialty products, like laser inlays, medallions, feature strips and dimensional pieces, are available. One of the brochures shows you can design anything, from a stunning map of the world to a family crest. Woods of the World can help.

"A wood floor should make a statement about the home and homeowner and at an affordable price. Feel free to bring floor plans, drawings and any ideas you have and we can sit down and create a look that will personalize your new or existing home," says Dana.

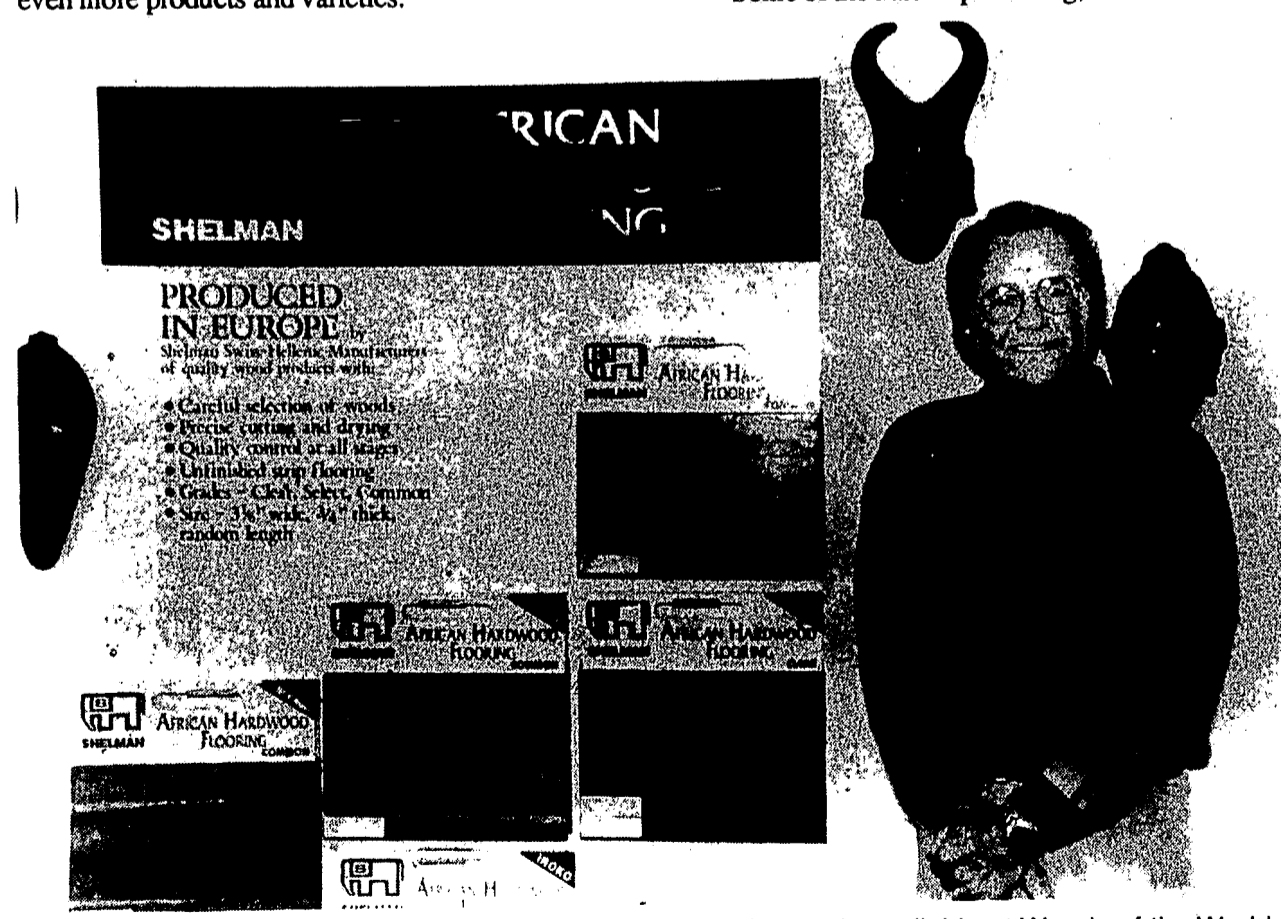
Care for a new wood flooring is minimal, she adds. "Just keep them clean and swept. At least every week put something to collect dirt at your doors, like a rug. Put floor protectors on everything. Damp mop once a week, especially if you have critters in the home. There's no trick. Just try not to scratch them up." The store has information on good cleaners and floor protectors, and can recommend specialists who install, sand and finish if you're not a do-it-yourselfer.

The company began as a division of Hickory Ridge Hardwoods, Inc., the parent company, whose name will change over to merge with Woods of the World.

The store is unique, says Dana. "There's not anything like it in the state; it's very much of a specialty store. There's so much to see that people don't know is available."

Customers are often educated after they visit the store. The biggest challenge is to get them to conquer their fear of the exotics. "They have to overcome that mindset. They're not going to break their budget," says Dana. "You'd be surprised. Some of our woods from Australia and South America are less expensive than oak."

Woods of the World is located at 5421 Dixie Highway, just north of the Drayton Plains Kmart, in Waterford. The phone number is (248) 623-0022.



Salesman Tom Higginbotham displays some of the exotic woods available at Woods of the World.

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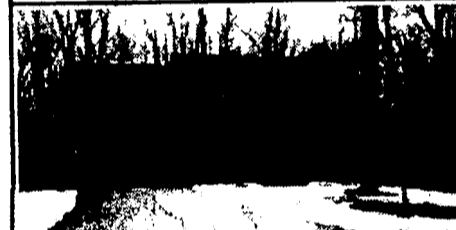
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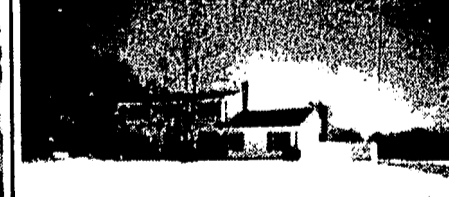
FOUR BEDROOM COLONIAL on 1.29 acres. Independence Township. Two and a half baths, breakfast room, walkout basement. Partially finished. Deck, wooded backyard. (5228W) 625-6900



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TWO STORY COLONIAL With 2.5 baths, basement, 2 car garage, cathedral ceilings, fireplace and more. Built in 1997, has many upgrades. \$149,950. (5800N) 674-4161



BEAUTIFUL COLONIAL Estate on 4.2 acres in Brandon Township. Completely updated inside and out with finished basement. Includes 3 stall horse barn with tack room and cement aisleway. Additional 2.5 acres available. Home Warranty. (3567P) 625-6900



CASS LAKE CANAL FRONT PROPERTY in an ideal location, 5 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, check out this home in West Bloomfield. Canal is boat accessible to Cass Lake. (1965R) 674-4161



THIS EXQUISITE HOME FEATURES Great room with elegant granite fireplace, French doors, neutral carpeting thru-out, hardwood floors in dining and kitchen with doorwall to large deck. All appliances, 4 bedroom, 2.5 baths, den, professionally landscaped with sprinkler system, over-sized garage, lake privileges on all sports lake goes with this custom, mint condition home. (6708B) 625-6900.



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