

Rotary Goodfellow sale this weekend – see page A10 for details

# Clarkston News

Our Community's Award-Winning Newspaper Since 1929

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Claire Kirchner helped her mom, Beth, and brother, Mikey, decorate her grandparent's Clarkston home for the holidays last Friday. Grandma and Grandpa would sure be surprised when they arrived back in town to celebrate Christmas with the family. For more Christmas decorating pictures, see page A20. Photo by Laura Colvin

## Meet with Santa

Liberty to host meal with St. Nick

BY PAUL KAMPE

Clarkston News Staff Writer

Sharing can be difficult for a child, except as the holidays approach and they continuously share lists of favorite gift ideas.

Independence Township Parks and Recreation is offering them an opportunity to share those wishes with Santa Claus himself at the Liberty Golf Club on Dec. 1-2.

Parks and Recreation has sponsored the event in past years as a brunch with Santa in the park.

Children will be able to sing songs, make crafts, decorate cookies and have their picture taken with Santa. Kids will also be able to share their wishes with Santa, who will reply to their letters after mealtime.

The new format employed by ITPR this year features three separated sessions for children to visit with St. Nick. Times are planned for a brunch and two separate dinner sessions.

The Dec. 1 session is open for dinner from 6-8 p.m. On Dec. 2, brunch is from 12-2 p.m. while dinner is from 6-8 p.m.

The Dec. 1 time will also have Christmas caroling.

Tickets must be purchased in advance from the Parks and Recreation Department at 90 North Main Street or via telephone at (248) 625-8223. The prices for residents are: youth,

\$8, and adults, \$12, while the non-resident cost is \$11 for youths and \$15 for adults.

Lisa Sargent, recreation coordinator for ITPR, said this year's event will be modeled after previous brunches. It should be better because families can pick different times to visit with Santa, and the site offers the space to bring in more children and adults.

"We're excited to serve more people," Sargent said.

"So far we've had a good response."

Making the occasion special for participants is key to the event, Sargent said.

"It's something they don't get to do all the time and we're trying to make it special."

The occasion serves as a way for Liberty to help the community, said Owner and General Manager Anthony Bashore.

"I like it because it's a great way for Liberty to give back to the community," he said.

"It's very important to us...here we get so much, we like to give back."

Sargent said the brunch session's tickets were selling well, and Bashore said plans on Liberty's end were going well.

"All the plans are coming together nicely, we should be in good shape."

Liberty Golf Course is located at 6060 Maybee Road in Independence Township.

## Unique gift ideas on Main Street

BY PHIL CUSTODIO  
Clarkston News Editor

Thanksgiving is past, and the time for Christmas shopping has officially begun. Shoppers looking for unique items and personal service don't have to look far – downtown Clarkston has what they need.

"I try to stock items that are more unique, things you won't find at the mall," said Ann Stevenson, owner of the Union General store.

One item that would make a good stocking stuffer is the "surprise ball," a traditional European gift that looks like a toy. The receiver unwinds the toy to find more toys and charms inside.

"Things like that are ageless," she said.

The Main Street business owners are often the first person shoppers meet. Being in contact with customers gives the small-shop owners the op-

portunity to be more responsive to their needs and tastes.

"We have great customer service – that sets us apart," said Susan Andre, owner of the Parsonage on East Church Street just off Main. "We find what people want and do what they ask of us – we make sure they're happy."

Village Apparel & Gifts on Main Street offers Clarkston team sweatshirts and other ap-  
Please see Gift on page 4A



Ann Stevenson, owner of the Union General on Main Street, personally selects each item for her shop. Photo by Phil Custodio

### Millstream

Michael Zukoff earns his Eagle Scout by helping a church

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### Inside Features

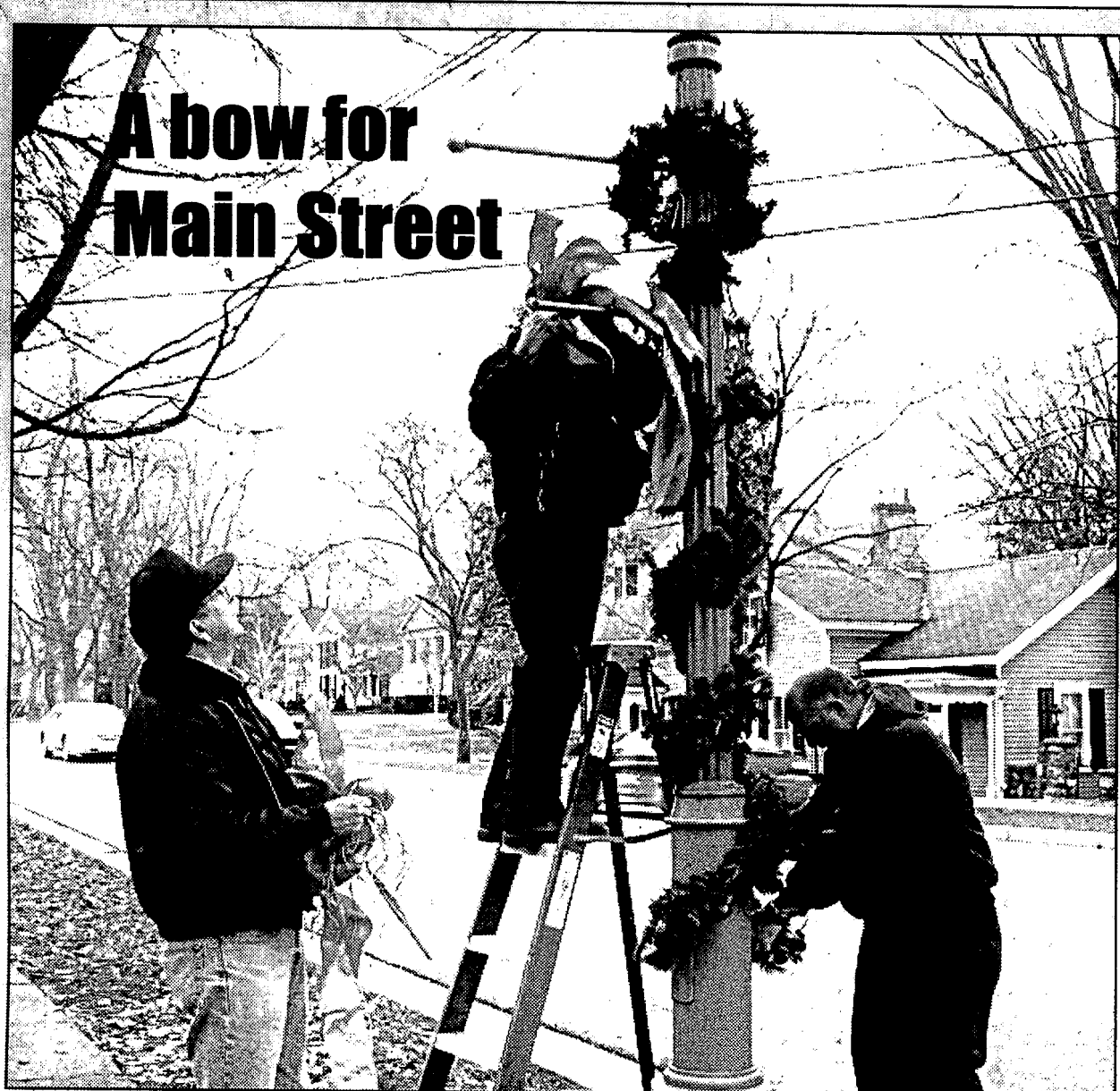
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### Sports

Check out this week's athlete of the week!

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Best Image Possible



# A bow for Main Street

Clarkston Rotary Club members decorate a light pole on Main Street. The Clarkston Rotary has been decorating downtown for more than 60 years, starting with one tree in 1940. Rotary president Sam Hoff bought the new garlands and bow decorations as his presidential project during the 2001-2002 Rotary year. Photo provided

## The Clarkston News

Celebrating over 75 years of Community Journalism

See us or write us at:

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## Cherry Hill Lanes North

Presents

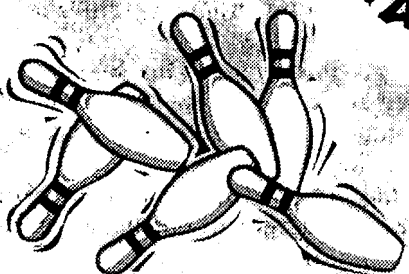
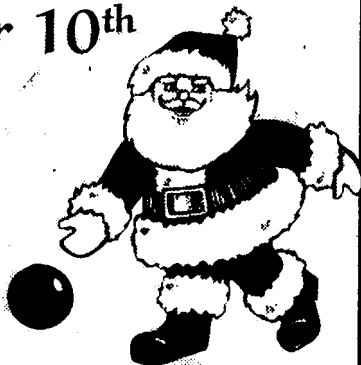
### 9 PIN NO TAP TOURNAMENT

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2:00 p.m.

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Children 5 and under Free

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The Holidays are quickly approaching, please call and make your reservations soon.

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# The Second Front

## Briefly

### Holiday parade Dec. 9 on Main

The Holiday Lights Parade is set for 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9, on Main Street, Clarkston. Hosted by the Clarkston Area Chamber of Commerce, the parade's theme is Home-town Traditions - Connecting for the Holidays.

The parade will begin at the Clarkston Community Education parking lot on Waldon, go west on Church St. to Main St., and continue down Main to Miller Road, ending at St. Daniel Catholic Church. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be part of the parade.

This year's parade chair is Donna Clancy, chamber member and executive director of Clarkston SCAMP.

For more information, call the chamber at 248-625-8055.

### Chief chases down three new chassis

Independence Township Steve Ronk found a deal on some hard-to-find ambulance chassis. The department was planning to replace some of its older ambulances later next year anyway, so he wanted to get them.

The Independence Township Board agreed, voting unanimously at its Nov. 21 regular meeting to approve the \$127,317 purchase, to come out of the department's 2006 budget.

### Reindeer games planning starts

Christmas in Action of Oakland County, Clarkston Area, is getting ready for A Night at the Reindeer Races, its annual fund-raiser. Eighteen reindeer, sponsored for \$100 by local businesses or community groups, will race.

The race will be on Jan. 27 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 5660 Maybee Road. Attendees "bet" on their favorites, providing donations for the fund-raiser. Sponsors decorate their reindeer models and can display them at their businesses.

All proceeds go toward Christmas in Action's work day on April 19, during which group members help local seniors.

For more information, call 248-625-4711 or 248-625-1932.

**Got a story?**

Call us at 248-625-3370

## Donation leaves fire department glowing

BY LAURA COLVIN  
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Deciding what to do with leftover promotional merchandise was a snap for local businesswoman Cheryl Bean. She knew her surplus could bring peace of mind and possibly mean the difference between life and death for someone in her community.

So on a recent sunny afternoon, Bean piled dozens of brand new, still-in-the-box fire extinguishers and smoke alarms into the back of her SUV and drove out to the Springfield Township Fire Department in downtown Davisburg, making several trips in and out of the building to unload her donation.

Bean, an appointed agent with Farmer's Insurance in Independence Township, initially purchased the products to hand out as promotional gifts during Fire Prevention Week in October.

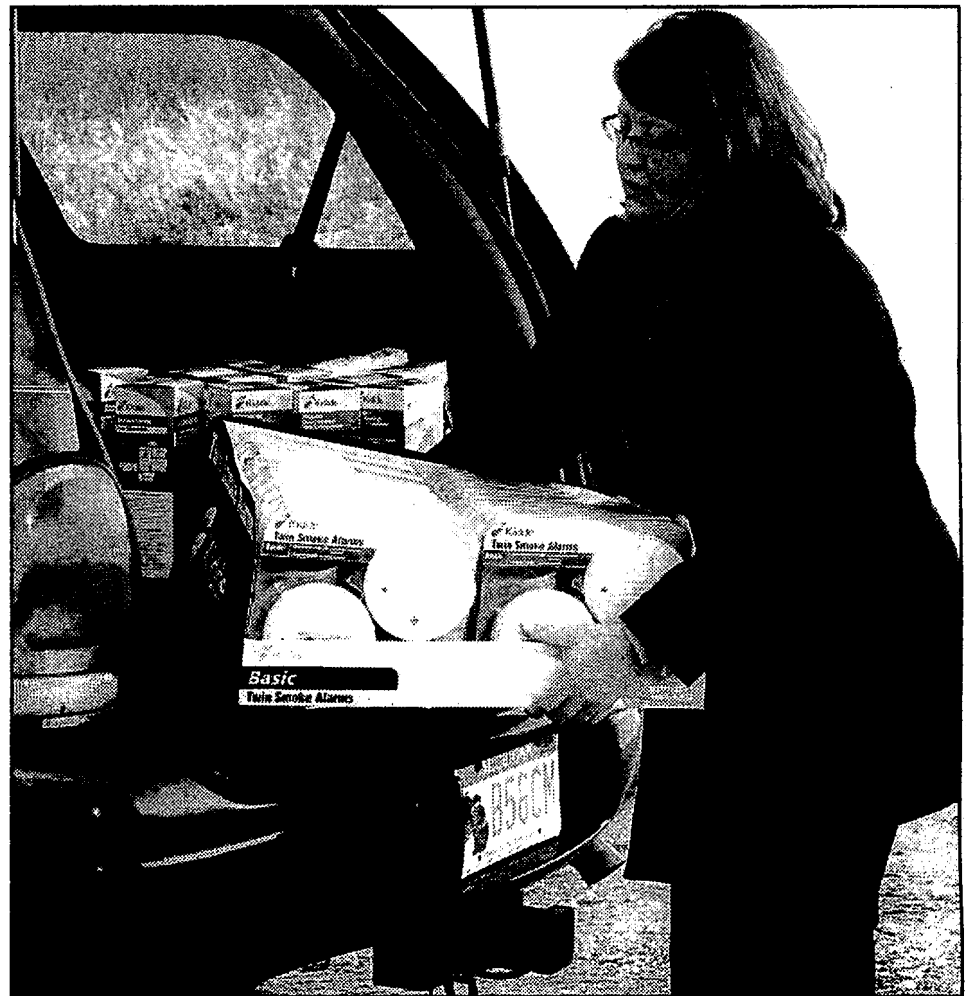
Although she did furnish quite a few new policy-shoppers with the life-saving equipment, Bean was still holding an armload of merchandise once the promotion had expired.

"I had a choice of returning (the smoke detectors and the fire extinguishers) or storing them," she said. "But I decided to give them to the fire department instead. They're in touch with the community, and they know who needs this equipment."

According to Charlie Oaks, Springfield Township Fire Department chief, many of the area's trailer homes are without smoke detectors. Most of the time, he said, residents unplug the alarms or don't replace batteries because the small homes are often poorly ventilated. Alarms can be triggered by the smoke from cooking.

Still, he said, smoke alarms, as well as carbon monoxide detectors, are an absolute necessity.

"Smoke detectors and CO detectors definitely save people's lives," he said, adding that any home with a gas furnace, water heater, fireplace, range, or other heat-related appliance should



Cheryl Bean unloads a box of new smoke detectors. She donated boxes of detectors and fire extinguishers to the Springfield Township Fire Department. Photo by Laura Colvin

be equipped with a CO detector.

Oaks, who said the department doesn't receive donations very often, was "very pleased" that Bean decided to bestow her surplus upon the residents of Springfield. He expects to give away all the merchandise over the next year.

According to the National Fire Protection Agency, 96 percent of households participating in a 2004 survey were equipped with at least one smoke alarm. Roughly half of all house-fire deaths occur in the small percentage of homes without smoke alarms.

"When we go out on medical calls, I'm usually rolling my eyes around the house looking for smoke alarms," said

Oaks. "If they don't have one, we can get one out there, even put it up."

The fire extinguishers were a boon, too, but Oaks cautions residents to call the fire department first, then, if there's time, use the extinguisher.

"A fire doubles every 19 seconds," he said. "Nothing in your home is worth your life. Get out and stay out."

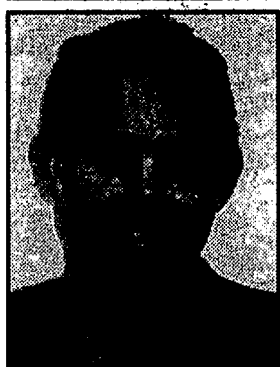
Although Bean, who is a Springfield Township resident herself, said the donations set her back about \$1,000, the cause was worthy.

"The money was already allocated," she said. "I'd rather see them get some use and have some benefit to the community."

## County may capsize plan for Sashabaw Road

BY PHIL CUSTODIO  
Clarkston News Editor

Public hearings have begun on the Sashabaw Road Corridor Improvement Authority, one of the final steps before it can begin working on about \$37.5 million in projects. Obstacles remain, however - involment by



'If they (the county) decide not to opt in, we need to decide if we need to cut bait.'

Daniel Kelly  
Independence  
Township Trustee

Oakland County and other government entities may be hard to get.

The township has already spent thousands of dollars on the proposed authority. If cooperation is not secured soon, Independence Township may have to cut its losses, said Trustee Daniel Kelly.

"We need to find out what the county is saying," Kelly said. "If they decide not to opt in, we need to decide if we need to cut bait."

An ad-hoc committee of Oakland County officials met with township Supervisor David Wagner and planning consultant Richard Carlisle on Nov. 16 to discuss the plan. The committee will probably recommend against participating on all 11 proposed CIA projects, said County Commissioner Tom Middleton.

However, the plan must be in place before the county can officially begin its process of opting in or out - it can't debate a plan until it exists, Middleton said.

Please see Sashabaw on page 13 A



Anita Andes, along with Mary Himburg, built this gingerbread house to raffle off at the Clarkston Garden Club's Christmas Greens Market fund-raiser. Photo by Phil Custodio

## Win a (gingerbread) house at Christmas Greens Market

BY PHIL CUSTODIO  
Clarkston News Editor

The Clarkston Farm and Garden Club is raffling off a house at its fund-raiser Sunday. Winners won't be able to live in it, but they could eat it if they wanted to.

Anita Andes, who is chairing the Greens Market fund-raiser, set for Dec. 2, and Mary Himburg spent about 20 hours assembling the gingerbread house for the raffle. They used 33 types of materials, including nine kinds of candy, fudge-coated graham crackers, coconut, edible glitter, pepper corns, pretzels, marshmallows, and waffle cones, as well as gingerbread. Except for the cardboard frame, some toothpicks, and the plywood base, the entire house is edible.

"I created a pattern on the cardboard, then used it to cut out the gingerbread pieces," Andes said.

She backed up the cooked pieces with the cardboard frame for strength, needed because of the size of the house, she said.

She took on the assignment to provide a big attraction for the Greens Market, the main fund-raiser of the year for the club.

"People can win it, but they have to come to the market and shop," Andes said.

Only 500 tickets will be available. Shoppers will earn one raffle ticket for every \$20 spent at the market, and extra tickets will be sold for \$1 each.

They will be available only from 9 a.m. until noon, when the drawing will be

held.

The Greens Market will be from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Church of the Resurrection, 6490 Clarkston Road, across from the Independence Township Library. Offered will be wreaths in three sizes, roping in 25-50 foot lengths, loose greens, and hundreds of fresh evergreens arrangements in many sizes and styles for homes and businesses.

All proceeds will be used for community projects. The club maintains the planters along Main Street in Clarkston, as well as children's literary gardens, environmental education programs, and college scholarships.

To commemorate the Garden Market's 15th year, the club will offer a special table of \$15 items.

"We'll be offering wonderful items at \$15 apiece," Andes said. "People will have to come and see what we have."

Also new this year are mantel decorations, with the buyer's choice of fresh greens, pine cones, candles, and other colorful items.

"The mantel is one of the main focuses of Christmas," Andes said.

The new Farmer's Cookbook, with recipes for the holidays, will be on sale for \$10. It includes recipes for 44 types of appetizers, Champagne punch, turkey soups, and pumpkin cheesecake dip.

"The turkey soup is easy to make after the holiday meal," she said. "The price is well worth it."

For more information, see the group's website at [ClarkstonGardenClub.org](http://ClarkstonGardenClub.org).

## Shops offer personal service

Continued from page 1A

parel, and one-on-one service, said Christina Calka.

"We help customers select an outfit," Calka said.

Shops along Main Street also offer new ideas for gifts. Free of any corporate directives, owners look for items that are offbeat but practical, things that appeal to them personally, said Penny Shanks, executive director of the Clarkston Area Chamber of Commerce.

"You'll find some really cool stuff," Shanks said.

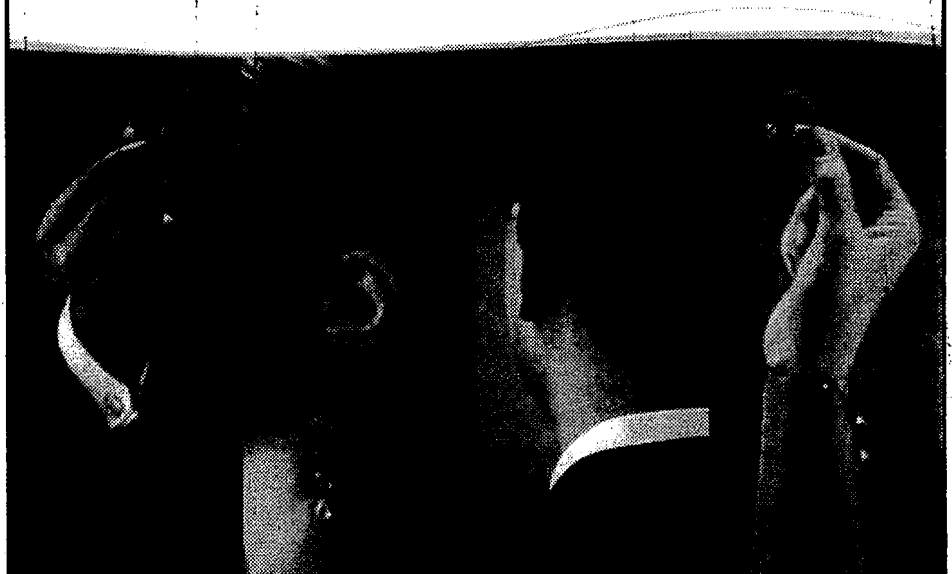
"I try to offer things that are not just decorative, but also have a useful application," Stevenson said.

"We have some really unique things," Calka said.

They also offer a venue for local producers to sell their wares. The Parsonage offers honey made in Ortonville, and Village Apparel & Gifts sells jewelry made in Brighton.

"I like the idea of parking the car and shopping down Main Street on foot, the old-fashioned way," Stevenson said. "You can discover wonderful things right here."

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Sun...Closed

# SaleSale

# Opinion

## Holiday priorities

Now that Thanksgiving is in the past, the holiday season is "officially" upon us. I say officially because we know it really started back in October, September if you work in retail. For the next month or so, our lives are going to be saturated with reminders that it's time to spend all our money on gifts and thankfully the media is here to keep us up-to-date on what is really important: how are retail stores doing profit-wise?

Some genuine sentiment is worth mentioning every year. Ignore the cliché aspect of the message and take it to heart.

This is the time of year where a mall or department store is the last place I want to be. The insanity of rabid holiday shoppers is enough to make anyone fear the convenience of a mega mall like Great Lakes Crossing.

Despite the fact that the holiday spirit is suppose to inspire good will toward each other, this seems to be the time of year when people disrespect others more than ever.

For a minute, pretend you don't have to find gifts for a dozen people and think about what else goes on this time of year. Amid the blurry cluster of shoppers, you might see someone sitting by a little red bucket. Over the sound of pop artist covers of classic Christmas songs, you might hear the sound of a lone bell ringing. Let this be a subtle reminder that there are plenty of people in need.

Do you know how many Playstation 3 systems are available in the US? Do you know how much an iPod costs? Now, do you know how many families Lighthouse Emergency Services tries to help this time of year? Which is more important?

I'm got no business sounding self-righteous though. I'm just as guilty as the next person. The first thought I have on payday is whose gifts I can afford this weekend.

Still, even little gestures can go a long way if enough people try. Last year, Lighthouse has a sudden rise in needy families, and a surprisingly equal drop off in donations. Christmas is a great time of year to be around loved ones and to show them how much they mean to us, but we should never forget those who cannot have it as great as we do.

Finding a chance to donate should be pretty easy. The Clarkston School bus drivers arrange a great event every year when they fill buses with donated items and are doing so again this year on the weekend of Dec 9-10. I can't imagine a single instance where they turned away money or donations due to a surplus.

I've never seen a Toys for Tots drive where someone said "enough already, we're all set."

This weekend the Oakland County Sportsmen's Club is holding their annual fundraiser where a donated toy is the price of admission. Last year they had a small mountain worth of toys collected from generous people, but even that only begins to scratch the surface of what the organization needs.

Clarkston may be fairly removed from the parts of Metro Detroit hit hardest by the slumping economy, but no area is completely untouched. There are plenty of people who could use our help to ensure their family has a happy holiday season too.

But it never stops there, even if the holiday spirit moves you to donate now, keep in mind these charity organization could use your help year round.

### Soapbox



Andrew DuPont

## Guest editorial

# Bold changes needed in state permits

In order to demonstrate that our state is open for business, Michigan needs to send a clear message that it is simplifying the current cumbersome methods for acquiring permits.

Potential job providers, who are required to secure environmental permits before they can locate or expand their operation in the state, frequently meet with delays, unnecessary costs and frustration.

Policymakers rarely address the negative impact that regulations have on job retention and creation. Instead, the elimination and replacement of the Single Business Tax and the outsourcing of jobs to China or India seem to dominate the economic discussions of our political leaders.

One thing that I observed while serving as director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, however, was that the state seldom was competing with China or India for jobs; Michigan's greatest competition came from other states that had more business-friendly reputations.

During the administrations of Gov. John Engler and Gov. Jennifer Granholm, the state has attempted to shorten the time necessary for obtaining environmental and other permits.

Half-measures such as electronic permitting, although a step in the right direction, are not a replacement for the bold actions that are necessary for the state to demonstrate that it is open for business.

Wetland permitting is one example of how the permit process hurts economic development in the state. In recent weeks I have been contacted by two businesses that were prevented by DEQ from expanding their Michigan operations and creating new jobs. In both cases the overzealous interpretation of wetland regulations by DEQ staff forced job providers to choose between lengthy, expensive litigation or abandoning their projects altogether.

Environmental permitting is usually expensive (costs often range between several thousand dollars to more than \$100,000) because of the need to hire consultants to provide information required by DEQ.

Even if a company or individual can bear the cost, they may not be able to afford the time delays associated with agency demands for new data.

Taking the following actions would send a clear signal to firms in the state and throughout the world that Michigan is open for business:

- Forbid state agencies from promulgating regulations that are more stringent than federal requirements. Approximately one-third of the states have already passed similar laws. The Legislature could approve a law more stringent than federal requirements if it is in the best interest of the state, but that decision would be made by elected officials rather than unaccountable bureaucrats.

- Mandate maximum time frames for the adjudication of permits. This would ensure that businesses compliant with the law will receive timely permit processing. While waste and wetland permits require mandatory timeframes, others, such as air and water permits, do not.

- All permitting and licensing functions should be housed in a new and separate department. This

change is the single most important action that could be taken to reverse the stifling regulatory climate in Michigan. A one-stop shopping approach would simplify the regulatory hurdles faced by companies.

More important, this change would alter the anti-business culture that pervades DEQ. Currently, many state regulators possess knowledge limited only to their area of expertise; they often have little regard for larger issues such as private property rights or job creation.

A combination of clear legislative direction and a new department would make it difficult for employees to be overzealous. The agency would be much more accountable to public legislature and residents as its efficiency in responding to permit applications would be easier to track.

Instead on handling myriad functions, the agency's effectiveness would be measured on how well it processes permits. Environmental protection would not be sacrificed because the laws protecting the environment would not change.

These changes should be taken up with urgency. It is the responsibility of the Legislature to write environmental laws that are simple and clear. It is the duty of the administration to provide government that is accountable and transparent.

If it is too time-consuming or expensive to obtain permits, businesses will take their jobs elsewhere, an outcome the state's sagging economy can ill afford.

\*\*\*

*Russ Harding is senior environmental policy analyst for the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, a research and educational institute headquartered in Midland, Mich.*

**E**ven if a company or individual can bear the cost, they may not be able to afford the time delays associated with agency demands for new data.

## Write a Letter To The Editor . . .

Please keep them short and to the point. We'll edit them for spelling, grammar, punctuation, clarity and length. We take the liberty of publishing (or not) all letters we receive. Please sign your letter (no photo copies!) and include a daytime phone for verifications. Deadline is noon, Monday. You can drop them or mail them to 5 S. Main Street, Clarkston, MI 48346; fax them at (248) 625-0706; or e-mail [shermanpub@aol.com](mailto:shermanpub@aol.com), attn: Clarkston News. Any questions call The Clarkston News at (248) 625-3370.

Best Image Possible

# A Look Back

At our community's history through the pages of *The Clarkston News*

## 15 years ago - 1991

**"City status - Court will not consider request to halt process"** The Michigan Court of Appeals rejected a stay-of-proceedings request by Independence Township to stop the Village of Clarkston's quest to become a city. Township officials said they would continue an appeal against Clarkston cityhood. The issue was set to for a vote by village residents in February, 1992.

**"Board OK's condo development, anger residents"** The Township Board voted 5-2 to grant conceptual approval to a 93-unit condominium development on Maybee Road and Dixie Highway. The project did not have the recommendation of the Planning Commission, and neighbors said the project was unnecessary and would spoil the environment. Trustees said the proposed Planned Unit Development was the most environmentally friendly option available.

**"Principal cited for excellence by peers"** Principal Doris Mousseau, Bailey Lake Elementary School, was presented the National Honors Award by the Middle School Principals' Association.

**"Wolves turn over for Eagles in districts"** The Clarkston High School varsity girls basketball

team ended its season with a 57-43 loss to Lapeer East in the district finals. The Wolves finished with a 15-6 record.

## 25 years ago - 1981

**"Democrat supports 'Reagonomics'"** Tom Ritter, a Democrat, joined the Michigan Citizens Committee to Support the President. The group was founded by Richard Headlee, the namesake of the amendment to the Michigan Constitution that rolls back tax increases caused by a rising cost of living index.

**"Hearings called on arcade, mobile home law"** Clarkston Village Council scheduled two public hearings, one on an arcade law that would prohibit arcades within 500 feet of a home or bar, and the other on an amendment setting conformance regulations on mobile homes.

**"Independence probes Oweki as possible senior housing site"** The township was working with North Oakland Camp Fire to develop its Camp Oweki into housing for senior citizens. Township officials were preparing a survey asking what types of housing was needed.

## 50 years ago - 1956

**"Famous pianist to appear"** Seymour Lipkin, a foremost young pianist, was to appear in concert Dec. 3 at Isaac Crary Junior High School. He had performed with the USO during World War II, and was famous around the country.

**"Twp. supervisor to seek re-election"** Floyd Andrew, who had served as Independence Township supervisor for 21 years, announced he was seeking re-election to that post.

# 'Tis the season to help those you don't even know

*"Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Don't hit the folks standing in the roads selling newspapers!"*

\*\*\*

I know it's that holiday time of year because over the past six weeks I have put together area Goodfellow newspapers (boy, have I been putting together Goodfellow newspapers - but, I know, you don't want to feel my pain.)

Each year, community-minded folk hit area streets to hawk their papers. Funds raised help these community-minded groups make the season a little brighter for those in need.

We've put together and printed editions for Goodfellow groups in Waterford, Ortonville, Orion and Clarkston (in Oxford we just take a picture of the the Lions Club, slap it on the front page and give them an extra 500 *Oxford Leaders* to sell).

The Waterford Goodfellows are comprised of a bunch of civic groups -- the Eagles, Jaycees, Lions, Optimists, Rotarians, along with volunteers from the fire department and Waterford Parks and Rec. department. In Orion, volunteers from Fire Station #3 sell the papers and help the locals. Both Goodfellow groups in Clarkston and Ortonville are made up of their town's Rotary clubs.

The owners of this newspaper donate my time, production costs and the thousands of Goodfellow editions that will be sold this weekend. We're a community newspaper -- a part of this community and as somebody once said, "sharing is caring."

The Clarkston Rotary Club has sold a Goodfellow edition for 56 years. We know, because up in the *Clarkston News* archives we have a copy of the first edition.

One of the neat things about putting these Goodfellow editions together is reading about the groups and how they have helped their perspective communities over the years.

The volunteers from Orion Fire Station #3 have been Goodfellows since 1966. The group helps needy families in Gingellville (to those new to the area, that's

Baldwin Road, south of Clarkston Road). They help out with clothing, shoes and food.

"We pay electric bills and gas bills, if they need it," Dave Ostertag said. "All the money that's donated stays in the community."

Clarkston's Goodfellow sales funds the Shoes for Kids program -- over 350 area kids get new winter boots, shoes, hats, mittens or gloves.

All the groups look for folks in need and do what they can to help.

And, while Clarkston Rotary has donned the Goodfellow newssacks since 1950, the Goodfellow tradition is a few years older.

As legend has it, the year was 1914 and the *Detroit News* ran a cartoon depicting a wealthy business man, gifts in one hand, while holding the little hand of a poor, young newsboy with the other

That cartoon got Jim Brady (the head tax man for the IRS in these parts) motivated to help poor folks in the city. He got together with *News* managing editor EJ Pipp and they devised a plan . . . to get old newsboys, who grew into successful men, to hawk newspapers at their old haunts. Their motto then, as now is: *No Kiddie Without A Christmas*.

And from that grew a movement many communities now emulate. Goodfellows are not just old newsboys these days, obviously. Goodfellows are men and women from all walks of life and from many occupations and professions. And, though geography and backgrounds differ, their missions are really the same. And a noble mission it is.

While driving this weekend, don't be in such a hurry to get to where you are going. If you see somebody hawking newspapers, whether it is ours or a *Detroit News*, *Free Press* or *Oakland Press*, take the time to buy one and be a-part of the Goodfellows goodness.

If you miss out on the Goodfellows newspaper sales, but still want to help, here are a few phone numbers to dial:

- Orion Fire Station #3 Goodfellows: 248-391-1015
  - Clarkston Rotary Goodfellows: 248-625-9741
  - Ortonville Rotary Goodfellows: 248-627-4203
  - Oxford Lions Goodfellows: 248-628-1993
  - Waterford Goodfellows: 248-673-3013
- And, before I sign off, thank you!  
Next week: *shop Michigan, buy local!*



don  
rush  
don't rush  
me

# Vet goes lite on eating routine

No dog we've ever owned heard us say "kennel" when we referred to a dropping off point when we were leaving town for a while.

Such places were called "hotel," "motel" or "inn" so-as to give them a feeling of class, security, love and respect. All our dropped-off dogs looked forward to their temporary stays.

I made arrangements with the Oxford Veterinary Inn to care for Shayna while both of us tested a separation, mine for deer sighting, since the UP is void of stags.

I gave receptionist Kelli specific feeding instructions: Shayna was to receive two scoops of vanilla ice cream at 9 o'clock Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Kelli asked bewilderedly, "In the morning?"

I told her no, at night. She told me no one was there at that time.

They could have made arrangements.

At the weigh-in I noted aloud that Shayna had gained 10 pounds. Smart-aleck Kelli said, "Maybe you should make that 'lite' ice cream!"

I had the feeling I'd left Shayna in uncertain hands.

--- 0 ---

Forget trouble. Forgive an enemy. Hope. Grow. Be crazy. Count your blessings. Make some mistakes. Learn from them. Celebrate Life.

--- 0 ---

How *The Old Farmer's Almanac* rhymes its way through December:

*Mercy it's mild, but turning wild!*

*On every rooftop snow is piled like wedding cake!*

*Sunny break to hit the malls, roast the chestnuts, deck the halls!*

*Cryogenic cold awaits in '08!*

*And of December 13:*

*Lucy light, Lucy light!*

*Shortest day and longest night!*

--- 0 ---

How fortunate we are to have a person of such great ability returned to the Senate to represent us Michiganders.

Debbie Stabenow has, according to her campaign rhetoric, been "working hard and fighting for us" in Washington.

In her pre-election speeches she said, "I passed a bill."

Amazing! The strength of this first term senator being able to personally pass a law.

What bothers me about this claim is that I've read nothing on these accomplishments for six years, nothing from her except when she came here to dedicate or witness something.

Of course, Debbie is no different from office holders in other parties in taking full, personal responsibilities for any and all popular pieces of legislation.

They drink from a different cup, have more direct vision, have insight sensed by only those of their ilk and are immune from making unpopular choices.

They are an amazing, chosen few.

--- 0 ---

Best Buy, the world's largest consumer electronics retailer, is remaking select stores to appeal to women, as reported in business news.

In about 60 stores (it doesn't say if any are in Michigan) music has been toned down, aisles widened, play areas made for kids and service people trained on how to communicate with women.

Wow! Can cynical comedians have a ball with that one? Me, I'll stay away from the communication, and wonder why aisles are being widened for women?

I've seen some pretty big men, but is Best Buy saying there are more wider butts with the customers they are concentrating on now?

If they are, they better be ready for some lawsuits. Surely, someone's going to take exception to Best Buy's inference. This cannot go unchallenged in court.

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**SMALL TOWN LIVING IN HOLLY**




NEW VINYL WINDOWS HARDWOOD FLOORS INCLUDES A PIANO!! LOADS OF PERENNIALS SECLUDED CORNER LOT LARGE ROOMS PAR FINISHED BSMT \$126,000 51NO

**BEAUTIFUL CLARKSTON HOME**



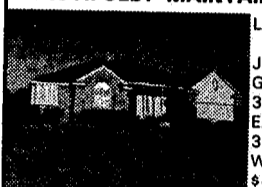
LANTERN-LINED DRIVE SECLUDED WOODED LOT EXPANSIVE DECKING 6 PERSON HOT TUB NEW SS APPLIANCES 4 BEDS, 3.2 BATHS GRANITE, CERAMIC & MORE \$426,000 29OR

**OXBOW LAKEFRONT HOME**



160 FT STEEL SEA WALL HURON VALLEY SCHOOLS 2 BED, 1 BATH KEYED BOAT LAUNCH 1344 SQ FT 2 CAR GARAGE LARGE FLORIDA RM \$399,900 51HU

**BEAUTIFULLY MAINTAINED**




LAKE PRIV/ ASSOCIATION JACUZZI TUB GOURMET KITCHEN 3 WAY FIREPLACE EXTENSIVE DECKING 3 BEDS, 2.5 BATHS WET BAR/REC ROOM \$400,000 10FO

**CASTLE-LIKE HOME!!!**




ON 3.5 ACRES SECLUDED BY STATE LAND STOCKED POND OAK STAIRCASE MASSIVE KITCHEN FINISHED W/O BASEMENT EXTENSIVE DECKING \$439,900 13CH

**QUAD LEVEL HOME IN FENTON**




3 BEDS, 2 BATHS RECENTLY UPDATED FIREPLACE IN FAM RM CENTRAL AIR 2 CAR GARAGE BASEMENT \$149,900 92WO

**HISTORIC HOLLY HOME**



ON 1/4 ACRE LOT ORIGINAL TRIM HARDWOOD FLOORS 4 BEDROOMS 1900 SQ FT CHARMING CARRIAGE HOUSE FENCED YARD/ GARDENS \$164,900 21CO

**NICELY UPDATED HOME**




2 POSS 3 BEDROOMS 1.5 REMODELED BATHS EXTENSIVE DECKING NEWER WINDOWS FURNACE & A/C PROF. LANDSCAPING FRENCH DOORS IN L.R. \$189,900 24LI

**ENJOY THE SUMMERS!!!**




ALL SPORTS LK PRIV 3 BEDS, 2 BATHS FIREPLACE IN L.R. MAINT. FREE EXTERIOR RANCH STYLE HOME 2 CAR GARAGE CENTRAL AIR & MORE! \$164,900 10ED

**CHARM & WARMTH INVITE YOU**




NOT A DRIVE BY!!! MUST SEE INSIDE!!! 3 BEDS, 1 BATH UPDATES ARE DONE WORK SHOP FENCED BACKYARD PATIO, DECK, C/A \$130,000 31CR

**CHARM & CHARACTER**



IN VILLAGE OF HOLLY APPROX 1486 SQ FT 3 BEDS, 2 BATHS GREAT IN-LAW AREA 1 CAR GARAGE CENTRAL AIR PATIO & FENCED YARD \$148,000 10SE

**GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD**



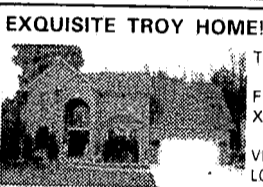
HOLLY SCHOOLS CLOSE TO PARK 3 BEDROOMS OVER 1400 SQ FT TERRIFIC YARD LAKE PRIVILEGES SOME UPDATES \$159,700 13CL

**DAVISBURG RANCH**



3 BED, 3 BATHS ON 2+ ACRES MST STE W/JET TUB NEWER ROOF & CARPET FRESH PAINT IN & OUT FINISHED BSMT 2 CAR GARAGE \$209,900 56OR

**EXQUISITE TROY HOME!**




TOP OF THE LINE UPGRADES FINISHED BASEMENT X-LARGE GARAGE & DOORS VERY LOW ENERGY COSTS LG GARDEN JACUZZI TUB STUNNING FOYER RED OAK HW FLOORS \$359,900 30CE

**SERENE LAKEFRONT HOME**



LOTS OF WILDLIFE 3 BED, 1 BATH KITCHEN W/BAR OPEN TO GREAT RM FIN. LL WALKOUT MINS FROM W-WAYS SHED W/ELECTRIC \$182,500 92HI

**HISTORIC HOME IN PONTIAC**



CHARM & ELEGANCE LEADED GLASS DOOR REMODELED IN 2004 APPROX 1426 SQ FT SUPER CLEAN HOME COZY W/LARGE ROOMS HARDWOOD FLRS \$157,900 26CH

**SPACIOUS WATERFORD HOME**




3 BED, 2 BATH NEW CARPET & WINDOWS NEW SIDING & PAINT HUGE YARD SCREENED PORCH HARDWOOD FLRS DECK & SHED \$169,900 62RO

**COUNTRY LIVING IN GROVELAND**




CUSTOM BLT IN 2005 SITS HIGH ON A HILL AWESOME VIEWS 4 BEDS, 4.5 BATHS APPROX 4000 SQ FT ON ALMOST 3 ACRES TOO MUCH TO LIST \$799,900 55GR

**GREAT ROYAL OAK RANCH**




IN DESIRABLE SUB CATHEDRAL CLNGS FINISHED FLORIDA RM NICELY LANDSCAPED 2 CAR GARAGE LG GARDEN AREA HOME WARRANTY \$139,900 29CA

**LOVELY HOME IN 1 ACRE**




ROCHESTER SCHOOLS 5 BEDS, 2 BATHS FULLY REMODELED BEAUTIFUL GARDENS ABOVE GRD POOL FENCED BACK YARD HOME WARRANTY \$199,000 23LI

**COMPLETELY UPDATED**



3 BEDS, 2 BATHS UNFINISHED BSMT GREAT LOCATION NEWER FURNACE APPROX 1453 SQ FT BRING ALL OFFERS! MOTIVATED SELLERS \$108,000 13HO

**BARELY LIVED IN**



4 BEDROOM COLONIAL BESPEAKS ELEGANCE VAULTED CEILINGS MST STE W/FIREPLACE JETTED TUB IN MST BATH GOURMET KITCHEN HARDWOOD FLOORS \$296,000 47SU

**0% DOWN FINANCING**



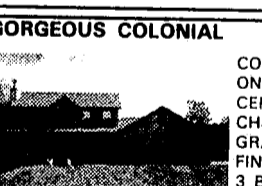
3 BEDROOMS FINISHED BSMT W/BAR & BONUS RM HOME WARRANTY BRING ALL OFFERS IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY RANCH STYLE HOME \$69,900 60FL

**COUNTRY STYLE CAPE COD**



MINS. FROM METAMORA 1800 SQ FT 3-4 BEDROOMS 3 BATHS FIREPLACE IN G.R. FINISHED BSMT 2 CAR GARAGE \$279,900 37WI

**GORGEOUS COLONIAL**




COUNTRY PORCH ON 3+ ACRES CERAMIC FLRS CHERRY CABINETS GRANITE TOPS FINISHED BSMT 3 BED, 2.2 BATHS \$274,000 85RI

**WELL MAINTAINED HOME**



LAKE ORION SCHOOLS ON NICE TREED LOT ALL SPORTS LK ACCESS HW FLOORS LARGE DECK PAR FINISHED BSMT OVERSIZED GARAGE \$185,000 11DE

**NEW CONSTRUCTION**



3 BED, 1.5 BATHS STILL TIME TO PICK COLORS, CBNTS & FLRS FULL BASEMENT LOTS OF STORAGE GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD CLOSE TO A PARK \$127,900 71KI

**LAKEFRONT HOME**



WATERFORD SCHOOLS 4 BED, 3.1 BATHS 2 CAR GARAGE 2000+ SQ FT NEW KITCHEN FINISHED W/O BSMT FIREPLACE IN FR \$329,000 72SU

**GREAT STARTER HOME**




2 BEDROOMS 1.5 BATHS NEW BATHROOM NEW CARPET GREAT CURB APPEAL BRING AN OFFER! UNFINISHED BSMT \$70,000 19FI

**LOVELY RANCH CONDO**




FIREPLACE IN GREAT ROOM CATHEDRAL CEILINGS 1ST FLR LAUNDRY FULL BASEMENT 2 CAR GARAGE MST BR W/BATH CENTRAL AIR & MORE! \$164,900 13VA

**LAKEFRONT CONDO**



ON 10,000 ACRE LAKE NEVER LIVED IN 3 BED, 2 BATH LOWER UNIT ALL APPLIANCES INCL CENTRAL AIR 1 CAR GARAGE \$289,900 17BL

**AUBURN PARK CONDO**



PRIVATE SITE END UNIT RANCH! SOARING CEILINGS GAS FIREPLACE OVER 20K IN UPGRADES MECHANIC'S GARAGE OVERLOOKS WILLIFE POND \$162,500 33VI

**CONDO LIVING AT ITS BEST**



ALL NEW & UPDATED NEW WINDOWS DOORWALL TO BALCONY NEW CARPET & PAINT LAKE PRIV/ASSOC MOTIVATED SELLER WHAT A STEAL!!! \$142,500 16CA

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45 Acres in Holly	\$525,000
2.5 Acres in Holly-Commercial	\$299,000
Lake Lot in Clarkston	\$49,000
33 Acres in Holly	\$650,000
Condo Site in Davisburg	\$48,900
10 Acres in W. Bloomfield	\$2,500,000
4.32 Acres in Holly	\$124,900



# Police and Fire

## Independence Township

**Mon., Nov. 20** An Independence Township man called police after discovering that someone had attempted to enter his home through a rear sliding glass door during the night. A wooden stick prevented the door from opening.

**Mon., Nov. 20** An Independence Township resident reported that his vehicle's passenger window had been smashed out, and the door dented and scratched during the night. Nothing was missing from the car.

**Tues., Nov. 21** An Independence Township business owner locked a customer in a store near Sashabaw and Waldon Road until police arrived, claiming the man refused to pay for the coffee he'd poured. The man told police he became angry after learning that the coffee he thought was worth about \$1.00 would actually set him back \$1.59. He eventually paid for the coffee, and police advised the business owner to post coffee prices and refrain from locking future customers in the store.

**Tues., Nov. 21** A woman who arranged to have a teenage neighbor care for her dogs filed a police report after discovering diamond earrings missing after the girl had been inside the home



**An Independence Township ambulance and fire engine were called out to Main Street, Clarkston, for a medical emergency Wednesday. No one was seriously injured, although the case is still under investigation, according to police. Photo by Laura Colvin**

alone. A surveillance video also showed the teen's mother using a credit card stolen from the same home at a local retailer.

**Wed., Nov. 22** A 32 year-old Independence Township man was arrested for driving with a suspended license and ignoring a sheriff's deputy who was attempting to make a traffic stop after noticing the vehicle had a headlight out.

**Wed., Nov. 22** Thieves smashed

the left passenger window of a vehicle parked outside the owner's home on Berry Pointe near M-15 and snatched an iPod, iPod adapter and a debit card from the front seat.

**Wed., Nov. 22** Police searching the area for signs of vehicle larceny spotted a car near Berry Pointe and Staghorn Trail with the left rear window shattered. The owner was notified and discovered that he'd been robbed of an iPod, iPod adapter and a

wallet containing four credit cards.

**Wed., Nov. 22** Thieves filched an iPod, iPod adapter and a wallet from a vehicle parked in the owner's driveway near Park Valley Drive and M-15 after using a pry tool between the front driver's window and the doorframe to shatter the glass.

**Wed., Nov. 22** A resident in the 6600 block of Park Valley Drive reported discovering the rear passenger window smashed out of his vehicle and a handheld GPS unit stolen from the front seat. Police documented two sets of footprints around the car.

**Wed., Nov. 22** Thieves ran off with a set of speakers and an amplifier after smashing out the back window of a car parked outside the owner's home in the 6600 block Park Valley Drive.

**Wed., Nov. 22** A 77 year-old man reported returning home to discover a neighbor standing on his porch. When he inquired about her intentions, the woman said she wondered if he wanted to see her puppies, but the man later discovered pry marks on his front door.

**Sat., Nov. 25** Thieves used a pry tool to shatter the window in a vehicle parked at an Independence Township business near White Lake Road and Dixie Highway, then proceeded to steal the owner's personal belongings from the car.

Please see Cop Log on page 19A

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In back from left are coaches Laura and Bruce Ushiro, and Steve Miller. In the middle from left are team mascot Grayson Miller, and team members Alex Stegmeyer, Michael Yates, Monica Kinsey, Jacob Agar, Daniel Kinsey, and Spencer Miller. In front holding their state certificate is Scott Ushiro. Photo provided

## LEGO team makes state

The Pine Knob Elementary Bananos Lego Robotics Team performed well enough at the Nov. 18. regional competition to earn a spot at the state competition, set for Dec. 16 at Carman-Ainsworth Junior High School in Flint.

"The team did an awesome job," said Bruce Ushiro, who is coaching the team along with

his wife, Laura Ushiro, and Steve Miller.

"Everyone is encouraged to come and cheer for our team."

In the 8-week international competition, students develop creative solutions to a variety of problems, and build robots using LEGO robotics kits to perform those solutions.

## Springfield Plains displays innovation

BY ANDREW DUPONT  
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Ever though they narrowly missed a spot in the state championships, the fifth-grade students on Springfield Plains Elementary's LEGO Robotics team have plenty to be proud of.

The students who comprised the team "LEGO my NANO" competed against other schools at the regional challenge at Lakeland High School in White Lake on Nov. 11.

The competition was part of the initial round of challenges for the annual First LEGO League international robotics competition. Only the top 12 teams at the regional competition were permitted to advance to the state competition in December.

The SPE team came up a few points short of placing in the top 12, but their coach Larry

Clement was still very proud of his team's work.

"I think it went very well," Clement said. "They know what to do next year."

The team's efforts did not go unnoticed, however. The students' projects were graded in several different categories, including research quality, robot design, presentation, teamwork, spirit, and innovative solutions. The team earned "excellent" ratings in all areas of innovative solution and were awarded a second-place trophy for their efforts.

Clement said that since all the team members were new, there were no past experiences to go from. The team watched a tape of the previous year's competition, but having now participated in one, he said he thinks they are better prepared for the future.



Connon Eckhout, Kevin Peart, Veronica Block, Zack McCallum, Nathan Propoer, David Rushlow, Mike Eckhout, Rebecca Gorz, Matthew Winkler, Wyatt Jones Tyler Creager, Mary McCallum and Coach Larry Clement make up 'LEGO my Nano.' Provided

## Rotary's Goodfellow sale this weekend

Clarkston Rotarians will be selling Goodfellows newspaper for their Shoes for Kids program this Friday and Saturday.

Last year 440 children were signed up for the program. The projection for this year is that the number of children will be even greater and may approach 500 children. This is the 56th year that the Clarkston Rotary has sponsored the Goodfellows program as one of its community service projects.

Clarkston Rotarians, friends

of Rotary, Clarkston Lions Club volunteers, members of Oakland Woods Baptist Church, community teachers, local baseball teams, as well as local Cub Scout and Boy Scout troops all volunteer their time and energy in collecting monetary donations throughout the Clarkston area on the first Friday and Saturday in December.

Clarkston Community School social workers and the staff from Lighthouse Clarkston sign up children and help provide

for the needs of community families. Mr. Alan's Sportswear and Jason Riegle, store manager, continue to provide support to the Clarkston Rotary during the shoe distribution. They provide shoes and boots at a reduced cost. Store employees offer to volunteer their time for the entire day of distribution in fitting each child with new shoes and boots. Local elementary schools and churches also support the program by gathering new hat and glove donations.

## Band-Aid collection for children

Beth Simsack, 14, is collecting cartoon-decorated adhesive bandages for children at Mott Children's Hospital at the University of Michigan. A collection point in Clarkston is at Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, 5929 S. Main St. Call Jenni Simsack, Beth's mother, at 248-931-3423.

"The nurses used to let me pick a Band-Aid after my port was accessed (for chemotherapy) or after getting my blood drawn for blood counts," said Simsack, who was diagnosed with a medulloblastoma brain tumor at age 10.

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Discolored Paper

# Independence LEGO team takes competition by storm

BY ANDREW DUPONT  
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Earning a spot in a state championship can be difficult enough for any team, especially if they are all new to the game. That didn't stop the rookie students on Independence Elementary's LEGO Robotics team, who placed ninth out of 31 teams at a qualifying tournament and moved on to the state championship.

The group of fifth graders named their team "Triple Threat" because they can build, program, and research, the three key areas scored by judges at the LEGO competitions.

The First LEGO League, which was established eight years ago, hosts annual competitions between students from around the world. This year's theme revolves around nano-technology, microscopic robots that have the potential for many applications but are still very much in development. Besides designing, programming, and building a robotic device to use in several nano-themed challenges, the team was required to research nano-technology and give a presentation on their findings to a panel of judges.

Being a team comprised exclusively of fifth graders meant everyone, including coaches Cheryl and Mike McNeil, were rookies this time around.

"Everybody was new to this so we tried to have reserved expectations," said Cheryl. "When they called our team to go on we were very happy."

"We beat eighth-graders," exclaimed Brock Nowak.

The competition pitted students ages



The members of "Triple Threat: Charles Cedarman, Nick Furlo, Sean McNeil, Brock Nowak, Mitchell Perimoulx, Mitchell Smith and Caitlin Toth with coach Cheryl McNeil. Photo by Andrew DuPont

9-14 against one another, meaning rookie teams like Triple Threat were pitted against teams that have been participating for four years.

"It was scary because we didn't know what we were going up against," said Mitchell Perimoulx, who added that earning a spot in the state competition helped relieve the group's anxiety. "You're still nervous but you don't care

because you've already made it."

The team had approximately 10 weeks to prepare for the first competition. The regional event took place at Lakeland High School in Midland on Nov. 11. They secured a spot in the state championship, which is scheduled to take place Dec. 9 in Novi, against 59 other teams. The highest placing teams at the Novi competition will move on to the world fes-

tival competition, which takes place in Atlanta in April, 2007.

Even if the team does not go beyond the state competition, the program has been a beneficial one, according to Cheryl, who works as an engineer at DaimlerChrysler.

"It's probably the most rewarding volunteer program I've done," she said. "You get to see those 'a-ha' moments."

Discolored Paper

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### It all comes out in the wash

By Ernie Harwell  
When I was a boy growing up in Georgia, we worked hard and we played hard. And come suppertime, you knew without having to be told, to wash your hands.



Now there's a simple way for all of us to help keep ourselves and others healthy — just by washing our hands. Not just when they're dirty, but just out of habit.

If you petted a dog or other animal, before and after you've prepared food, if you've taken out the trash, coughed or sneezed, wash those hands.

All it takes is a little soap, some warm water and about 20 seconds of scrubbing, followed by a rinse and a dry with a clean towel.

Just the simple act of washing can help remove germs and keep you and others from picking up a bug that can lead to a cold, the flu or even more serious infections.

And remember to take care of your health before it's lonngggg gone.

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the Detroit Tigers" for more than four decades, retired after 55 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 86, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with "Miss Lulu," his wife of more than 60 years. His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns entitled "Life After Baseball," is available at local bookstores or by calling 1-800-245-5082.

# Pay back

## Bad-check program provides way to help recover lost funds

BY PAUL KAMPE  
Clarkston News Staff Writer

As holiday shopping picks up there is a warning to check writers both good and bad: make sure you can pay before you tear that paper out of your ledger.

The Oakland County Prosecutor's Office is empowering those on the re-

ceiving end of an insufficient-funds transaction with the Bad Check Restitution Program.

The program is carried out by a separate company free of taxpayers' expense. In its eight years, it has recovered \$1.8 million in Oakland County. Bad checks written anywhere in the county, both to businesses and individuals can be turned over to the program.

The cheated party would need to file first a statutory certified notice to the alleged fraudulent party, an example is available at the program's Web site, and allow five days for the check to be repaid.

If repayment is not made, the plaintiff can file a bad check crime report, also available at the Web

site for download, and file with the prosecutor's office.

When the money is recovered, the face value of the check will be issued to the victim. The guilty party is then forced to attend an educational class at their own expense.

Bad checks eligible for prosecution cannot exceed \$1,000 because those fall into criminal proceedings.

"It's a big eye-opener," said Community Relations Representative for the prosecutor's office, Diane Sloan.

"If they had paid in full in the first place, they wouldn't have had to pay so much in the long run."

The program is not only helpful to the defrauded party, but to the criminal justice system.

"Most police departments really support the program," Sloan said.

Because the program takes these cases off their desks and out of the courts, the bad check restitution program is a "diversion" system.

Sloan visited members of the Clarkston Area Chamber of Commerce during a recent luncheon to address the program.

Penny Shanks, executive director of the chamber, said the presentation was good because the chamber has several new members.

"People at the luncheon loved it," she said.

"We have so many new members, many of them had not heard of the program."

Many members remained at the event after it had wrapped up, to discuss the program with Sloan. Such a quick response is not typical, Shanks

The prosecutor's office reminds merchants they are not required to take personal checks from clients, and it also offers some tips.

- Institute a check acceptance policy outlining which types of checks will be accepted, including the consequences of writing a bad check.

- Confirm the identity of the check writer through identification, recording the ID number, birth date, and address of the issuer on the front of the check.

- If possible, avoid accepting checks written on a new account, ones bearing low numbers such as 101-150.

- Make sure the signature is legible, the intended amounts both written and numerical are identical, accept only checks with the current date, avoid out-of-state checks, and get phone number and street address from the writer of the check.



The Oakland County Prosecutor's Office is continuing its association with a bad check restitution program to help recover lost funds. Photo by Paul Kampe

said.

"We had several people stop and tell us it was a great program," she said.

Shanks credits the vision of leaders from the county in developing programs such as this and the Wireless Oakland project.

For more information, visit <http://www.checkprogram.com/oaklandcountymi> or contact the prosecutor's office at 800-225-7133.

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# Township officials, public debate Sashabaw improvement plan

Continued from page 3A

The county has one main criteria when considering participation by the county.

"Will the improvement project help create jobs? If it doesn't, we have our own budget problems," Middleton said. "We're concerned about our own revenues."

About \$13 million in county revenue is already tied up with township Downtown Development Authorities - another obligation may be too much. By his estimate, the county may be able to contribute about half of what has been requested, Middleton said.

The Sashabaw Road corridor needs the CIA projects, said Forrest Milzow, chairman of the CIA Board.

"The infrastructure improvements are a huge expense - I don't know how we could get them otherwise," Milzow said. "I'm asking you to look at the positives that could come from this."

Thousands of jobs at the proposed McLaren Health Park and other developments could be created because of the improvement projects, he said.

On the other hand, Sashabaw Road already has enough development as it is, said Neil Wallace, township resident.

"Development on Sashabaw certainly doesn't need any stimulus," Wallace said. "Development is going to happen in this area - I don't think you need to encourage it."

In addition to the county, Oakland Community College and the Huron Clinton Metro Authority have been asked to participate.

If fully participating, the county would contribute about \$9 million, OCC about \$6.5 million, and

HCMA about \$500,000, in addition to the township's \$15.4 million.

These contributions are based on estimated increases in taxable values of the Sashabaw Road properties over the next 20 years.

According to estimates, the value of the property will almost triple in value, from about \$105 million to about \$303 million. Under a state law passed in 2005, municipalities can "capture" the extra taxes collected on the property in a process called tax increment financing.

"I want to caution you that this is simply an estimate," Carlisle told the board.

The schedule of projects proposed by the township CIA board would be revised based on actual revenues, he said.

The board voted unanimously to adjourn the public hearing, to be continued at its Dec. 19 regular meeting.

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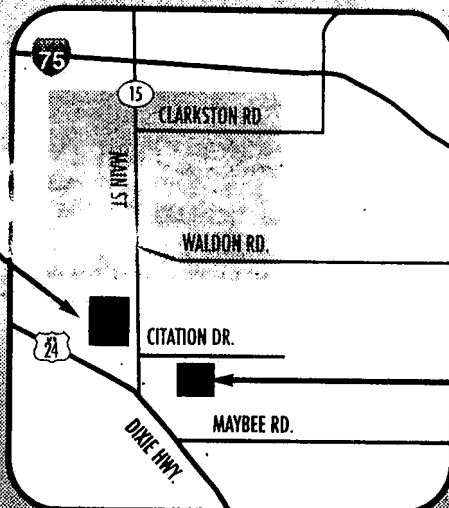
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# Clarkston News Sports

## Hard work pays Vela makes top 10 in state twice

BY PAUL KAMPE  
Clarkston News Staff Writer

After another successful season in the Oakland Activities Association, another league championship and a second-place finish at the OAA meet, the only thing left on deck for members of the Clarkston Wolves girls swimming team was the state finals.

The girls traveled to Oakland University in Rochester to compete in the state preliminaries and finals on Nov. 17-18.

Junior Alyssa Vela returned with two top-ten finishes to her credit, placing sixth in the 50-yard freestyle (24.53) as well as the 100-yard freestyle (53.30), an event she won at the OAA meet weeks prior.

Vela entered both events ranked ninth (50-yard) and eighth (100-yard), and shaved time off both qualifying times.

"It was really exciting," Vela said.

"It's really motivating and it's going to make me work harder this year so I can go further next year.

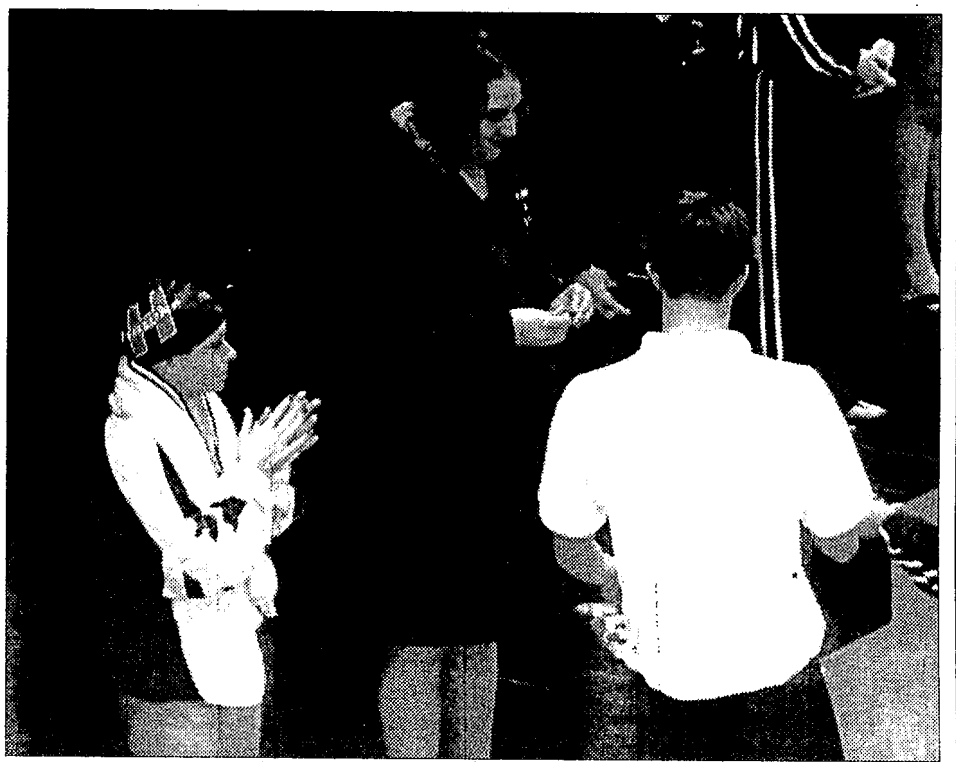
"The competition was really good, it seemed like all the girls were swimming faster than last year. The environment and everything was really intense," Vela added.

A credit to her near decade experience in the pool, Vela said she was not nervous on the grand stage.

Vela set personal best times and improved over her performance last year in the finals.

She trimmed two-thirds of a second

Please see girls swimming, A17



Clarkston Wolves swimmer Alyssa Vela (middle) receives a medal for her sixth-place all-state finish. Photo submitted

## Athlete of the week, Leach signs down there by the (cross) X

BY PAUL KAMPE  
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Even after being physically unable to run, Clarkston senior Jenna Leach was still able to help keep her team competitive in the championship.

On Nov. 14, Leach was able to see all of her years of hard work realized while signing a letter of intent to run cross country for Oakland University, a division I school in the Mid Continent Conference.

Leach, 17, went down midway through the cross country season with a stress fracture in a metatarsal. Although her foot did not cooperate, she was still able to give the team a helping hand as it attempted to win a fourth consecutive state championship.

"Physically it hurt us not having her out there racing for us, (but) she's big asset even being around," girls cross country coach Jamie LaBrosse said.

"Having her at the line at the state meet made a big difference to these girls. She made them feel a lot calmer, her presence around them (because) they look up to her so much. Some kids when they're not physically running anymore, that's it, there's not much more they can do for you (but) Jenna was like having another assistant coach out there."

LaBrosse, Leach's coach since she made the transition from middle school to Clarkston's varsity has seen her grow each season, but this year she had to help the team more mentally.

"This year especially, she's had to take on a leadership role, in years past we had upperclassmen and she was the baby of the group," he said.

"This year she really had to step up because our team was so young and really take on some leadership qualities and help these kids along the way and teach them the ropes."

Leach was deciding between the University of Dayton and Ferris State University, in addition to OU. In the end, in a decision her parents left to her, Leach chose coach Paul Rice and the Grizzlies.

"I realized I really wanted to be closer to home when it came down to it. I really like the curriculum and the coach and the team. I really meshed well with them," Leach said.

She is currently looking into going into the allied

health field either in nursing or physical therapy, or even teaching.

In her time with Clarkston, Leach has been a part of three state, league, and county, and four regional championship teams.

"We're very excited for her. She's done so well in academics and running too," Lynne Leach, Jenna's mother said.

"She's worked very hard with this team under an awesome coach. He's been supportive of her since she has been running varsity. He's been there and we've been right behind her."



Jenna Leach signs on the dotted line with the support of her teammates. Leach will run for Paul Rice's cross country squad at Oakland University, a division I program. Photo by Paul Kampe

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# A wishbone away

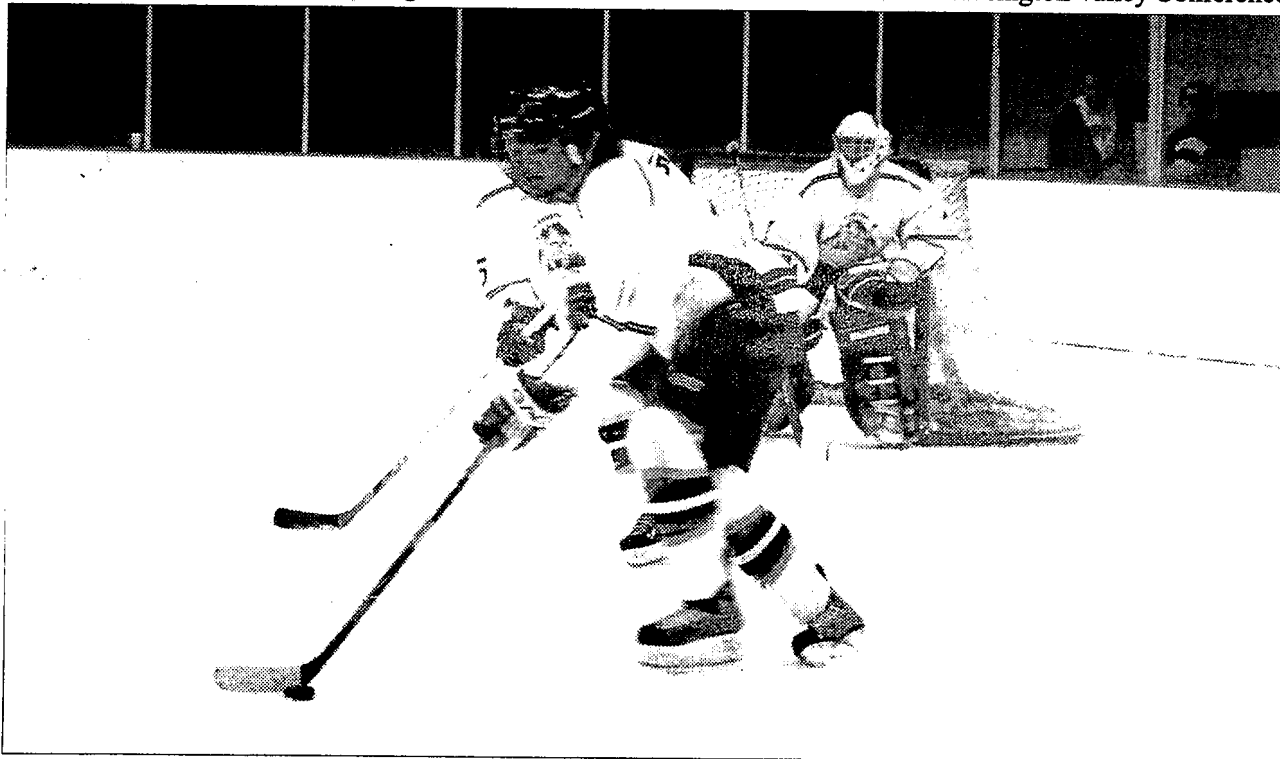
## Wolves hold close to champs in loss

BY PAUL KAMPE  
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Too much turkey could be to blame for a Black Friday defeat. The Clarkston Wolves hockey team, looking to rebound from a season-opening loss to Birmingham Unified nearly a week prior, kept up with the defending state champions for more than half the game, but in the end, fresh legs won the game.

The Brighton Bulldogs (2-0) proved to be too much for the Wolves (0-2) in the end, taking a 6-3 win in the first day of the Cranbrook Thanksgiving Tournament on Nov. 24.

The teams were nearly even through the first period; Brighton held a 1-0 advantage and the teams were even in shots on goal at four apiece. The Bulldogs, winners of five consecutive Kensington Valley Conference



The Clarkston Wolves took on defending division I champion Brighton in the first round of the Cranbrook Thanksgiving tournament.. Photo by Paul Kampe

Wed., November 29, 2006 The Clarkston (MI) News 15 A titles, pulled away in the remaining two periods, outscoring Clarkston 5-2.

Clarkston Coach Bryan Krygier said the game was an improvement for the young Wolves team.

"We played better, we had an opportunity to get back in, we just made some bad decisions defensively...a lot of their shots went in that I didn't think should have gone in, but we shouldn't have given them those opportunities to take the puck toward our net," he said.

"We played with a little more heart...we're picking it up, we're improving. It's going to take time," he added.

Brighton Coach Paul Moggach said the game was closer than the box score would have readers thinking.

"It wasn't until the third period where we really opened it up...I thought the score wasn't indicative of the play," he said.

"They were close to us the whole time. In the end we got a couple goals and that was the difference."

The difference in the game, Moggach said, was the Bulldogs' conditioning in the off-season paid dividends as the contest wore on.

"We trained hard in the months coming up to the season's start and the conditioning should take over in the third (period)."

In that third period, Brighton scored three goals on five shots including a shorthanded score from Matt Pretilla with 9:17 remaining.

Scoring for the Wolves were Eric Salo (12:40 remaining second period), Taylor Turner (11:36 third period) and Ryan Kenerson (5:33 third period).

Jamie Bowen played in net for Brighton and turned away 15 Clarkston shots for the win. However, the Wolves did hold a shooting advantage in the game by one, 18-17.

Clarkston opens its league play on Nov. 30 against Waterford Mott at 6 p.m. on its home ice at Detroit Skating Club. The rink is located at 888 Denison Court in Bloomfield Hills.

"They give us a one to two goal game every year, they play us tough," Krygier said. "They have an improved team and they have some veterans on their team."

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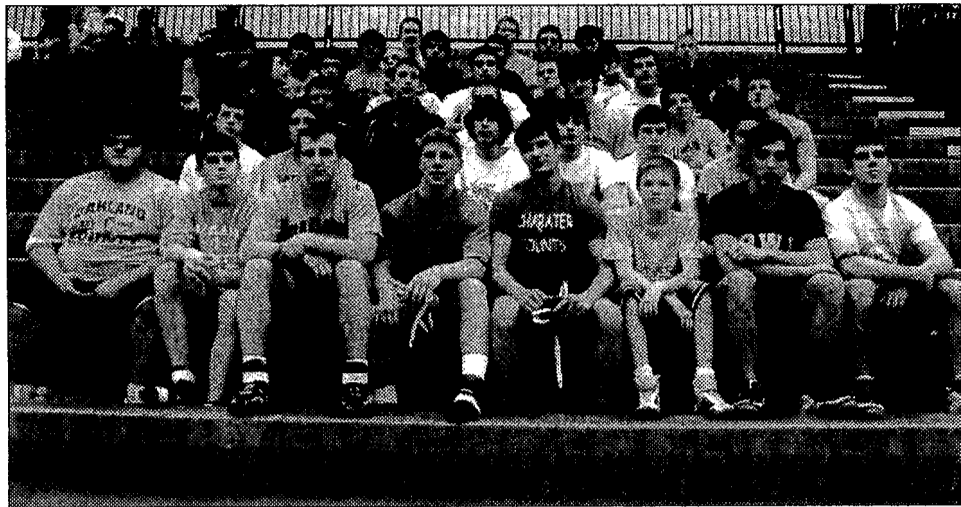
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Clarkston High School's A, B and Junior Varsity wrestling squads took time to pose while hosting a pre-season multi-team scrimmage. Photo by Paul Kampe

# Grapplers ready

## Wolves return five state finalists out of eight from last season

BY PAUL KAMPE  
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Tradition is hard to break, and hopefully it won't change soon. The Clarkston Wolves wrestling program has kept up a tradition of quality teams and outstanding individual wrestlers.

The Wolves sent eight wrestlers to the state finals in 2005, and four placed. The highest was then-senior Josh McAllister in the 171-pound weight class.

Clarkston's returning state finalists moved up in weight class. Senior Jimmy Ellsworth is making the biggest climb, nearly 30 pounds, from 160-pound to 189-pounds. The Wolves also return Mike Maguire (125-pounds), Bryant Craft (160-pounds), Colton Tweed (152-pounds) and Adam Lauzen (171-pounds).

Clarkston, winner of five out of the past five Oakland Activities Association division I league championships, kicks off

the season with a match against Detroit Catholic Central on Dec. 1. Their first meet at home is Dec. 15, playing host to the Oakland County wrestling meet.

The history of the program has set the bar high for the team.

"The guys have real high expectations for themselves," Clarkston coach Joe DeGain said.

"A lot of the guys are elevating the expectations of their teammates. I expect the best out of them. They're a very experienced team.

"This will be the most mature team I've had here," DeGain added.

DeGain, entering his fourth season at the helm is looking forward to matches against rival Lake Orion, state champion Davison, and state runners-up Hartland.

"We'll see quite a few teams who are some of the better teams in the state," he said.

"We'll see good wrestlers."

# Coach of the year

Coleman named MYSL's best for work with youths

BY PAUL KAMPE  
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Those who can...also teach. Clarkston's Dustin Coleman, a four-year player for Clarkston High School in the late 1990's was recognized for his teaching by the parents and players of the Rochester Youth Soccer League.

Coleman, 24, a 2000 CHS graduate has been coaching in the RYSL, a part of the Michigan State Youth Soccer League, for the past three seasons. He was awarded the Coach of the Year award for his work with the under 12 team The Cosmos.

His coaching career started in the fall season of 2004 when his aunt asked to him to coach his then-10-year-old cousin Caroline, whose team was without a leader.

"It was an immediate good fit," Coleman said.

His lifelong love of the sport has made him a better coach, Coleman said.

"Being able to go through all that experience and know how my different coaches taught me has helped me teach them," he said.

"Seeing them grow is the best part about it. Seeing them interact...and growing as a team is hands down one of the most rewarding things I've ever done."

The former Clarkston net-minder fills his time with work and school as well as his role with an indoor soccer team. Coleman has been enrolled at Oakland University in Rochester since his days at CHS and is now studying both studio art and pursuing his K-12 teaching certificate.

"I took one drawing class and I knew right off the bat I was going to go into studio art," Coleman said.

"Everybody knew this is what I was supposed to go into my whole life, but...it

clicked in that one class."

Coleman is also pursuing a degree in Christian ministry where he is in the final year of his study.

"Just after high school is when I focused my life more around God. It took about a year or so before that program got introduced to me and I was like, 'Awesome,'" Coleman said.

Coleman is looking to utilize all his talents, no matter which career he chooses.

"They are probably going to be intertwined throughout my life and even if I'm solely into the ministry I think art is going to be part of that. If I'm an art teacher, I think the ministry, because of who I am, is going to pour out of that," he said.



Coleman

Coleman's passion for soccer began in the second grade, when his best friend introduced him to the sport.

"There was a big shift there (with his influence for soccer...ever since then I've been passionate about soccer. I was inspired by him to play and ever since then it just grew."

The finesse, spontaneous nature and necessary endurance are all factors that drew him to the sport.

"With soccer, because it's a low scoring event, it adds more intensity," he said.

Coleman carries a biblical verse with him that inspires him as a teacher and coach.

"Regarding others as better than yourself and really putting in the time to build each other up," Coleman said.

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# No BCS needed to find champion(s)

BY PAUL KAMPE  
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Two out of three isn't bad, but having three teams from a program headed to the championship is a great feat.

The Clarkston Chiefs, for the first time in its 36-year history, sent one each of its freshman and junior varsity and the varsity squads to Super Bowl II, Northern Youth Football League championship game at Wisner Stadium in Pontiac on Nov. 4. The organization consists of two each of the freshman and JV squads and one varsity team due to the number of players enrolled.

The Chiefs' freshman blue squad, unscored on in the playoffs, won 8-0 in an overtime defeat of the Lapeer Steelers. The JV blue team won 25-18, ending a 20-game winning streak by the Pontiac Panthers, a stretch as old as the NYFL itself. The JV Chiefs (261 yards) had nearly five times more rushing yards than Pontiac (48 yards) and held several of its rushers to negative yardage.

The varsity squad was halted by the Panthers older squad, 37-6. They wrapped up the season at 10-2, with both losses coming at the hands and feet of Pontiac. The Chiefs were the first team to score on the Panthers this year during their regular-season meeting.

The freshman blue team's boys turned around a 3-5 record from the previous year to go undefeated this season, 11-0.

"They worked very hard," second-year freshman coach Erik Sen said.

"This year we focused on defense...on tackling and speed. To have that come to fruition...was a great accomplishment for the kids."

The evolution the team undertakes in the three-month season is rewarding," said Sen, one of the nearly 60 volunteer parent coaches and assistants.

"The best thing is watching the kids develop from the first day of the season to the last game...to see their confidence grow."

Sen became involved after his son Ian, a member of the JV blue team, played for the Chiefs' freshman squad.

"I felt it was a point in my life where I needed to get involved," Sen said.

"I started out coaching for one reason, but I will continue because I enjoy watching the kids grow into confident young men," he added.

Joel Wells, head coach of the JV blue team, is an alumnus of the program, as he played for the Chiefs as a youth.

Wells, a second-year head coach, began by coaching his son, and after he left

the Chiefs, Joel decided to continue coaching.

"I'll coach forever if work allows it," Wells said.

"I just love football in general."

The coaches were unsure if this year's team could match the 2005 club and its 7-1 regular-season record.

"Midway through the season, we realized no one could stop the power running game. So we stuck with that," Wells said.

Varsity coach Steve Ellsworth is on the receiving end of the talent that comes to the head of the Chiefs' pack as they hit their teenage years. Two years ago, the Chiefs did not have enough players registered for the program to have a varsity team.

The separated divisions for the players at the freshman and JV levels works in the varsity's favor, Ellsworth explained.

"They get to unite to combine to make a great team," he said.

Ellsworth has been coaching his son Cody, 12, for the past five seasons.

"Once you start, you're pretty much addicted."

"It's been a great experience and a great organization," he added.

"I like that it promotes memories and family activities," Ellsworth said of the program.

All levels of the program utilize the Clarkston Wolves' schemes so players will be familiar with

them if and when they play for Clarkston High School in the future.

"We work directly with the high school, we run the same offenses and the same defense schemes they do so kids in third grade are working with a program...so they're familiar with the terminology and the play calling and positioning," Chiefs President Larry Mallace said.

"They (high school coaches) have been very instrumental in putting this together...we're acting as a feeder system," Mallace added.

The Chiefs also offer opportunities for like-aged girls to learn cheerleading and pom-poms.

Registration for the Chiefs' football and cheerleading and pom-pom squads begins in May. Their seasons will begin in the summer.

The program has grown to 320 players and cheerleaders, and nearly 60 coaches and assistants.

In 1970, the Chiefs were born after area parents brought a team to Clarkston because their children had to pay in Waterford, the nearest program at the time.

The team got its name from the donated jerseys it wore from Pontiac Central High School.

"My biggest goal is to develop quality human beings," Mallace said.

"To make sure they understand how important a good education is, character, leadership and role model. Those are things I think are more important than football. Clarkston has never churned out a professional football player, but they have churned out a whole lot of great people," Mallace said.



The Chiefs' freshman blue squad, one of two Super Bowl champions for the program. Photo by Paul Kampe

Continued from A14

## Vela cracks top ten at state finals

off her 2005 time in the 50-yard freestyle (25.18), well enough for 15th place.

She improved her position in even more drastic fashion in her other solo event.

Last season, Vela placed 22nd in the 100-yard freestyle.

"I was in a lot better shape coming into this season and my times really improved," Vela said.

Clarkston Coach Kenwyn Chock said Vela's body is perfect for swimming and a factor in her success.

"She's tall and she's strong," Chock said.

"She's definitely has a swimming body."

Vela's off-season dedication came in the form of four-hour daily swims and two and a half hours of training during the preceding winter.

"I'm really looking to improve this summer and to win at states next year," Vela said.

"One thing about Alyssa, she's goal oriented, that's what drives her," Chock said.

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## Rookie of the year

Former Clarkston cross country runner Gillian Nordquist earned all-Patriot League second team honors on Nov. 6 as a member of the Bucknell Bison. Nordquist was named the team's rookie of the year last season as the Bison won the conference championship, a feat it repeated this season.

Nordquist placed 59th at the 2006 Mid-Atlantic Regional with a time of 22:12 on Nov. 11, an improvement by more than 25 seconds over her 2005 time.

Gillian Nordquist

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# Cop Log

Continued from page A9

**Sat., Nov. 25** An Independence Township man reported that he returned from vacation to discover that someone had stolen a safe containing a gun and other valuable items from his bedroom. No signs of forced entry were discovered, as the man's house-sitting friend left the house unlocked while he was out.

**Sat., Nov. 25** A Waterford man was arrested and jailed for home invasion and domestic assault after forcing his way into the Clarkston apartment of his former girlfriend and attacking the woman, who claimed to have a personal protection order against the man.

**Sun., Nov. 26** Patrolling deputies discovered the rear window smashed out of a vehicle in the 4700 block of Curtis Lane. Speakers and an amplifier were

stolen from the vehicle, the owner said.

# Springfield Township

**Wed., Nov 22** The Springfield Township Fire Department responded to an emergency call after a propane heater caught fire in the garage of a home on Rattalee Lake Road and exploded. No injuries were reported. Groveland Fire, North Oakland Fire Authority and Oakland County Fire Investigators were on site to provide assistance.

**Sat., Nov 25** A Springfield Township man was arrested for domestic violence kicked and broke the window of an Oakland County Sheriff's vehicle after being placed in the backseat by deputies. The deputies deployed a taser to restrain the subject.

# NOW OPEN



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- Rochester Hills • Corner of Hamlin & Rochester Rd • 248-656-7700
- Lake Orion • M-24, North of Clarkston • 248-814-8109
- Shelby Township • Corner of Hayes & 22 Mile • 586-247-4100

## COMING SOON

- North Shelby • 25 Mile & Van Dyke Avenue
- Chesterfield Township • 23 Mile & Gratiot Avenue

## Deck the halls with boughs of holly...

And don't forget the bows and ribbons, lights, garland and Santa's team of reindeer for the lawn!

The day after Thanksgiving marked the traditional kick-off of the holiday season, and many Clarkston-area residents were feeling jolly as they took advantage of the warm weather to put up some outdoor decorations.

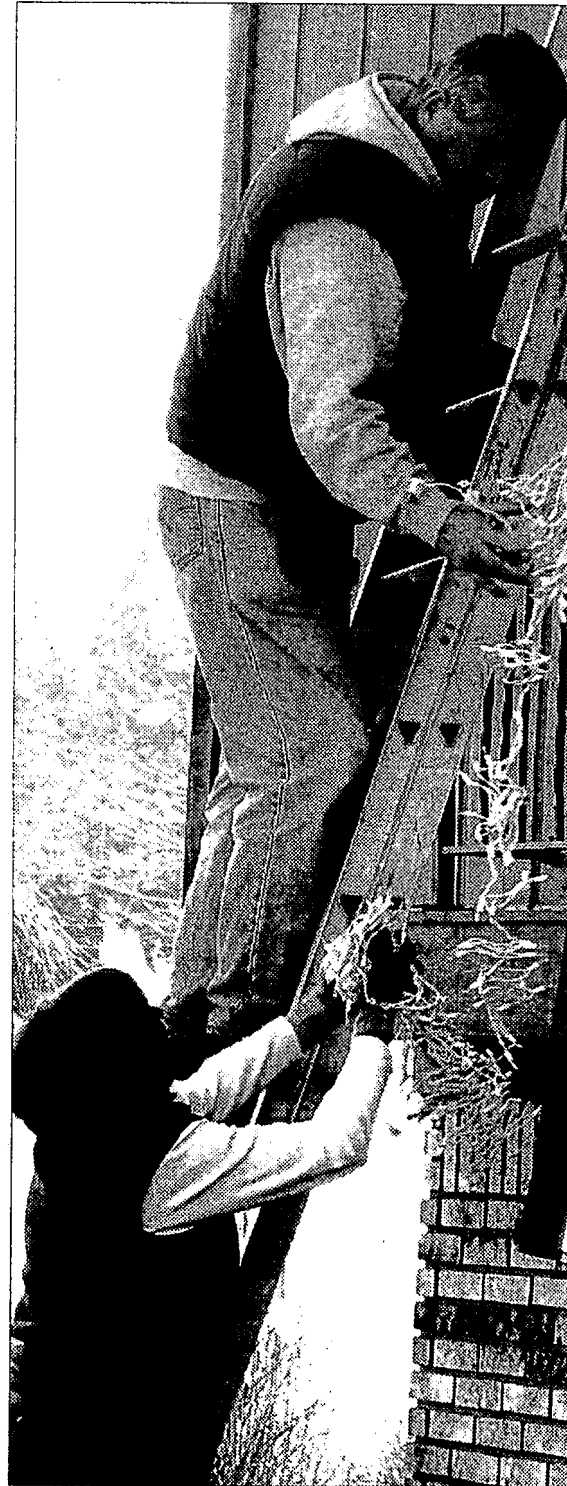
Photo story by Laura Colvin and Paul Kampe



Joanne Laverdure made sure the giant outdoor bow was tied perfectly.



Shh, it's a surprise! Beth Kirchner brought her children, Michael and Claire, over to hang the lights at Grandma and Grandpa's Clarkston home before they arrive back in town for the holidays. Beth already had the lights up at home.



Careful up there! Retired CHS Principal Brent Cooley and his wife Phyllis finished raking the leaves AND got the Christmas lights up Friday.



On Friday, Mike Wendorf finished putting out the decorations that came out of storage on Thanksgiving Day.



Anne Lawson got up at dawn to do some shopping, and made one last stop at Bordine's Nursery for a poinsettia.



It was too warm for snow, but Sean LaCroix was thinking about a white Christmas anyway.

**People Poll**

*Why shop downtown Clarkston?*



Katie (left): "You can find something different here — things that are very unique." Ann: "It's fun to walk up and down the street and see what's in all the shops."

— Katie and Ann MacGuidwin



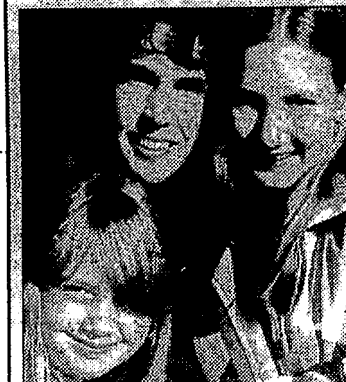
"It's nice to be able to park and walk, and see things that are a little different and special."

— Bill Majewski



"I don't like the mall crowd, and also this is where I live."

— Marie Vela



"This is the only place you'll find things with the Clarkston team names on them — we also like the Chocolate Moose."

— Jill Leek, with Becka and Riana

By Phil Custodio

# The Clarkston News' Millstream

A section dedicated to showcasing all the reasons this is a great area to live and work!



Michael Zukoff, a senior at Clarkston High School, completed an Eagle Scout Service Project that included the construction of a granite-top altar, wooden crucifix, 15 benches, a brick patio and a fire pit for an outdoor sanctuary at Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church in Clarkston. Photo by Laura Colvin

## Eagle project earns teen soaring praise

BY LAURA COLVIN  
Clarkston News Staff Writer

When 17-year-old Michael Zukoff stepped up and offered to plan and build an outdoor sanctuary at his family's Clarkston church, he knew only one thing for sure — if he was going to do the project, he was going to do it right.

Then a junior at Brother Rice High School in Bloomfield Hills, Michael was on the path to becoming an Eagle Scout, and the undertaking at Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church was to be his service project, one of several tasks required by the Boy Scouts for young men pursuing the rank of Eagle.

As he entered the 11<sup>th</sup> grade, Michael knew he was approaching the Boy Scout's highest rank — the journey began when he climbed into a Tiger Cub uniform at the age of 6, and continued year after year as he returned to the pack, even when other boys began dropping out. With each new accomplishment and each new skill, Michael's dedication and enthusiasm for scouting continued to mount.

But Michael, who is a Life Scout and the Senior Patrol Leader of troop 192 out

of Davisburg, knew that the title of Eagle Scout was an honor to be taken seriously. It had to be earned, and Michael wanted his service project to make an impact, and set a precedent for those rising in the ranks behind him.

"Michael is a perfectionist," said his mother, Colette Zukoff; adding that Michael's brother Ryan, 14, also belongs to troop 192. "When he takes on a project he does it the absolute best he can. He's always been one to set his sights high and never settles for anything mediocre."

So when he heard Pastor Jonathon Heierman speaking that Sunday about impending improvements to the church, Michael, now a senior at Clarkston High School, knew he'd found the right place for his project. Recently confirmed at Calvary, Michael hoped he could offer something in return.

"He felt like he gained so much from his confirmation," said Colette. "He wanted to repay the church."

Michael met with Heierman, who arrived at Calvary with his family in 1998, then he talked with other members of the church staff, tossed around a few ideas, and before long a plan developed: Michael would draw

up plans, raise funds and build an outdoor sanctuary on the grounds of the church.

"It was fun to see," said Heierman. "It started out small, but as Michael got into the project it grew and it grew and grew. He had a passion to make sure it was right and he was willing to put a lot of extra work and effort into it to make sure it was right."

The plan would require materials, of course, so Michael got to work with popcorn sales and other Boy Scout fund-raisers. He organized collections at the church and asked for donations.

He drew up plans for the sanctuary, and then drew them up again, and again, until the church approved all the ideas. He researched the materials, figured out what to buy, and asked for advice from his parents and other adults when he needed it.

And then, with the help of the scouts he was charged with leading, Michael got down to business.

All in all, the project includes the construction of a granite-top altar, a wooden crucifix, 15 benches, a brick patio, and a fire pit.

Please see scout project on B11



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The **Boston Brass Quintet**, Clarkston Performing Arts Center, in Clarkston High School, 7:30 p.m. tonight, Nov. 29. They will perform the "Stan Kenton Christmas Show." General admission is \$20. Contact High School Director Michael Lewis, lewismp@clarkston.k12.mi.us.

**"The Right to Innocence,"** free parent workshop, 7-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 29, Clarkston Early Childhood Center, 6397 Clarkston Road. Call Bridget at 248-693-5439 ext. 6417 by Nov. 27 to register. Free limited on-site child care available with registration.

**"Share Your Wish with Santa"** lunch or dinner, Dec. 1-2, Liberty Golf Course, 6060 Maybee Road. Includes dinner or brunch, holiday craft, songs, photo with Santa, and cookie decorating. 6-8 p.m. Dec. 1, and 12-2 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Dec. 2. Youth tickets \$8 for residents and \$11 for non-residents. For adults, \$12 for residents, \$15 for non-residents. Tickets on sale at the Parks and Recreation office, 90 N. Main St. Call 248-625-8223.

**Holiday Book Sale**, Dec. 2-3, Independence Township Library, 6495 Clarkston Road. Prices \$3-\$5 for hard-bound books in like-new condition. All proceeds go to the library.

**Christmas Greens Market**, Clarkston Farm and Garden Club, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Dec. 2, Church of the Resurrection, 6490 Clarkston Road. Fresh table arrangements, small-gift selections, wreaths, roping and loose fresh greens. All proceeds to benefit community. Call 248-207-3395 or 248-393-7509.

**"Happy Ever After and How To Get There"** a series of informational seminars on topics relevant to the aging population are scheduled for Saturdays, Dec. 2 and Feb. 3 at Clarkston Junior High School from 9 a.m.-noon. Seating is limited. To re-

# Around Town



## Holiday concert in Clarkston

The Madrigal Choral Society of Southfield will perform in concert at Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road, at 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1. No tickets are necessary, although there will be a free-will offering accepted to support the choir's outreach. The 50-voice choir, under the direction of Robert A. Martin, has performed with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra as well as toured Europe. This season they will be performing Imant Raminsh's *Magnificat* as well as other Holiday favorites. Photo submitted

serve seats or for more information, call 248-625-5556, ext. 162

**Toys for Tots** Event will be on Sunday, Dec. 3, from 2-7:00 p.m. Continuous live music on two stages, featuring Charlie Allen Martin with 2XL, Urban Nomads, Terrie Lea & the Mustangs, Phil Treais Group, Skee Brothers, and Targus. MC will be John O'Leary of 94.7 WCSX. Cash Bar and Food items. Oakland County Sportsmen's Club, 4770 Waterford Road, Clarkston. Cover Charge Per Person is one new unwrapped toy or a \$10 donation. All contributions go to the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. For more information, call 248-623-0444, 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

**Emergency Food Assistance Program** at the Independence

Township Senior Center, 5980 Clarkston Road inside Clinton Park, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Dec. 6. Seniors only. Unregistered, bring Social Security card and photo identification. Call the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency at 248-209-2686 or 800-482-9250.

**Widowed Support Group**, 7 p.m., Dec. 7, Independence Twp. Senior Center, Clintonwood Park off Clarkston Road. Holiday Memorial Service, with Bereavement Counselor Alicia Brown. Free. 248-625-5231.

**Santa visit**, 6:30-8 p.m., Dec. 7, Springfield Township Library, 12000 Davisburg Road. Photos for \$5. Also, **Christmas Cookie Sale** starting at 10 a.m. \$4 per plate. Drop off cookie donations on Dec. 6. Call 248-846-6550.

**Free Demonstration of Drums Alive "Golden Beats,"** 1 p.m., Friday, Dec. 8, Carriage House, Independence Township Senior Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. Regular program Mondays, Jan. 8-Feb. 12, 9:15-10:15 a.m., Carriage House. \$24 for 6 weeks. Call 248-625-8231.

**Lunch, present, and pictures with Santa**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Dec. 9, children 12 and younger, Hart Community Center, 495 Broadway, Davisburg. \$6 for residents, \$8 for non-residents. \$3 for pictures. **Visit with Santa**, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Dec. 9, Hart Community Center. \$4 for residents, \$6 for non-residents. Photos, \$3. Children will receive a gift from Santa. Pre-register with Springfield Parks and Recreation, 248-634-0412.

**Michigan's Largest Organ-**

isms, 1 p.m. Dec. 10. \$1.50 per person. Clarkston Springs Metropark, 5200 Indian Trail in Springfield Township. Pre-register at 248-625-6640.

The Clarkston Junior High Choir will hold a **benefit fund-raiser dinner** on Monday, Dec. 11, at Pete's Coney Island II, 6160 Dixie Highway. 4-8 p.m. Benefits the Clarkston Junior High Vocal Department. Members of the choir will be performing and serving. Call Danielle Blanchard, choral director, at 248-623-5600.

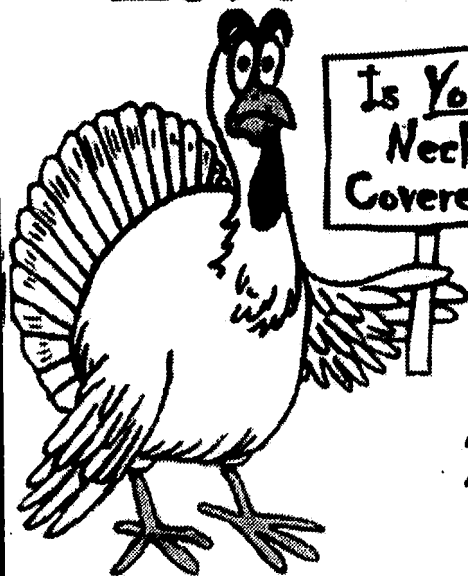
**Greektown**, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday, Dec. 11. Residents \$21/Non-residents \$24. Voucher for \$15 in coin for games or meal. Choose your own restaurant. Sign up at the senior center, 6000 Clarkston Road. Call 248-625-8231.

**Christmas Tea**, 2-4 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 13, Carriage House, Independence Township Senior Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. Bring your favorite tea cup for your own use or decorate a table for four. Mothers, daughters, and granddaughters welcome. Dress up or come as you are. \$5 per person. Sign up by Monday, Dec. 4. Call 248-625-8231.

Clarkston Community Historical Society will hold a benefit performance by the **Clarkston Village Players of A Talent for Murder** on Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. This entertaining play promises plenty of mystery, suspense and laughter. Your \$18 ticket includes hors d'Oeuvres and wine/beer/soda. Proceeds go to the Clarkston Heritage Museum, located in Independence Library. Call 248-922-3757 for tickets.

**Samaritan Care Hospice** seeks volunteers to spend time with terminally ill patients and their families. Hospice volunteers provide companionship and emotional support to patients on an average of 2-3 hours per week. Volunteers must be 18 or older. Please see *Around Town* on 11B

## Let's Talk Turkey



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# Fearless Faculty Footlighters return to the stage

BY ANDREW DUPONT

Clarkston News Staff Writer

What do Clarkston High School teachers and organized crime have in common? The answer is that they will both be on stage at CHS Dec. 1-2 as part of the annual comedy performed by the Fearless Faculty Footlighters.

The Footlighters group is composed mostly of CHS and CJHS faculty, but also staff and students from CHS. The group has performed annually for more than 20 years, with all proceeds going towards student scholarships and faculty needs.

Even though a lot of serious work goes into the annual production, the end goal of the Footlighters is always to have the audience laughing. Rich Erhardt, faculty play coordinator, said the group always chooses a comedy to perform, and this year's performance "Stop and I'll Catch You" is no different.

"I'd call it farcical, definitely," said Erhardt.

"Stop and I'll Catch You" tells the story of a female gangster attempting to run a speakeasy, an underground alcohol supply center, during the 1920's prohibition. As if being a female gangster wasn't challenging enough, someone is trying to seize control of the speakeasy - figuring out who is part of the enjoyment of the play, said Erhardt.

The faculty agrees on a play early in the year, and all the work behind the production comes from people at CHS, he said.

"This year, Jeff Tice's theater pro-

**Stop and I'll  
Catch You**  
Friday-Saturday  
Dec. 1-2  
7:30 p.m.  
Tickets at the  
door:  
\$6 for adults  
\$5 for students  
and seniors  
Clarkston High  
School  
Performing Arts  
Center,  
6093 Flemings  
Lake Road

duction has helped with the setup," said Erhardt, adding that the students made general production a lot easier and gave them great first-hand experience for the future.

Both performances of "Stop and I'll Catch You" will take place at the Clarkston High School Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are available at the door and cost \$6 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors.



Students Kayla Daros and Tiffani Calhoun join CHS staff Aaron Dobson, Jessica Justice, and substitute teacher Chuck Kothcer on stage for this year's comedic performance by the Fearless Faculty Footlighters. Photo by Andrew DuPont

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Caring for the Community 45 Years.



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our Staff is here to help you, when you need it most.

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**Primary Care - Appointments**

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Workers' Compensation  
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**Radiology**

Internal Medicine  
Immunizations  
Allergy Injections  
Flu Shots

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Nancy Crossley, M.D.  
Dean Moscovic, D.O.

**Internal Medicine**

Michael Baker, M.D.  
Sholeh Vaziri, M.D.

**Pediatrics**

Mohammad Amin, M.D.  
Shamim Islam, M.D.  
James O'Neill, M.D.

**Family Practice**

Timothy O'Neill, D.O.

**Emergency Medicine**

Carl Palffy, M.D.  
David Thomas, D.O.  
Dawn Turner, D.O.  
Michael Williams, M.D.

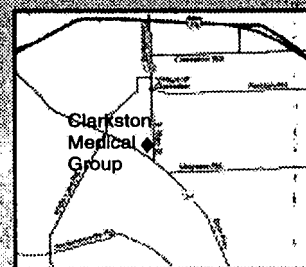
# CMG

Clarkston Medical Group  
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Fax: 248-625-8938

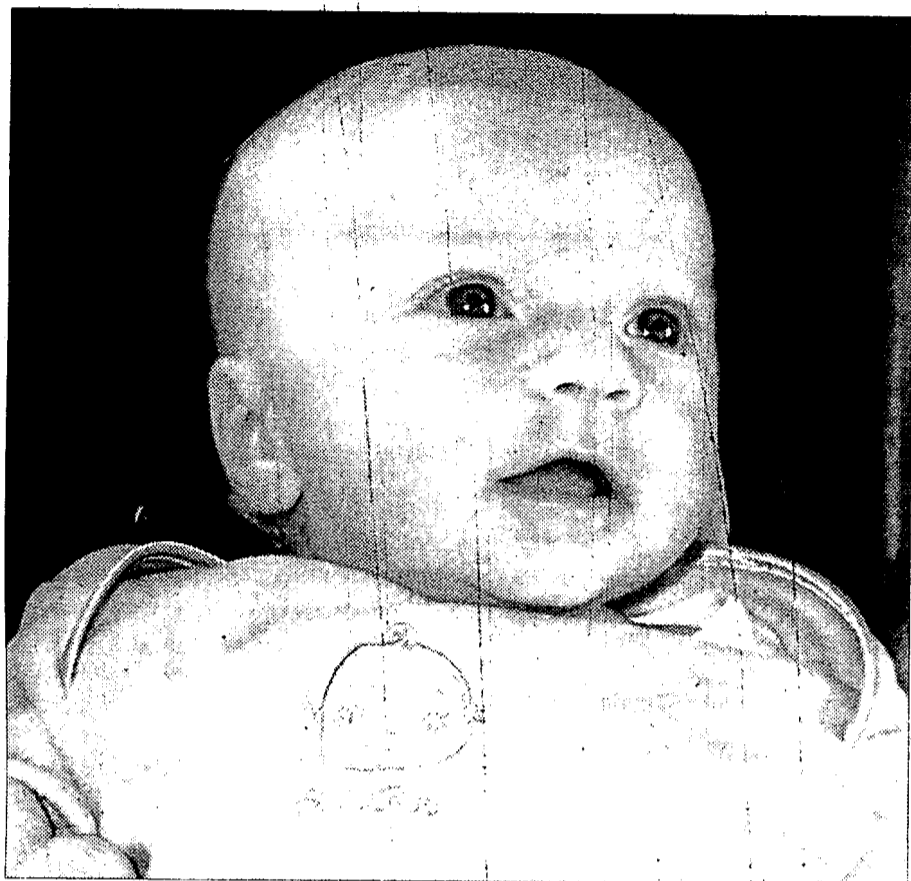
Open 24 Hours

## 248-625-2621

(We Never Close!)



# Milestones



## Welcome Dane White

Michael and Kara (Evans) White of Waterford welcome the birth of their son, Dane Michael White. Dane was born on Oct. 10 at Providence Hospital in Southfield. He was 6 pounds, 12 ounces, and 20 inches in length. He has

a big sister, Emily White, 5. His grandparents are Patricia and Terrance Evans of Clarkston, George White of Clarkston, and Martha White of Pontiac. His great grandmother is Martha White of Clarkston.

## Clarkston grad graduates basic

Army Reserve Pvt. **Travis A. Sheffield** has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, Sheffield studied the Army mission, his-

tory, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills.

Sheffield, the son of Cynthia Sheffield of Clarkston, is a 2006 graduate of Clarkston High School.

## Business briefs

**Audra Helms** has joined the mortgage team at Citizens Bank, 9749 Dixie Highway, Suite A, in Clarkston. Call 248-620-7568.

**Antoinette Kreager** of Clarkston helped float a giant balloon of a drum-playing Uncle Sam during America's Thanksgiving Parade in Detroit. Kreager and other employees of Detroit Blue Cross Blue

Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network employees were wearing matching Uncle Sam-style uniforms.

At 45 feet, Uncle Sam is one of the two tallest balloons on the route, and contains 3,500 cubic feet of helium.

The parade, in its 80th year, ran down Woodward from Mack Avenue to Campus Martius.

**We'd love to see them – births, weddings, engagements, military, business and school achievements!**

You can drop them off at 5 S. Main St. or e-mail them to [shermanpub@aol.com](mailto:shermanpub@aol.com), attn: Clarkston News Milestones.

Need help organizing your information? We have forms available at our office and online at [www.clarkstonnews.com](http://www.clarkstonnews.com).



*Meet me at the Mansion!*

**HISTORIC PINE KNOB MANSION OPEN TO ALL!!  
FIRST TIME EVER!!**

### *Holiday Brunch*

Join Santa for a spectacular Christmas Brunch. Everyone receives a photo with Santa to take home, and kids don't forget to bring your Christmas list!  
**Sunday, December 17, 2006**

Reservations taken daily Mon.-Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Complimentary valet parking • Seatings at 11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.  
Adults \$21.95 • 4-11 Years Old \$10.95 • Children Under 4 Years - Free  
A portion of the proceeds to benefit children's charity.

### *New Year's Evening*

A fabulous venue for that special evening. The Historic Pine Knob Mansion and all of its magical splendor.

**8:00 p.m., Sunday, December 31, 2006**

Reservations taken daily Mon.-Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
\$99.00 per person • Complimentary valet parking • Open bar  
Entertainment • Dancing • Hors d'oeuvres

**PINE KNOB GOLF CLUB & BANQUET FACILITIES  
5580 WALDON ROAD • CLARKSTON, MI 48348  
(248) 625-0700 • WWW.PINEKNOBMANSION.COM**

## *Cook's Farm Dairy*

*Come See*

# **SANTA & REINDEER**

**Saturday, Dec 2 • 1-5pm**

**Large Selection of  
CHRISTMAS TREES, WREATHS  
and GRAVE BLANKETS**



*Don't forget your*

**Santa Butter,  
Eggnog, Eggnog Ice Cream,  
Peppermint Stick Ice Cream,  
Peppermint Stick Pies and  
Grandma's Hot Fudge**

Seymour Lk Rd., 1 1/2 mile East of M-15  
1 mile West of Sashabaw Rd.  
Ortonville, MI 48462

**(248)627-3329**

Mon - Sat 9-8 • Sun 12-8





# Religion

## Keep spirit alive after holidays

Does it strike you as ironic that a day set aside for Thanksgiving is immediately followed by a day focused on getting more? Last Friday is called "Black Friday" by commerce because it initiates the season that retail stores hope will get their finances back in the black before the end of the year. Many were in lines long before dawn seeking great deals and special items in short supply. There is an excitement to the quest of getting a great bargain, finding the store special and landing that game or doll that will mean happiness to someone you love. As I listen to my friends who look forward to the rush each year, it seems to me that Nov. 15 and the Friday after Thanksgiving have a great deal in common. Whether it is the start of the deer season or pre-dawn sales, the rush is very similar.

### Spiritual Matters



Rev. Richard L. Dake

December is a month where we are all invited to go hunting for those things that will bring us joy, contentment and wonder. My wife Laura loves to decorate our home for Christmas. The majority of storage space in the basement is dedicated to Christmas decorations that even now are being celebrated again as they are unwrapped and placed in just the right spot around the house. Sitting in a room lit only with the tree lights is something we enjoy often in this season. Others are planning parties or preparing to visit family. Christmas celebrations

from school plays, church nativities and Theater productions fill our calendars and add to the flavor of the season.

We will rush through the days ahead and we appropriately enjoy the season. I believe in having fun and celebrating Christmas to the fullest. I want to see "A Wonderful Life," eat Christmas cookies, hear Christmas standards 24/7 and see children in bathrobes teach me the great story again.

But, will we have a holiday hangover that leads to ordinary life or a renewed spirit facing a world of new possibilities? Perhaps that is the greatest difference between our version of Christmas and those who gathered in Bethlehem that night long ago. For us, the day after is often a let down. The songs revert back to the top twenty, the decorations soon get packed away and too quickly bills come to remind us to our month long revelry. That is quite a contrast to the original Christmas.

For those long ago, the day after Christmas brought a new world, a new vision and new life. For them the season did not end because the new life that Christmas celebrated continued. That new life continued to grow, mature, teach, lead, love and eventually become the one that saves us. I hope that you really do have a Merry Christmas this year. Even more, I hope you will find the days following will bring contentment, peace and joy because the one we celebrate remains with you.

The Rev. Richard L. Dake is pastor of Clarkston United Methodist Church.

## In our churches...

The Advent FEAST will be tonight, Nov. 29, at Calvary Lutheran Church, 6805 Bluegrass Drive. Dinner will be served from 6-6:30 p.m., simple soup and salad. Advent worship at 7 p.m., and classes for all ages from 7:45- 8:30 p.m. Advent wreaths will also be made. All are welcome. Call the church office for more info, 248-625-3288.

\*\*\*

Madrigal Chorale of Southfield will perform at Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road, at 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1. Free-will offering. The 50-voice choir, under the direction of Robert A. Martin, will sing Imant Raminsh's *Magnificat* and other holiday songs.

\*\*\*

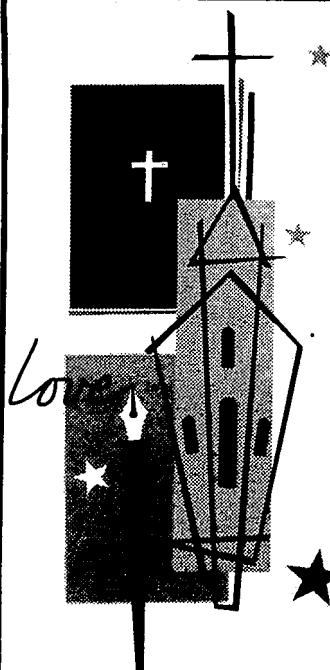
"Women's Advent by Candlelight," an evening of enrichment for women with speaker and dessert, 7-9 p.m., Dec. 3. "Advent Evening for Men," for men, potluck, and speaker, 6-8 p.m., Dec. 10. St. Daniel Catholic Church, 7010 Valley Park Drive. For details and RSVP, call 248-625-1750.

\*\*\*

Peace Unity Church offers Advent Through Epiphany, Sundays, Dec. 3-Jan. 7, 9 a.m. service and children's church program, at Sashabaw Presbyterian Church, 5300 Maybee Road. Peace Unity will honor and celebrate all that has brought us to where we are now, including the mineral, plant, and animal kingdoms, and the kingdom of humanity, that have prepared us for the new birth (expression) of the Christ within on Christmas Eve. At the Dec. 31 service will be the year-ending Phoenix Fire Burning Bowl Ceremony.

Please see In Our Churches, page 10B

# Church Directory



### ST. TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

"Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod"  
7925 Sashabaw Road  
(1/4 mile N. of DTE Music Theater)  
Clarkston, MI 48348  
(248) 625-4644  
Worship:  
Sun. 8:15 am & 11:00 am  
Sat. 6:00 pm  
Sunday School 9:45 am  
Preschool: 3-4 years old  
Preschool: 620-6154

### DIXIE BAPTIST CHURCH

8585 Dixie Highway,  
Clarkston, MI  
(248) 625-2311  
website: www.dixiebaptist.org  
Home of Springfield Christian Academy  
& Children's Ark Preschool  
Pastor: J. Todd Vanaman  
Sun: 10:00 am Sunday School  
& Adult Bible Fellowship  
11:00 am Morning Worship Service  
6:00 pm Evening Worship Service  
Wed: 6:45 pm AWANA  
7:00 pm Teen Meetings  
& Adult Bible Study  
Nursery available for all services.

### SASHABAW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5300 Maybee Road, Clarkston  
Worship 10:30 am  
Nursery Provided  
Phone (248) 673-3101

### CLARKSTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6600 Waldon Road, Clarkston  
248-625-1611  
Website: clarkstonumc.org  
Sunday Worship:  
9:00 am & 11:15 am  
Sunday Connection Service: 6:00 pm  
Fellowship Time: 10:00 am & 12:15 pm  
Nursery available for both services  
Children's Sunday School:  
9:00 am, 10:10 am, 11:15 am  
& 6:00 pm service  
Adult Sunday School: 10:10 am

### BRIDGEWOOD CHURCH

6765 Rattalee Lake Road  
Clarkston, 48348  
(248) 625-1344  
Services: Sunday 10:00am  
Morning Worship Service  
Exploration Station - Children's Ministry  
5pm Evening Worship Service  
Studio 715.C.O.R.E. -  
Children Ministry  
Wed. 6:45pm Fit For Life -  
Adult Life Ministry  
c.r.a.v.e. - Student Life Ministry  
Ozone - Children's Life Ministry  
\*Nurture Center/Wonderland  
available for all services  
A Church For Life  
www.bridgewoodchurch.com

### PEACE UNITY CHURCH

A new spiritual community:  
We invite you to attend our  
Sunday Celebration's and  
Children's Church at 9am.  
Followed by coffee/social hour in  
the "Taste of Heaven Cafe"  
Peace Unity meets at  
Sashabaw Presbyterian Church  
3500 Maybee Rd. in Clarkston  
Spiritual Education, prayer,  
mastermind, and social activities  
offered as well.  
Rev. Matthew E. Long,  
founding minister  
Peace Unity Church  
P.O. Box 837  
Clarkston, MI 48347  
peace.unity@sbcglobal.net  
Where ever you are on your  
spiritual path we welcome you!

### CALVARY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

6805 Bluegrass Drive, Clarkston  
(W. of M-15, just S. of I-75)  
625-3288  
Sunday Worship:  
8:15 am (traditional worship)  
9:30 am (blended worship)  
11:00 am (contemporary praise)  
Nursery available  
Sunday School (all ages)  
9:30 (Seasonal)  
Celebrate Recovery - Fridays, 6pm  
Meal, worship, small groups  
Wed. evening - Dinner &  
Bible Study 6 pm (Seasonal)  
Relevant messages, caring people.

### HOLLY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

207 E. Maple Street  
Holly, MI. 48442  
248-634-9494  
website: http://www.hollypc.org  
Rev. Dr. Herb Swanson  
Summer Hours for  
Sunday School 9:00am  
Worship Service 10:30am  
Childcare Provided

### NORTH OAKS COMMUNITY CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
Sunday Worship Service at 10:30 am  
New Location  
9600 Ortonville Rd. (M-15)  
Clarkston, MI 48348  
(2 miles north of I-75; church  
entrance is on Hadley Rd.)  
(248) 922-3515  
www.northoakschurch.org  
Pastor Steve I. Brown

### DAVISBURG CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

"A Mission Church"  
Mass celebrated at  
Davisburg Elementary School  
12003 Davisburg Rd.  
Saturday at 6:00 pm  
Sunday at 10:00 am  
Celebrants:  
Fr. Dave Blazek and  
Fr. Albert Sescon  
website: davisburgmass.org

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PONTIAC

Corner of Wayne and West Huron St.,  
(M-59) (Next to Oakland Press.)  
248-335-6866  
"Join us Downtown: a Historic  
Church with a Future Focus"  
Services: 10 am Sunday  
Traditional worship & music  
Bible Study, 8:30 and 11:30  
Sunday School during Worship  
Nursery provided  
Coffee Hour 11 am  
11:30 am Sunday:  
Contemporary worship and music  
Coffee Time  
Christian Education Opportunities  
for all and Special Youth Activities  
Co-Pastors:  
Rev's Janice and Roy Langwig  
Dir. of Music: Carolyn Thibideau  
Parish Visitor:  
Rev. Richard Hanna  
C.E. Dir. Julie Smith  
"EXPECT A WARM WELCOME!"

### THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

5449 Clarkston Rd., Clarkston  
(248) 394-0200  
Rev. Martin Hall  
Sunday Worship: 10:00 am  
Children's Sunday School  
10:00 am  
Nursery Available  
Call for special holiday activities  
and worship times.

### ST. DANIEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

7010 Valley Park Dr., Clarkston  
(W. of M-15, S. of I-75)  
625-4580  
Rev. Christopher Maus  
Saturday Mass: 5:00 pm  
Sunday Masses:  
7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 am  
Nursery Available: 9:00 & 11:00 am  
Religious Education: 625-1750  
Mother's Group, RCIA,  
Scripture Study, Youth Group

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CLARKSTON

5972 Paramus, Clarkston, MI  
(248) 625-3380  
Located 2 blks. N. of Dixie Hwy.  
(E. of M-15)  
Pastor: Russ Reetsma  
Sun: 9:15 am Sunday School &  
Adult Bible Fellowship  
10:30 am Worship Service  
5:00 pm Choir Practice  
6:00 pm Evening Service  
Mon: 6:30 pm Awana  
Wed: 10:00 am Morning Prayer  
Partners  
7:00 pm Prayer Meeting &  
Bible Study

### THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

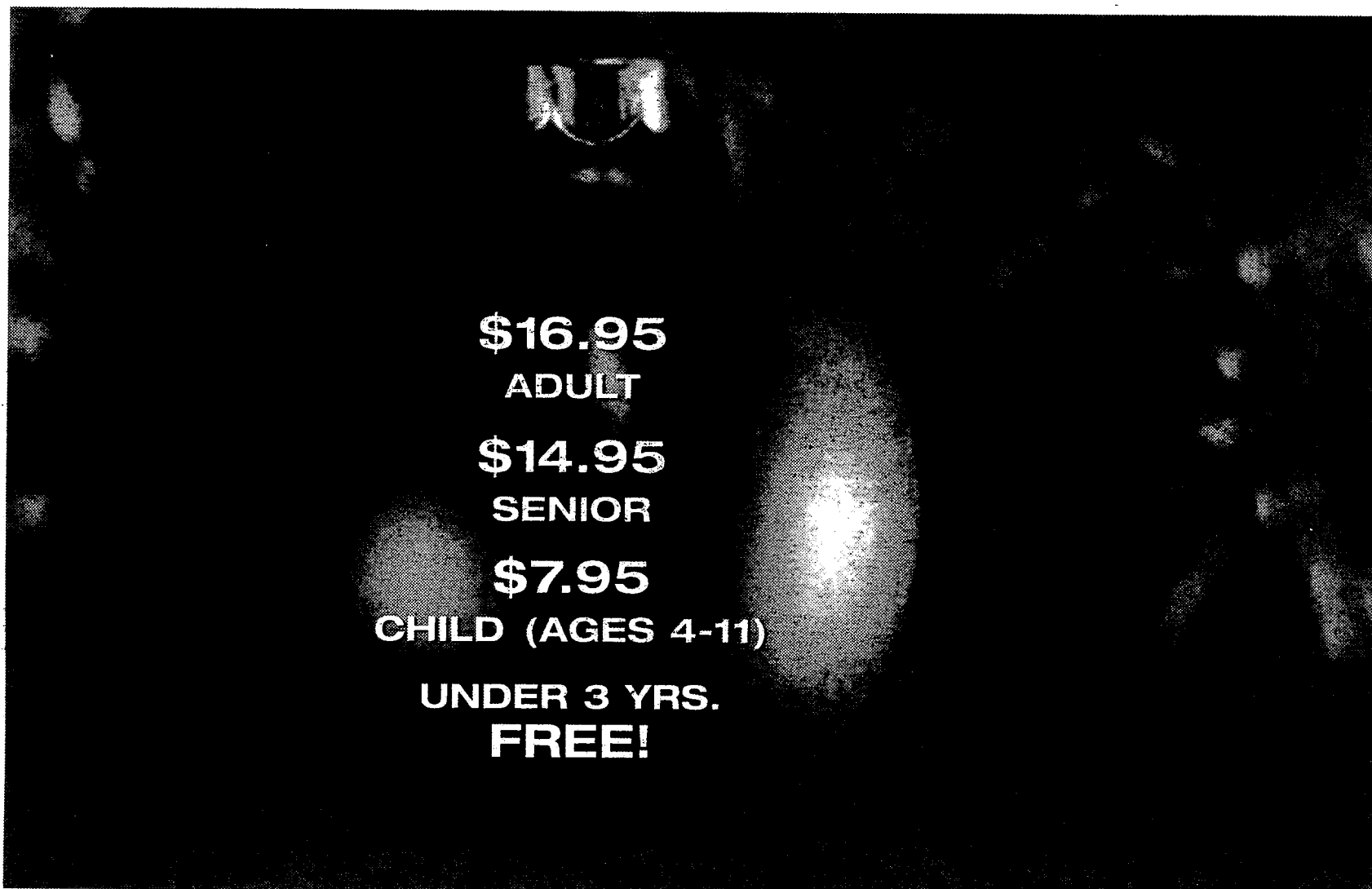
6490 Clarkston Rd., Clarkston  
Fr. Don Duford, D. Min., LPC  
Sunday 8 am & 10 am  
Holy Eucharist  
Sunday School 9:55 am  
Nursery Provided  
David Hottel - Music Minister  
Dina Edwards - Director of  
Children's Ministry  
Charlie Dean - Youth Ministry  
Laura Compton - Director of Lay  
Ministry  
Bible Study - Wed., 9:30 am & 7 pm  
Sept thru June  
www.clarkstonepiscopal.org  
248-625-2325

### CLARKSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

6300 Clarkston Road  
Clarkston (248) 625-1323  
Home of Clarkston Christian School  
Pastors:  
Greg Henneman, Bonita Laudeman  
Kevin Kuehne, Michael Anderson,  
Dan Whiting  
Sunday: Worship 9:30 & 11:00 am  
School of Discipleship 11:00 am  
Nursery Care at all services  
Wednesday: Children's Ministries  
5:30-8:00 pm  
Sunday: Youth Ministries  
5:00-7:00 pm  
www.clarkstonchurch.com

### CLARKSTON FREE METHODIST CHURCH

5482 Winell-Clarkston  
(corner of Maybee & Winell)  
248-623-1224  
Service 9:00 • 10:30  
www.ClarkstonFMC.org  
Wednesday  
7pm Youth & Adult Ministry



**\$16.95**

**ADULT**

**\$14.95**

**SENIOR**

**\$7.95**

**CHILD (AGES 4-11)**

**UNDER 3 YRS.**

**FREE!**

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ATHLETIC CLUB

# HOLIDAY BRUNCH

AT DEER LAKE'S BANQUET CENTER

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>, 10<sup>TH</sup> & 17<sup>TH</sup>**  
**10 AM - 2 PM**

(A SURPRISE VISIT FROM SANTA ON DECEMBER 17TH!)

**\*\*\*PLEASE CALL FOR RESERVATIONS: 625-6111\*\*\***

## BUFFET MENU

Deluxe Salad Table  
Cheese and Gourmet Crackers  
Fresh Vegetables  
Scrambled Eggs  
English Muffins  
Deer Lake's Breakfast Browns  
Bacon & Sausage  
Slow Roasted Beef with Au Jus  
Ham with Rum Raisin Sauce  
Miami French Toast

Italian Sausage  
Chicken Ala King  
Seafood Fettuccini  
Apple & Cherry Turnovers  
Assorted Desserts  
Fresh Fruit  
Cheese Cake with Berries  
Yogurt Parfait  
Juice, Coffee, Tea & Milk

Open to the Public

**DEER LAKE**  
ATHLETIC CLUB

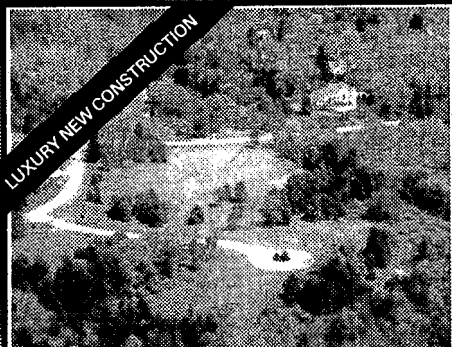
Questions?  
248-625-8686

Located on White Lake Rd. just south of Dixie Hwy. in Clarkston [www.deerlakeathleticclub.com](http://www.deerlakeathleticclub.com)

248-625-1010  
25 South Main Street  
in Downtown Clarkston

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& Milzow  
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[www.mmrealtors.com](http://www.mmrealtors.com)



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A chance to be one of nine fortunate homeowners in Bridge Valley's secluded and elegant final phase. All walkout homesites with proposed construction from the low-**\$600,000's BRI**



**HOT PRICE!**  
Exquisite 'Vito Anthony' design w/over 6,000 finished sq. ft. 5 bedrooms, 4 full and 1 half baths, romantic veranda staircase, cherry kitchen w/hearth, loft/sitting room, and a 3-car garage. **\$559,900 56-GOL**



**NEW LISTING**  
Over 5,000 distinctively finished sq. ft. w/4 bedrooms, 4 full baths and 2 powder rooms. Splendid granite/cherry kitchen w/hearth, 2-story great room, and foyer w/curved staircase. **\$429,900 59-SUN**



**HOT NEW PRICE!** **1.8 ACRES**  
Ultra-private 1.8-acre naturalist's joy tucked within an adored sub. Brilliant updates, concrete and slate surfaces, dramatic ceiling heights, and jumbo room sizes t/o. Sparkling in-ground pool. **\$349,900 70-VAL**



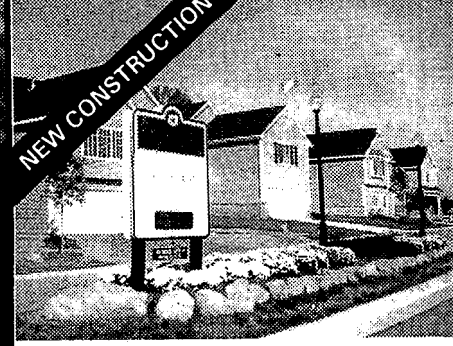
**NEW LISTING** **FOR SALE OR LEASE**  
Gracious Euro ambiance t/o this 4-bedroom, 2-and-1-half bath contemporary sited within a gated sub. Volume ceilings, hardwood floors, finished basement, and a 3-car garage. **\$329,000** or **\$1,800/mo.**



**NEW PRICE!**  
2005 construction packed w/premier amenities: first floor master suite, Brazilian cherry, kitchen w/granite snack bar, entirely finished walkout w/4<sup>th</sup> bedroom, and a first-rate lot. **\$269,000 46-TIG**



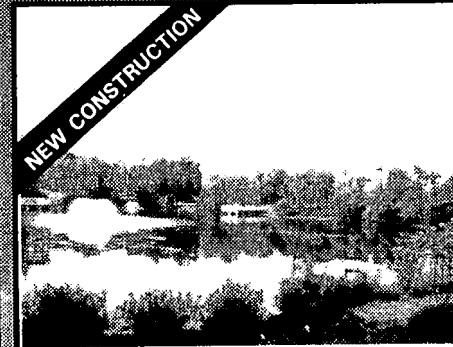
**NEW LISTING** **1.5 ACRES**  
Ranch w/2,400 finished sq. ft. boasting 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, neutral ceramic, and post-and-beam ceilings throughout. Tiered deck overlooks the green 1.5-acre setting. **\$229,900 53-EDG**



**NEW CONSTRUCTION**  
A blooming new Clarkston community boasting an eye-catching price tag and low-maintenance convenience. 4 dramatic floor plans from which to choose. Clarkston Schools! From **\$199,400 WIL**



**NEW LISTING**  
3-bedroom Clarkston bungalow boasts a plethora of updates, an expertly finished basement, 2-car garage + 1 more garage, and an extra-wide lot. No village taxes! **\$189,900 65-EAS**



**NEW CONSTRUCTION**  
Clarkston's newest and most affordable condo community boasts space-saving floor plans and a private garage with storage loft. Furnished model open daily. From **\$149,900 TRI**



**NEW PRICE!**  
Fantastic 4-bedroom bungalow + a basement in leafy Elizabeth Lk. Estates. Updated kitchen w/all appliances included, new furnace & full bath, C/A, and beach privileges. **\$149,900 35-ROS**



**NEW LISTING**  
Chic 3-bedroom ranch w/West Bloomfield Schools & Cass Lake privileges boasts top-notch renovations t/o. Spacious floor plan, fenced yard w/gardens, and a 1-car garage. **\$144,900 28-WAL**



LEADING  
REAL ESTATE  
COMPANIES



# Toys for tots, tunes for adults

BY PAUL KAMPE  
Clarkston News Staff Writer

People love being plugged into the goings-on in their community. Some local bands will literally be plugged in to the seventh annual Toys for Tots event at the Oakland County Sportsmen's Club on Dec. 3.

The night kicks off at 2 p.m. and runs until 7 p.m. OCSC is located at 4770 Waterford Road in Independence Township.

Charlie Allen Martin of the Silver Bullet Band will perform with 2XL, Urban Nomads, Terrie Lea and the Mustangs, Phil Treais Group, Skee Brothers, Targus and others will play on two stages, while John O'Leary of WCSX 94.7 will emcee the evening.

All it takes to get in the door is a \$10 donation to Toys for Tots or a new unwrapped toy.

Jim Hamblin, drummer for the Urban Nomads said, "It's a feel-good situation. So many of us know each other and to do something good makes us feel good."

"It's rewarding to give something back to the community," Hamblin added.

The Nomads have been playing together for nearly six years and have been instrumental in making OCSC Toys for Tots events a success, organizers said.

Urban Nomads play a "full-gamut", classic rock, both covers and original songs, as well as an acoustic

set. "Sometimes it's like we open the show for ourselves," Hamblin said.

Martin also reeled in local band 2XL, which has been together for more than 20 years.

The band, which plans to deliver classic rock cover tunes from the likes of Led Zeppelin and Bad Company, will make its OCSC debut this year.

"Sure it will be fun," Guitarist Phil Vigelius said.

"It's great to help the kids out, making the kids Christmases special...we're hoping there's going to be a great turnout."

Phil Treais, performing with his band, plays electric folk rock.

The Waterford musician will make his second appearance and kick off the afternoon with his 45-minute set.

"They really liked us and they wanted us back," Treais said.

"It's a great cause and a great place to do it."

"It's amazing how giving people are when they put in some effort," Treais added.

He plans on playing a new song called, "It's a pity," about family hardships.

"There are scenarios where you just shake your head," Treais said.

"Not everybody's on easy street."

Fans say Treais' songs are both comforting and inspirational.

For more information, contact OCSC at (248) 623-0444.



Phil Treais will bring his electric folk-rock sound to the Oakland County Sportsmen's Club on Dec 3. Photo provided

## Clarkston Holiday Lights Parade

December 9, 2006

5:00 PM Caroling at Clarkston State Bank

6:00 PM PARADE Begins

Main Street in Historic Downtown Clarkston

www.clarkston.org

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(Between White Lake Rd. & Big Lake Rd., Near I-75 & Dixie)

# A second chance

## Owners breath new life into resales

BY PAUL KAMPE  
Clarkston News Staff Writer

For children's toys and clothes, as well as inexpensive home décor, Second Chance Resale in Independence Township may have what you need.

Phil and Teresa Amiot of Holly own and manage Second Chance, which opened in late November.

The 1,850-square-foot building houses many items for purchase, including home décor, furniture, kitchen ware, jewelry, toys, books and clothes. Second Chance was so popular, shoppers were even knocking on the door prior to the store's official opening.

"We put the sign up and we had people bouncing off the doors," Phil said.

"It started with just, 'Can we come in and look?' and from there it turned into buying things," Teresa remembered.

Customers have liked what they've seen thus far.

"We've had a lot of great comments already on the quality of the merchandise we carry," Teresa said.

Second Chance's exterior also helps draw foot traffic to the business.

"We look more like a boutique than a resale shop," Teresa said.

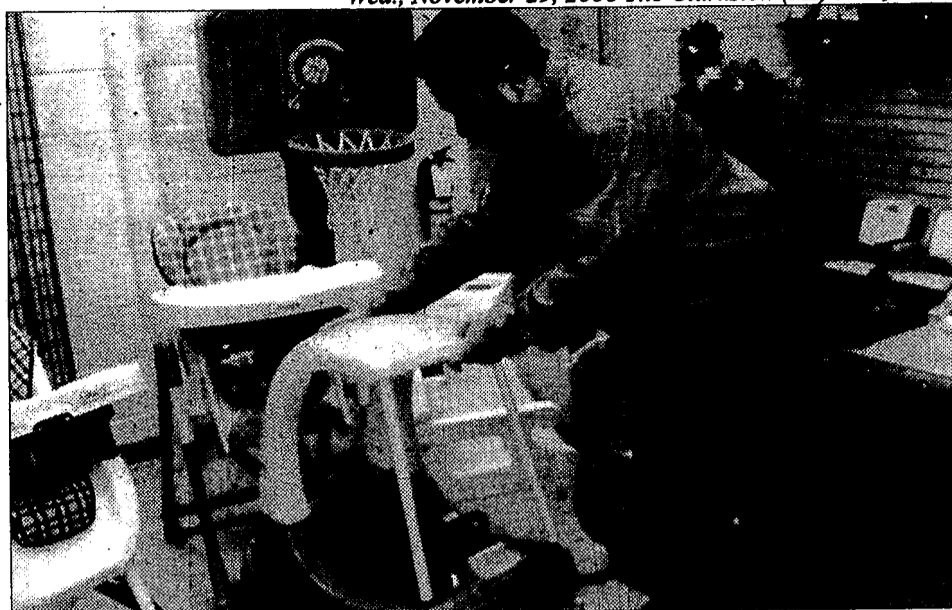
The couple decided to open the store due in part to financial struggles facing many in the state.

"A lot of it had to do with the economy," Phil said.

"I figured we could make a little money and help people out."

Teresa said her previous experience in the business both in helping locate items for others and selling resale items on eBay, will benefit the Amiot's in their business.

"I was always reselling in that way and we just decided we could do better by hav-



Phil Amiot arranges some items for children at the Second Chance Resale shop in Independence Township. Photo by Paul Kampe

ing a store," she said.

"I like being able to recycle it all and seeing all the neat things and meeting all the people in the community," Teresa added.

The location could not have worked out better for Phil and Teresa.

"We did research and Clarkston didn't have a resale (and) consignment shop really at all," Teresa said.

"We thought this would be a great spot for it. What we hear is people from here are going all the way to Milford or Union Lake, so a lot (of people) are excited there is finally one near home."

"We're actually catching people's attention as they're driving by on their way to other places. They see our sign and pull in," Phil added.

The couple has been making the business a family affair, as their children

Devin, 4, and Emily 3, have been at the store while it is being set up.

"We've got two small kids aged 3 and 4 that we're trying to have in here at the same time trying to get a business set up. As you can imagine is a handful trying to keep them from breaking things," Phil said.

"They both try to help clean and do all that. They want to help with the customers and give them change back," Teresa added.

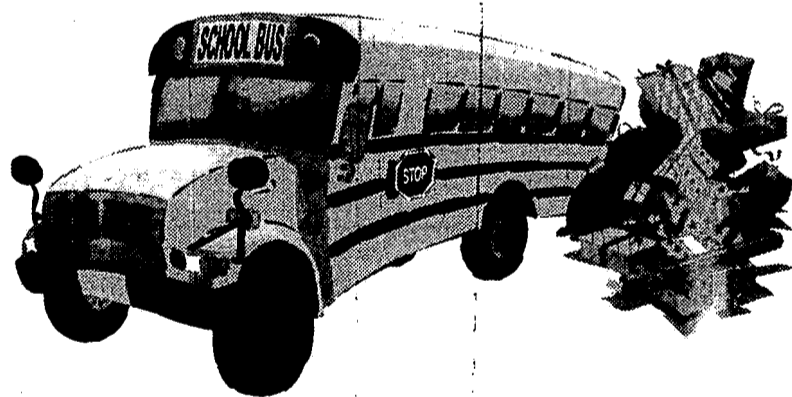
Second Chance Resale is located at 7060 Gateway Park Drive in Independence Township. The store can be reached at 248-625-4033. Second Chance is open from 10-8 Mon. - Fri., 9 - 5 on Saturday and 9 - 3 on Sundays.

The store accepts cash and credit cards for all purchases.



Teresa Amiot stocks shelves at the Second Chance Resale shop. Photo by Paul Kampe

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual



# stuff-A-Bus

### Suggested items:

New unwrapped Toys (all ages), New Clothing (all sizes), Personal Care Items, Non-Perishable Food Items, Gasoline & Grocery Gift Cards and Baby Care Items

Clarkston Schools Transportation Department is proud to announce the

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Stuff-A-Bus for Lighthouse North

When: December 9th & 10th  
From: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Where: Kroger's @  
Dixie Hwy. and  
Maybee Rd.  
and Kroger's @  
Davisburg Rd. and  
Dixie Hwy.

# LOOK FOR THE BIG YELLOW BUS!!

# Obituary

## Marguerite Anna McMahan

Mrs. Marguerite Anna (Zaccari) "Peggy" McMahan of Clarkston, formerly of Troy, passed away on Nov. 24 at the age of 80. She was the beloved wife of the late Thomas McMahan Sr., the loving mother of Sharon Bisoni (Dennis), Linda Farnsworth, Kieth McMahan (Liz), Dawn Carter, Beth Finkbeiner (Jeff), Lisa Sheldon (Scott) and the late Thomas McMahan Jr. (1969). She had 14 grandchildren, and 12 great grandchildren. She was the dear sister of Lucille Hale, Anthony Zaccari (Barbara) and the late Helen Loffreda. Visitation was Monday and Tuesday at Price Funeral Home, 3725 Rochester Road in Troy. Rosary was Tuesday at the funeral home. In state Wednesday 9:30 a.m. until Mass at 10 a.m. at Guardian Angels Catholic Church, 581 East 14 Mile Road, Clawson. Interment at White Chapel Memorial Cemetery, Troy. Memorials



to the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Online register book at [www.pricefuneralhome.net](http://www.pricefuneralhome.net).

## Cecelia (Sue) Mould

Mrs. Mould of Clarkston passed away suddenly on Nov. 21 at the age of, well, she would never want her real age known to all.

She was the beloved wife of 21 happy years to Gary; loving mother to Angela, Candi, Misti, and Ashley; grand-

mother to Justin, Jared, and Brett; great grandmother to Jaxon; dear sister to nine. "We will miss you! Look out Heaven, here she comes!" Casual visitation was Saturday at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Online guest book [www.wintfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintfuneralhome.com)

## June Shain Nelson

Mrs. Nelson of Davisburg passed away peacefully on Nov. 24 at the age of 80. She was preceded in death by her husband, Calvin. She was the mother of Rog (Nina) of Dansville, Ruth Johnson of Ohio, Rod (Dee) of White Lake, and Roy (Angel) of Davisburg; also survived by 8 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. June owned and operated Nelson's Ranch, Davisburg, for more than 35 years. Memorial service was held Tuesday at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Memorials may be made to Horses Haven or Salvation Army. Online guestbook at [www.wintfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintfuneralhome.com)



## In Our Churches

continued from page 5B

Walk and pray the **Labyrinth** at Clarkston United Methodist Church from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 5, at Fellowship Hall at the north end of the church building. The labyrinth is an ancient tradition in the Christian world which provides time for quiet reflection in the presence of God. A guide and prayer suggestions will be available. Clarkston United Methodist Church is located at 6600 Waldon Road. Call 248-625-1611.

The First Baptist Church of Clarkston drama team will perform the original drama, "**The Gift of a Lifetime**," at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 8, and 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 10. "**Joyous Sounds of Christmas**," a musical celebration, will be performed at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 17. Free. Call the church, 5972 Paramus Drive, at 248-625-3380.

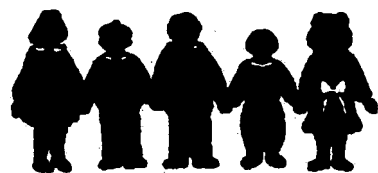
A **Community Choir** will perform selections from Handel's *Messiah* with a portion of the Clarkston High School Orchestra on Sunday, Dec. 10, at 7 p.m. Rehearsals are Sundays from 2-

4 p.m. at Clarkston Community Church, 6300 Clarkston Road. The director is Michael Anderson. Everyone is welcome to participate. For more information call 248-625-1323.

Maranatha Baptist Church of Clarkston, 5790 Flemings Road, will host **Dr. Stephen B. Jones**, president of Bob Jones University of Greenville, S.C., at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 10. Call 248-625-2700.

Every Friday evening at 6 p.m., Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church is offering "**Celebrate Recovery**." This is a Christ-centered recovery program to help people overcome life's hurts, bad habits and hang ups. The evening includes a simple meal, praise and worship, and group discussion. Calvary Evangelical is located at 6805 Bluegrass Drive. For more information call 248-625-3288.

Make sure we know about your church's events. Contact us at 248-625-3370 or e-mail us at [shermanpub@aol.com](mailto:shermanpub@aol.com).



OCSC 7<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Toys for Tots Event**  
**Sunday, December 3**  
**2:00 pm until 7:00 pm**

Charlie Allen Martin with 2XL, Urban Nomads, Terrie Lea & the Mustangs, Phil Treais Group, Skee Brothers, Targus and more! Continuous Live Music on Two Stages!

MC - John O'Leary of 94.7 WCSX

Cash Bar & Food items

Oakland County Sportsmen's Club  
 4770 Waterford Road, Clarkston

Cover Charge Per Person is ONE NEW UNWRAPPED TOY or a \$10.00 Donation

All contributions to go to the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation

For further information, call 248/623-0444, 9:00 am until 5:00 pm, Tuesday through Saturday

"For the happiest sound in the world is that of children laughing"

H

## "I Just Can't Believe Funerals Cost So Much"

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Marcie Harrington - Manager

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H

Continued from B1

## Scout repays church with sanctuary project

"My troop found out that I'm really picky about details," he said, recalling the times he pushed the boys, most between the ages of 11 and 16, to keep going and improve on the quality their work, even when they insisted the job they'd done was sufficient. "But I couldn't have done it without them."

Over the course of the project, said Michael's mom, the family's garage became a "no-cars-allowed" woodshop, and the hot tub house in the yard was rendered unusable — except as a place to stain cedar boards that would become Calvary's new benches.

The kitchen also became a makeshift restaurant as hungry scouts spent a great many hours working at the Zukoff home.

The outdoor sanctuary was finished in late summer and dedicated on Calvary's Rally Sunday, Sept. 10. Several hundred people attended the service in the church, then came outside to receive communion and take part in the dedication ceremony, where Michael was publicly recognized for his work.

"This was an absolutely awesome Eagle Scout

project," said Heierman, adding that members of the community are welcome to use the sanctuary if they check with the church office first.

"We've had many, many Eagle Scout projects given to Calvary, and yet this one far exceeded our expectations."

By the time all was said and done, Michael and his fellow scouts — and perhaps a few other volunteers — had logged 700 work hours over the course of a year to complete the project. The majority of Eagle projects are finished in far fewer hours.

"An Eagle project is supposed to be a challenge for a scout," Michael said. "I have a strong passion for doing things the way they're meant to be done."

With the project finished, Michael must submit a report to the church and the Boy Scout Council, including a summary of what he learned.

That part, said Michael, would be easy.

"I learned to never assume anything," he said.

Calvary is located at 6805 Bluegrass Drive in Clarkston and can be contacted at 248-625-3288.



Alec Malstrom of Clarkston, in the middle, and, from left, Bridget Johnson of Waterford, Riley Leutengen of Bloomfield Hills, William Briggs of Beverly Hills, and Robert Petty of Waterford will perform in "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." Photo submitted

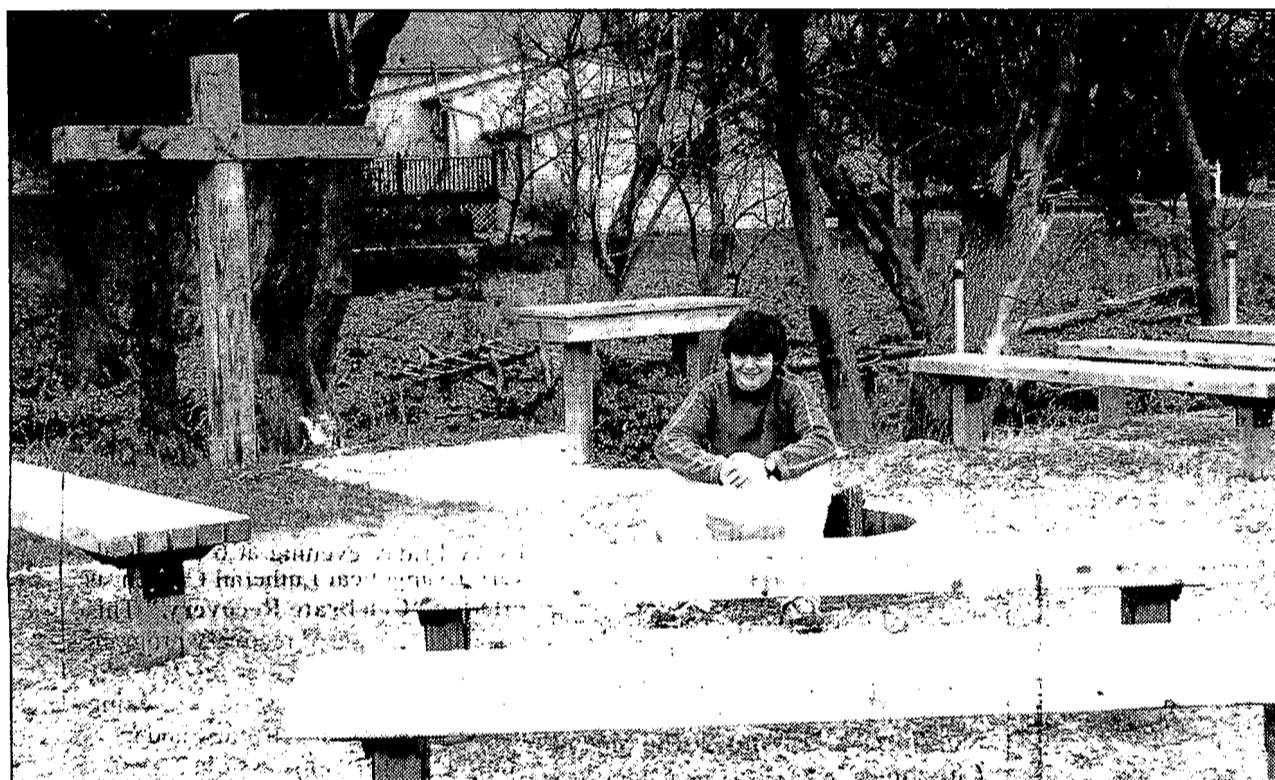
## Clarkston actor stars in Christmas play

The Oakland Theatre Guild will present The Best Christmas Pageant Ever at the Starlight Theater in the Summit Place Mall.

Directed by Thomas L. Logan of Pontiac, the show tells Barbara Robinson's story about the Herdmans, the meanest kids in town, and how they are reformed when they take over the Christmas pageant.

The show will run from Dec. 1-17, with shows on Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$14 for adults, \$12 for seniors, and \$10 for students and children under 12. Call 248-335-1788 to order tickets.



Michael Zukoff wanted to repay his church for what it has given him. Photo by Laura Colvin

Check us out at:

[www.clarkstonnews.com](http://www.clarkstonnews.com)

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Because the People Want to Know

### INDEPENDENCE TWP.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Date and Time: December 5, 2006, at 7:30 p.m.  
Place: Independence Township Library  
6495 Clarkston Road, Clarkston, MI 48346

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Opening Statements and Correspondence
5. Approval of Agenda
6. Public Forum — Individuals in the audience have the opportunity to address the Township Board on an issue that is not on the agenda, limiting their comments to not more than three minutes.
7. Consent Agenda:
  - a. Approval of Minutes of November 21, 2006, meeting
  - b. Approval of Purchase Orders
  - c. Approval of Accounts Payable Check Run
  - d. Approval of 2007 Board Meeting Schedule

#### Unfinished Business

Public Hearing - CIA - Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan

#### Public Hearing

2007 Budget Hearing

#### New Business

1. Waterford Hill Historic Classic Car Race
2. First Reading of an Ordinance Adopting Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan for the Sashabaw Road Corridor Improvement Authority
3. OPEB Study
4. Approval of 2007 Budget

Only those matters that are listed on the Agenda are to be considered for action. A majority vote of the Board members may add or delete an agenda item.

The Charter Township of Independence will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Because the People Want to Know

### INDEPENDENCE TWP.

#### SYNOPSIS

TAKEN BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD  
THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE

Clerk VanderVeen called the November 21, 2006, meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Independence Township Library. Due to Supervisor Wagner's absence, Mr. Travis was appointed to chair the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Present: Rosso, VanderVeen, Wenger, Travis, Kelly, Dunn

Absent: Wagner

There was a quorum.

Also present: Tom Biehl, Hubbell, Roth and Clark  
Dick Carlisle, Carlisle Wortman  
Steven Joppich and Kristin Kolb, Secret Wardle

1. Opening Statements and Correspondence
2. Approval of the Agenda, as amended
3. Public Forum opened at 7:35 p.m., and closed at 7:45 p.m.
4. Approval of the Consent Agenda:
  - a. Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 8, 2006
  - b. Accounts Payable Check Run in the amount of \$365,324.80
  - c. Purchase Orders in the amount of \$287,324.35
5. Approved motion to authorize Independence Township Fire Department to purchase three (3) medium Chevrolet chassis at a cost of \$127,317.00
6. Approved motion to accept and approve for a First Reading, Amended Final PUD Site Plan (PC file #2004-042), Top Notch Management, LLC-Fred Ritter, Petitioner (Water Tower Self Storage), SE corner Sashabaw Road and Waldon Road, 08-27-201-007, 024, 025 and 026
7. Public Hearing: CIA - Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan opened at 8:03 p.m.
8. Approved motion to adjourn Public Hearing on CIA to December 5, 2006.
9. Approved motion to table discussion on Capital Improvement Plan to December 19, 2005
10. Approved motion to adjourn regular meeting at 9:34 p.m.

Shelagh VanderVeen  
Township Clerk

Published: 11/29/06

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Because the People Want to Know

### CLARKSTON

CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF CLARKSTON

375 DEPOT ROAD

CLARKSTON, MI 48346

### PLANNING COMMISSION

MASTER PLAN REVIEW

DECEMBER 4, 2006

7:00 P.M.

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT, THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF CLARKSTON PLANNING COMMISSION WILL MEET ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2006, AT 7:00 P.M. TO REVIEW THE LATEST DRAFT OF THE REVISED MASTER PLAN.

COPIES OF THE MASTER PLAN DRAFT ARE AVAILABLE AT THE CITY HALL, 375 DEPOT ROAD FOR REVIEW. RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT COMMENTS OR ATTEND THE DECEMBER 4 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING.

ART PAPPAS  
CITY MANAGER

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Because the People Want to Know

### INDEPENDENCE TWP.

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

Thursday, December 14, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

At Independence Township Library, 6495 Clarkston Road, Clarkston, Michigan, 48346 to consider the following:

FILE PC #2006-021

Allied Signs Inc., for Rite Aid, Petitioner

REQUEST SPECIAL LAND USE APPROVAL

Rite Aid - Two (2) Additional Wall Signs

Sec. 5.04, 5.a., (1)

Special Land Use Request: Additional Wall Signs

Parcel Identification Number: 08-15-451-003

Common Description: 5751 Clarkston Road

Pine Knob Corporate Center

Southeast Corner Sashabaw Road

& Clarkston Road

2.04 Acres, PUD Zoning

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT THE ABOVE REQUEST MAY BE EXAMINED at the Township Building Department during regular business hours. Written comments may be sent to the Planning Commission c/o the Independence Township Building Department, 90 N. Main St., Clarkston, MI 48346 prior to the Public Hearing/Meeting. For further information call (248) 625-8111.

Shelagh VanderVeen, Clerk

The Township will provide the necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at a public hearing/meeting upon advance notice in writing or by calling the Township Building Department (248) 625-8111.

Best Image Possible

# Turn to the professionals for Christmas tree help

BY PHIL CUSTODIO  
Clarkston News Editor

It's time to decorate for the Christmas season – if you need help, designers at Bordine Nursery stand ready to assist.

At the greenhouse and show room on Dixie Highway off I-75, more than 25 theme trees, created by in-store designers, are displayed. This year, one of them is decorated with stuffed, toy cats, another in a peacock

theme.

“The kids love to come see them,” said Cathy Briton, Bordine general manager. “Families make two or three trips per season.”

At the beginning of the season, buckets of ribbon, plants, toys, and other materials are placed around the trees, and the designers make their own creations.

“We look at what materials we have to work with, then choose a theme,” said Sharon Tinker, a designer with Bordine’s for the past six years.

Ribbon is a good material for Christmas tree decoration. It can be cut into bows and used as ornaments, or wrapped around the tree, although that can be overdone.

“Don’t take a whole bolt and loop it around the tree,” Tinker said.

“Choose a couple of things for your theme, then buy a lot of it,” she suggested.

The store offers conventionally decorated Christmas trees, as well as the more exotic ones.



Above, Cathy Briton, Bordine general manager, works with a seasonal, potted arrangement. At right is a Christmas tree decorated with stuffed toys. Photos by Phil Custodio

“We have the traditional, elegant trees, and trees that are different, more whimsical and fun,” Briton said.

New this year are custom, seasonal, potted arrangements that people can display all winter. Customers can bring their own urns or pots, and Bordine designers will fill them with customers’ choice of evergreen, dogwood, bamboo, birch, corkscrew willow, salt cedar, and other live branches.

“They all have different colors and textures,” Briton said. “This is something you can leave out all winter and not worry about it.”

Bordine’s also helps community groups and school children with fund-raisers, and assists the Clarkston Area Chamber of Commerce with its downtown Christmas decoration project every year.

“We like to give back to the community,” Briton said.



Sharon Tinker designs unique Christmas trees at Bordine Nursery. Photo by Phil Custodio



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\$5	\$7	\$9

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# Growing company breaks new ground

BY LAURA COLVIN  
Clarkston News Staff Writer

The employees at Chase Plastics popped open their umbrellas bravely last Thursday and marched into the November wind and rain to celebrate groundbreaking of the company's new building.

Although the weather was nothing to cheer about, the company's executives and employees all welcomed the construction kick-off.

"We've outgrown our building," said Carole Chase, vice president of Chase Plastics, adding that the new building will provide an additional 5,000 square feet of floor space. "This is a tremendous growth opportunity not just for the company, but also for our employees who will have more opportunity to grow and advance along with us."

As a Clarkston-area specialty engineering thermoplastics distributor, located near I-75 and Sashabaw Road in Independence Township, Chase supplies plastic resin to the automotive and transportation industries, as well as to companies manufacturing electronics, medical supplies, sports and leisure equipment, construction materials, and furniture, for example.

Founded in 1992, the company now has about \$90 million in revenue, but business is not just about the bottom line at Chase Plastics.

Community involvement is important, too, and everyone who wants to lend a hand around town is encouraged to do so.

"Businesses have a responsibility to the communities they reside in," said Chase.

"It's important to participate and try to make an impact because you do have the capacity to help people."

The company takes part in several projects each year. Past projects include "adopting" a family or senior around Christmastime, collecting items for soldiers in Iraq, helping out with Lighthouse holiday food drives, and participating in Christmas in Action, a local group helping senior citizens with household improvements and chores.

Several employees claim that, as a group, Chase Plastics feels more like home than business.

"Working here is almost like having a second family," said Mindy Winegar, a senior customer service representative with an 11-year tenure at Chase. "They're really employee-focused and they give us what we need to do our jobs and be the best we can be."

The company's five core values include high expectations, execution, independence, teamwork, and integrity, and are all centered on customer satisfaction.

To the leaders, this means keeping the external customers – the folks who buy the products – happy, and it also means keeping the internal customers – the employees – happy, as well.

They credit much of their success to the 30 employees based at the Clarkston-area corporate headquarters, as well as the additional 80 or so who work across the country and internationally.

"Our whiz-bang technology is our people," said Kevin Chase, company president and spouse of Carole, vice president and co-founder. "People make all the difference."

The couple both tout the company's "outrageous" customer service policy as the key to success, and work to empower employees with

decision-making authority.

"Our original business plan was to hit \$6 million in the first five years," said Kevin.

"Instead we did \$24 million. We empowered the people, and they took the ball and ran with it."

Although he puts a great deal of trust in his employees and works hard to help them develop and progress in the company, Kevin Chase expects a lot in return.

"You have to be the best," he said. "Otherwise, Carole and I will ask you to leave."

Chase currently has three open positions, with room for more when the new building is finished, around the

end of August.

"Chase never rests on its laurels," said Collene Marx, a certification administrator employed by the company for the past seven-and-a-half years. "We have the freedom to act on our ideas, and everyone here is committed to finding a way to do things better."

Materials Manager Laura Goik believes that Kevin and Carole Chase are good role models, and demonstrate the type of commitment and professionalism they expect from their employees.

"They listen to you, they drop what they're doing and give you 100 percent attention," she said. "They both walk the talk."



Kevin and Carole Chase of Chase Plastics credit double digit growth to the hard work, dedication and "outrageous customer service" given by their employees. Photo provided

## Around Town

Continued from page 2B

older and have reliable transportation. Two mandatory five-hour training classes are provided prior to your first patient assignment. For more information, call Chris Kokenos at (800) 397-9360.

\*\*\*

**Avalon Hospice**, a nonprofit Medicare certified hospice program in Oakland County, needs volunteers. Training is available evening and daytime. Each of five training sessions lasts 2-3 hours. They

can be conducted one-on-one with a trainer, to meet your schedule. For more information, call Mara at (248) 722-1474.

\*\*\*

The **Clarkston Lions Club** meets on the second and fourth Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. with a social hour. The official meeting takes place at 7 p.m. The Lions meet in the Carriage House, next to the senior center, in Clintonwood Park. For more information, call 248-484-7130.



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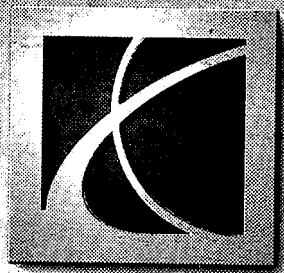








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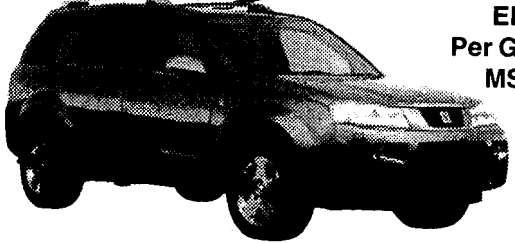
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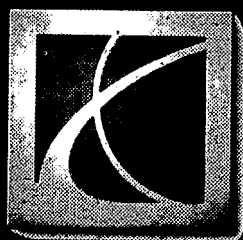
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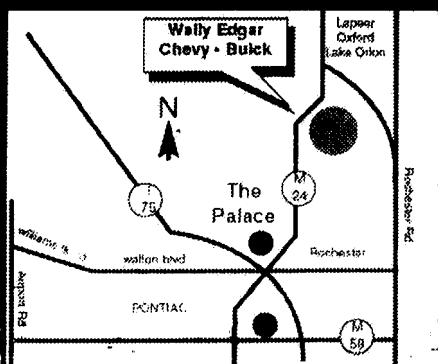
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NO EXPERIENCE - NO JOB??? No Problem!!!! CDL Training - Job Placement. \$740-\$940 wk. No Money Down. Lodging - Meals - Transportation. Hiring in Your Area Today! 1-877-554-3800.

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OVERSTOCK WINDMILLS/ SOLAR! Surplus Manufacturer's Sell-off: Green-R-Power Home/Farm systems 2kw-100kw. 7 cancelled orders save 50%+! 26 years / B B B . www.emarkelectric.com/1-800-973-WATT (9288). Sacrifice! Dealers welcome.

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SEASONAL RV SITES at Sunshine Key RV Resort & Marina, a private island resort in the Florida Keys with marina, on-site dive center and more. Call 305-872-2217 or visit www.RVontheGo.com

PLACE YOUR STATE-WIDE AD HERE! \$299 buys a 25-word classified ad offering over 1.6 million circulation and 3.6 million readers. Plus your ad will be placed on Michigan Press Association's website. Contact this newspaper for details.  
**248.628.4801**

Please publish my want ad in the THE CLARKSTON NEWS, PENNY STRETCHER, AD-VERTISER THE OXFORD LEADER & THE LAKE ORION REVIEW. Ads may be cancelled after the first week, but will still be charged for the minimum

Spotlight my ad with one Ringy Dingy - \$1 extra

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Cash, check or money order)

Please bill me according to the above rates

My ad to read: \_\_\_\_\_

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BILLING INFORMATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To: The Clarkston News  
5 S. Main  
Clarkston, MI 48346

The Oxford Leader P.O. Box 108, Oxford, MI 48371

The Lake Orion Review 30 N. Broadway Lake Orion, MI 48362

**Who'll Sell Your "Stuff"!**

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Welcome To The Most Hoppenin' Place In Town!  
**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**WEDNESDAY  
MIDNIGHT**

Bring your own mug  
and we'll fill it for \$2.00



**TUESDAYS @ 10:00 pm**

**KARAOKE  
CONTEST**  
\$1 Beers &  
\$1 Mixed Drinks!

**\$1.50  
Drafts  
Everyday  
11am-2pm**

**THURSDAY PLAYING LIVE!**  
**VOODOO  
CAFE**  
*Best Bar Night in Town*

Don't Forget Our  
**WEEKLY BEER SPECIALS**  
and **HOPPY HOUR PRICES**  
Monday - Friday 3-6 pm

**DJ PLAYS**  
All Your Favorite Hits  
Thursday thru Saturday  
Starting at 10 pm nightly

**ENTERTAINMENT  
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**Book Your  
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We'll customize  
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Your Place or Ours!  
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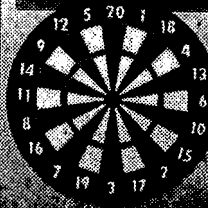
TJ KELLY

40 BUFFALO

DANCE TO TUNES  
WITH DJ CRAIG

COMING SOON  
TJ KELLY PLAYS  
DURING THE WEEK

**KARAOKE**

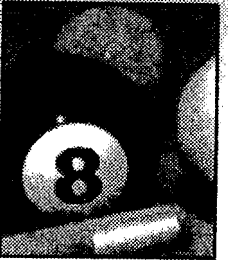


**NEW INTERNET  
JUKEBOX**

Pick Your  
Own Song



Come Play  
3 Ball  
Wed. & Fri.  
Nights



**Pool • 25¢/Game  
Sun & Mon**

Check out the  
**NEW pool tables**

Interested in bowling • pool • darts  
Pinball • Jukebox • Billiards

## THIS WEEK'S SKINNY

Which 2 good friends are competing  
to be Pinball Wizard at The Boat Bar?  
Want to challenge them?  
Ask for Greg and Mike

2000 Ortonville Rd. (M-15) • Ortonville  
248-627-4419

# ORTONVILLE MOTORS

**2200 Ortonville Road • Ortonville**

*We here at Ortonville Motors feel like it's a perfect  
time of year to thank you for all of your patronage,  
but more importantly we would like to thank all the  
wonderful people in our area whose help with  
the coat drive has made it a big success. Our  
gratitude for all the help never goes  
unnoticed, and we appreciate it!!*

*Sincerely Ours,*

*Ortonville*

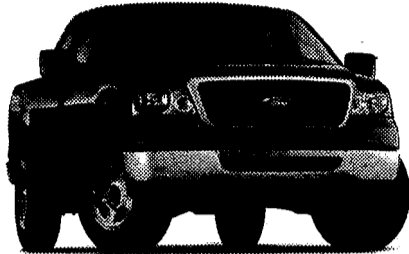
**Hours: Mon-Fri 9AM  
to 7PM • Sat 10-7**

*"Our Hometown Dealer"*

# YOUR SUBURBAN FORD DEALERS

GET **0%** APR Financing\* or up to **\$3,000** Cash Back\* on selected 2007 models...

## OR LEASE ONE OF THESE VEHICLES



Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2007 F-150 SC 4x4 XLT

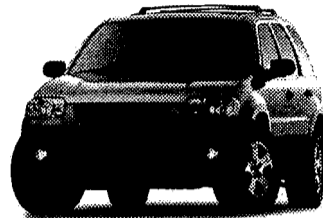
For as low as

**\$229**

A month(1) with a 24 month low mileage Red Carpet Renewal Lease.

With \$1,799 customer cash due at signing.

Includes acquisition fee; security deposit waived.\*\* Excludes tax, title and license fee. Cash due is after \$1,500 RCL cash back and \$1,000 RCL renewal cash.



Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2007 Ford Escape XLT FWD

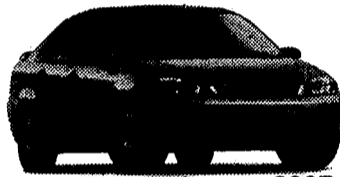
For as low as

**\$198**

A month(1) with a 36 month low mileage Red Carpet Renewal Lease.

With \$2,143 customer cash due at signing.

Includes acquisition fee; security deposit waived.\*\* Excludes tax, title and license fee. Cash due is after \$1,500 RCL cash back and \$500 RCL renewal cash.



Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2007 Ford Focus SES 4dr

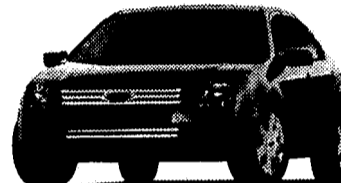
For as low as

**\$169**

A month(1) with a 36 month low mileage Red Carpet Renewal Lease.

With \$1,464 customer cash due at signing.

Includes acquisition fee and security deposit. Excludes tax, title and license fee. Cash due is after \$1,000 RCL cash back and \$500 RCL renewal cash.



Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2007 Fusion SE I4

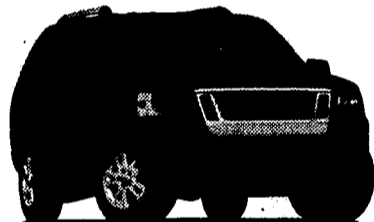
For as low as

**\$178**

A month(1) with a 24 month low mileage Red Carpet Renewal Lease.

With \$1,523 customer cash due at signing.

Includes acquisition fee; security deposit waived.\*\* Excludes tax, title and license fee. Cash due is after \$500 RCL cash back and \$500 RCL renewal cash.



Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2007 Ford Explorer Eddie Bauer 4x2

For as low as

**\$229**

A month(1) with a 24 month low mileage Red Carpet Renewal Lease.

With \$974 customer cash due at signing.

Includes acquisition fee; security deposit waived.\*\* Excludes tax, title and license fee. Cash due is after \$2,500 RCL cash back, \$1,000 bonus cash and \$1,000 RCL renewal cash.



Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2007 Ford Freestyle SEL

For as low as

**\$218**

A month(1) with a 24 month low mileage Red Carpet Lease.

With \$1,913 customer cash due at signing.

Includes acquisition fee; security deposit waived.\*\* Excludes tax, title and license fee. Cash due is after \$1,000 RCL cash back and \$1,000 A-plan bonus cash.

SIRIUS Satellite Radio is now available as a factory-installed option on the 2007 Ford Five Hundred. Get more than 125 music, sports, news and talk channels at your fingertips



Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2007 Five Hundred SEL Chrome Edition

For as low as

**\$229**

A month(1) with a 24 month low mileage Red Carpet Renewal Lease.

With \$2,259 customer cash due at signing.

Includes acquisition fee; security deposit waived.\*\* Excludes tax, title and license fee. Cash due is after \$495 Chrome Package bonus cash and \$500 RCL renewal cash.

Chrome Package Includes:

An all new Chrome-Mesh Grille...  
And 18 Inch Chrome-Clad Wheels...



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Your Suburban Ford Dealers

[fordvehicles.com](http://fordvehicles.com)

(1) Not all buyers will qualify for Ford Credit Red Carpet Lease. Payments may vary. All vehicles are subject to credit review. For more information, contact your Ford Credit representative. \*\*Security deposit waived. Lease renewal cash only available to customers terminating their Ford Division Red Carpet Lease and re-lease for 24 months by 12/31/07.

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\*Closed Saturdays

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# MILSCH DODGE



**Open 9-9  
Monday - Thursday  
November 27-30**

## 2006 Ram 1500 Quad 4x4 Off Road

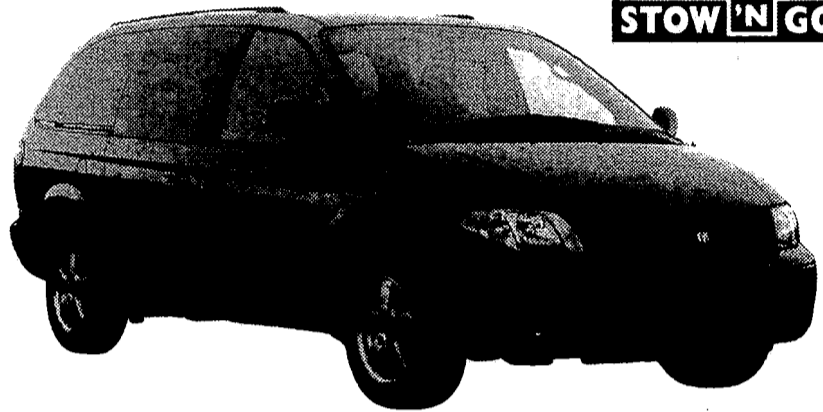


Power Seat, BF Goodrich All Terrain Tires  
Stk. # 26935 • MSRP \$35,010

	Lease	1-Pay	Purchase
DCX Employee	\$99*	\$2,995*	\$21,995**
Friends & Family	\$149*	\$3,995*	\$22,995**

## 2006 Grand Caravan SE

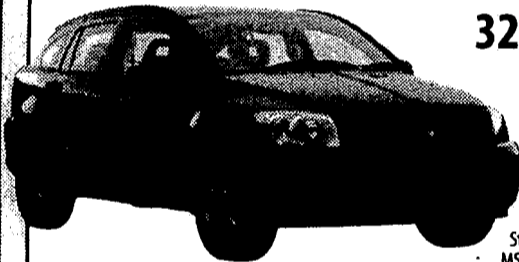
**STOW 'N' GO**



Stk. # 26673 • MSRP \$26,740

	Lease	1-Pay	Purchase
DCX Employee	\$154*	\$4,595*	\$16,995**
Friends & Family	\$224*	\$6,495*	\$18,845**

## 2007 Caliber SXT



**32 MPG**

Cruise, Power Group

Stk. #27016  
MSRP \$16,995

	Lease	1-Pay	Purchase
DCX Employee	\$179*	\$3,997*	\$13,931**
Friends & Family	\$207*	\$4,787*	\$14,633**

## 2006 Durango SXT 4x4



Loaded.

Stk. #26776  
MSRP \$32,275

	Lease	1-Pay	Purchase
DCX Employee	\$139*	\$3,697*	\$19,313**
Friends & Family	\$209*	\$5,463*	\$21,655**

## 2006 Dakota ST Quad

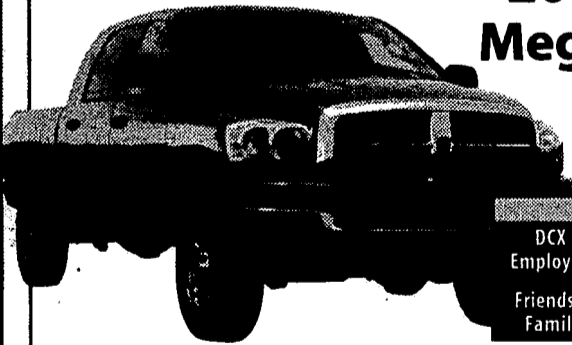


4x2, 4.7 V-8, Chrome Tube Steps, Bucket Seats

Stk. #26779  
MSRP \$24,865

	Lease	1-Pay	Purchase
DCX Employee	\$99*	\$2,953*	\$15,995**
Friends & Family	\$159*	\$4,497*	\$17,685**

## 2006 Ram 1500 Mega Cab SLT 4x4

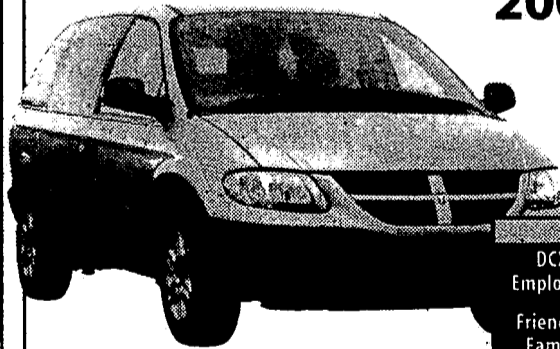


V-8, Trailer Tow group, Fog Lamps,  
**Biggest Cab On The Market!**

Stk. #26601 MSRP \$37,525

	LEASE	Purchase
DCX Employee	\$249*	\$23,806**
Friends & Family	\$349*	\$26,210**

## 2006 Caravan SE



7 Passenger Seating,  
Tinted Glass

Stk. #261207 MSRP \$19,990

	Purchase
DCX Employee	\$11,995**
Friends & Family	\$12,995**

\*In stock units only. All rebates to dealer. Vehicles shown not actual vehicle. Immediate family members of DCX employees may qualify for Lease and Retail deals that require Actual Chrysler Employee Discount. All deals must finance through Chrysler Financial. Lease deals include lease loyalty. Lease deals plus sales tax, destination fee, license plate fee and title fee. Lease calculated at 10,500 miles per year. One-pay lease calculated at 24 months. Lease payments calculated on 27 months. Purchase price plus tax, title, license and destination. Monthly lease payments calculated with lease start-ups due at delivery. Lease start ups include tax on rebates, license and title fee and first payment. Subject to credit approval with A tier credit. Vehicles must have invoice date on or before April 1, 2006. All deals must finance through Chrysler Financial. Programs subject to change without notice. Offer expires 11/30/06

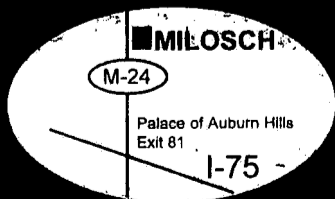
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Programs subject to change without notice. Expires 11-30-06

