

The

Clarkston News

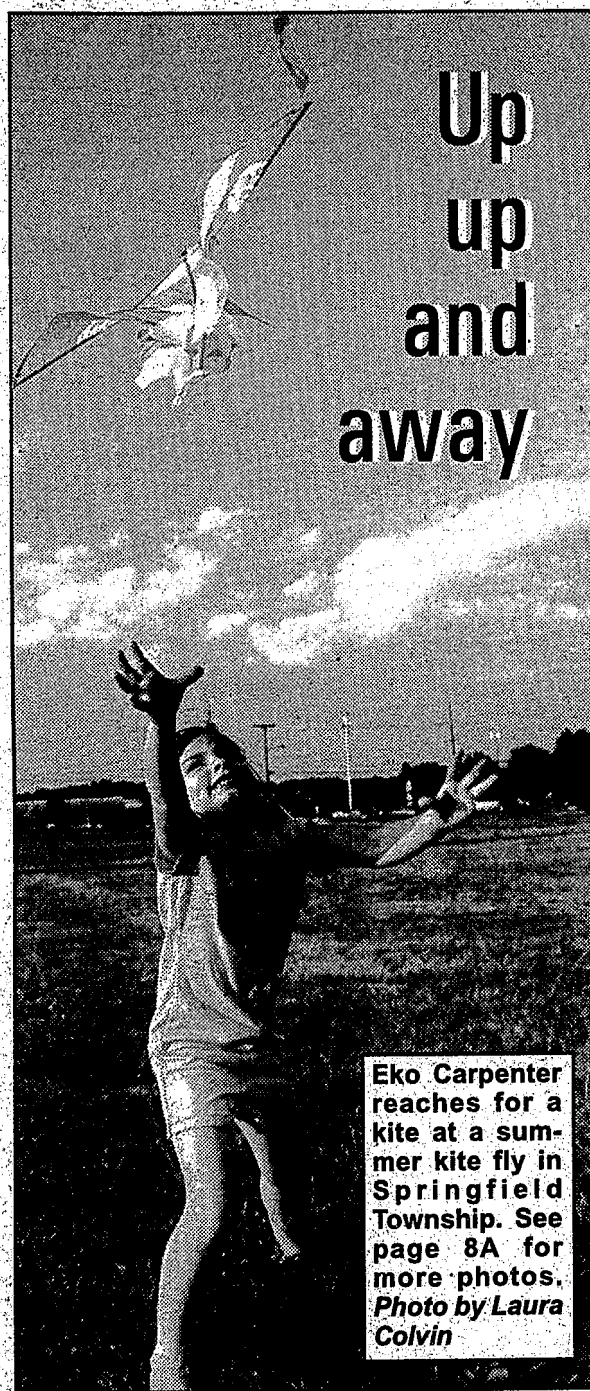
My Clarkston. Buy Clarkston.



Marines thankful for local Optimists, please see page 1B

Vol. 80 No. 42 Wed., July 29, 2009

3 Sections 60 pages 50¢



Up
up
and
away

Eko Carpenter reaches for a kite at a summer kite fly in Springfield Township. See page 8A for more photos. Photo by Laura Colvin

\$40,000 rescinded

Board overturns budget adjustment for town hall fund

BY TREVOR KEISER
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Due diligence takes time – that was the lesson some trustees took away from a \$40,000 budget adjustment for the new Township Hall.

“Just as a lesson – we need to slow down the voting part,” said Clerk Shelagh VanderVeen. “Maybe do a little less of the discussion part so we all understand what’s in front of us and how we’re voting.”

VanderVeen, who admitted she was “ashamed to say” she didn’t know what she was voting on, joined the rest of

the Independence Township Board in rescinding an extra \$40,000 budget adjustment.

Rosso agreed he didn’t know what he was voting on either.

“I thought it was for the building department, and just took it rather casually, but now being that we’ve gone beyond the \$800,000 we’re are going to have to make a genuine budget adjustment and we made them before,” Rosso said. “A lot of times they’ve come from the general fund on circumstances like this, so I don’t know what we’re going to do, but it’s unfortunate.”

Other trustees also thought it was for the building department, only to find out it was an add on to the allotted \$800,000 approved for township hall.

“What we talked about mostly was the decrease in respective revenues in the building department,” said Trustee

Neil Wallace. “I think that’s what misled everyone to believe that this \$40,000 adjustment which wasn’t discussed at all and only showed up in a paragraph and wasn’t in the numbers was not about the township hall remodeling fund.”

The budget adjustment was approved, May 5, under “Operating Transfers” to the Building Fund in a memo to the board by Finance Director Susan Hendricks. Wallace said all other discussions and agenda items had referred to the \$800,000 as “the new township hall remodeling fund.”

“I’m giving the board a little credit,” said Trustee David Lohmeier. “It’s not that anyone wasn’t reading this thing, it’s that nobody would have got this and it was on a line that was talking about a transfer of one expense to

Please see Funding on page 3A

Father, son sentenced in Springfield spree

BY LAURA COLVIN
Clarkston News Staff Writer

The father and son duo arrested in Springfield Township last month for a string of larcenies both pled guilty July 8 in Circuit Court.

Gregory Michael Baker, 52, was charged with three felony counts of breaking and entering—each carrying a maximum 10-year sentence—and one felony count of larceny—carrying a maximum 4-year sentence.

He was sentenced July 22 to 305 days in jail.

Gregory Ted Baker, 18, was prosecuted on the same charges, plus an additional count of receiving/concealing stolen property, a one-year misdemeanor.

He was sentenced July 22 to 150 days in jail.

According to police reports, the men blamed the behavior on drugs, and said they sold stolen merchandise to support their gram-a-day heroin addiction.

The thefts began when items went missing May 30 from a shed on Big Lake Road.

Other thefts occurred June 4 and June 7; on June 10, owners of a Springfield Township landscaping company reported a theft after discovering \$4,500 in landscaping equipment missing after a lock was cut from a trailer.

The thieves returned to the same location on Terex the following night, and were caught on surveillance video; a tape

showed two males, who were apparently scared off by an alarm.

“The lesson here is very elementary, but I can’t stress it enough,” Sgt. Tim Willis, commander of the Springfield Township substation told *The Clarkston News* for a June 24 story. “These guys only cut one lock, everything else they took was left unlocked. They didn’t mess with dogs or floodlights; if doors were locked they moved on. People need to secure their belongings. I’m not saying it will deter every thief, but it deterred these guys.”

In addition to jail time, both men must pay court and restitution fees, undergo drug treatment and comply with other court-ordered conditions upon release.

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Davisburg man charged in criminal act with 6-year-old

BY LAURA COLVIN
Clarkston News Staff Writer

A 63-year-old Davisburg man is facing charges of first-degree criminal sexual conduct involving a 6-year-old girl.

Craig Steven Aleo, 63, was arrested July 7 and arraigned July 8 in 52/2 District Court after police in Springfield Township were advised of a federal investigation in which Aleo is charged with transporting, possessing, manufacturing, and receipt/distribution of child pornography.

According to reports, Springfield Township Det. Todd Hill was contacted by a special agent from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) who informed him a search warrant was conducted March 27 for child pornography on a Davisburg home in the 12700 block of Carolyn Way.

While analyzing the items collected, agents discovered a mix of still images and a video on DVD of an unclothed female, approximately 6 years old. The agent requested Hill meet with them to conduct a CSC investigation.

Aleo was initially arrested March 26 after U.S. Customs agents discovered a laptop computer and several electronic storage devices in his possession when he and his wife were stopped at the border between Canada and New York.



Aleo

Aleo was arrested and released in New York pending charges for possession and transporting child pornography; with evidence gathered during the search of his Davisburg home, ICE is charging Aleo with transporting child pornography, possession of child pornography, manufacturing child pornography and receipt/distribution of child pornography.

While ICE pursues federal charges, Springfield Township police are investigating the alleged act of criminal sexual conduct.

According to police reports, Aleo was positively identified as the man in the video after agents printed out a still image and compared it with his Michigan driver's license photograph.

The voice on video was also identified as Aleo's, and police were able to identify the scene of the alleged crime as Aleo's Davisburg home through "unique identifiers" also seen in the filmed scene.

While Aleo was released on bond on the federal charges, he is currently held on \$500,000 cash surety in Oakland County Jail on the Criminal Sexual Conduct charges out of Springfield Township.

According to a July 15 report in the *Spinal Column*, Aleo had been working for the Walled Lake Consolidated School District as a contract employee during the 2008-09 school year.

He notified the district on April 1 that he was under investigation for federal criminal misconduct including possession of child pornography images, and resigned from his contractual relationship with the district.

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Briefly

SCAMP's Concours in the Park, July 31

SCAMP hosts its annual gathering of sports and classic cars at Concours in the Park, 6-9 p.m., Friday, July 31, at Depot Park.

Participants meet at Southern Motors, 6605 Dixie Highway, at 4 p.m. for a cruise, hosted by Clarkston and Waterford Hills Road Racing, Inc., to downtown Clarkston for display in the park, along with ice cream social, silent auction, and live entertainment.

Clarkston SCAMP is a five-week program for children with special needs, including activities enhancing social interaction, motor skills, self-image, and academic skills.

For more information, call Doug or Laura Respecki at 248-541-1577.

Downtown sidewalk sale, July 31, Aug. 1

Clarkston businesses are gearing up for a citywide sidewalk sale Friday, July 31 and Saturday Aug. 1.

The sale, which runs 11-6 both days, will feature a variety of businesses offering special deals on merchandise and services.

The event, said coordinators, was timed to coincide with the annual Craig Greenfield Memorial Tri and Du, which draws hundreds of people from several states into the city.

Attention businesses

News out of Washington is the recession's over, health care's about to be fixed, and good times are right around the corner.

How are things going here in Clarkston? *The Clarkston News* wants to know.

Stop by at 5 S. Main Street, call 248-625-3370, or email Clarkstonnews@gmail.com.

City disputes distribution of DPW logs

BY LAURA COLVIN

Clarkston News Staff Writer

A resolution to remove DPW logs from packets distributed to city council members before each meeting wasn't meant to keep the information from anyone.

That's the word from Clarkston Mayor Steve Arkwright, who wrote the resolution and argued for its passing at a July 13 meeting of the city council.

"The current method of disseminating information was a waste of time," Arkwright said. "Since I've been back on council, there's never been any action taken or conversation on information in the logs—except when they weren't in the packets."

The expense and time of putting the logs together, he said, was considerable, noting the effort took City Manager Dennis Ritter away from other obligations for "half to three quarters of a day."

"It doesn't seem like good use of resources," Arkwright said. "Anyone who wants the logs has absolute, total ability to get them. This is not an effort to make it more difficult. We're just trying to make it a little more reasonable."

Arkwright also said providing the logs to council encouraged "micromanagement" of city operations by some members.

Instead, he said, the council should allow Ritter to do his job.

"The city council is not charged with day-to-day management," Arkwright said. "The city charter very clear on that. Dennis is doing his job, and I'm satisfied with his work. The micromanagement makes us extremely ineffective, and deteriorates employee moral. I don't think it serves any positive purpose."

The resolution passed by a 5-2 vote, with councilmen Chuck Inabnit and Cory Johnston opposed to having the logs removed from the twice monthly information packets.

I wanted to keep getting (the logs)," said Inabnit. "I believe it's important for the council to have the information we need to make decisions about how the city is run."

Johnston told the council it was "votes like this" that prompted his decision to not

seek reelection.

Later, Johnston outlined his opposition in a letter to City Manager Dennis Ritter, but also provided *The Clarkston News* with a letter he'd sent previously.

In the first letter, dated March 16, Johnston noted logs indicate two DPW employees spent Feb. 10 washing and drying the loader, and Feb. 13 greasing the loader. The two employees also went together for salt and asphalt patch Feb. 17, and both started a fire in the park to dispose of police evidence Feb. 18 (which Johnston claims is against park ordinance). On Feb. 19 both employees took gas cans to Independence Township, and both salted Rudy's parking lot Feb. 26.

"The most bothersome entry was Feb. 5 when 16 total hours were spent to wash, dry and wax the pickup truck and change two grease fittings," Johnston wrote. "That is the entire work entry for both the entire day."

Refuting the idea that no action was ever taken based on the logs, Johnston delivered a second letter this week, claiming:

"The logs were used to discover DPW employees were regularly paid overtime for being on duty during Concerts in the Park and other special events. The issue was reported at a council meeting and DPW overtime

"The Logs were used to discover DPW employees either do not take a lunch or are paid for lunch, as they regularly work from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., which constitutes a 7 percent to 14 percent raise over council approved straight pay, he said.

"It certainly seems like it would be a concern, as public employees in other municipalities are asked to take pay cuts and unpaid furlough days," Johnston wrote.

"The logs showed certain private properties, or properties adjacent to private property, were being maintained by the DPW and

snow was removed from some sidewalks adjacent to private property while not at others.

"The logs continue to show instances of two employees going to locations that do not require two people and doubles payroll costs for these activities, he said.

"The Logs indicate over 40 hours of DPW time spent to move furniture the city purchased from Independence Township, which Johnston said added "at least 50 percent" to the approved purchase price.

"Contrary to the opinion of the council and mayor, the DPW Logs do serve a purpose," Johnston concluded. "But they need to be used to make that happen. This is not micro-managing, as the Mayor likes to call it, it is an elected council member and taxpayer complaining about the observed and documented wasteful practices of city employees. I am sure many other taxpayers would greatly appreciate something being done about it other than making it more difficult to discover."

But City Manager Dennis Ritter disagreed with Johnston's claim that the councilman was not over-involved.

"Cory isn't the one running the day to day operations in the city," he said. "He's micromanaging and it's been going on since the first day I arrived here."

Ritter said the practice is disruptive to operations, noting Johnston's frequent "demands" for detailed information from city administrators. Although he was out of town part of last week, Ritter said he had received and read Johnston's most recent letter, and planned to look into the "allegations."

"I have every intention of reviewing the letter and responding accordingly," he said. "If there's something inappropriate going on, we'll do what's necessary to correct it and improve the situation."



"This is not an effort to make it really even more difficult. We're just trying to make it a little more reasonable."

- Mayor Steve Arkwright

Funding was intolerable, officials say

Continued from page 1A

another, so it was either at the last minute accidentally vague or intentionally, it doesn't matter. The proposal to up the fund budget was not there, we didn't do it, it never happened, we're just over what we said. Let's clear out the fund and if we're going to spend five more dollars to remodel it, we should come in here and we should

talk about it."

After the meeting Trustee Mark Petterson said the money was "justifiably rescinded."

"That just goes to show we were over the \$800,000 and that's intolerable. I guess you should have made room for other things," he said. "A little less carpet and a little more elbow grease of what you already

had."

Despite having some outstanding debt, Supervisor Dave Wagner said rescinding the \$40,000 won't hurt them because they had not spent any of the money yet.

"I had recommended prior to that meeting that if additional expenses come in that those expenses be taken to the board individually, instead of any lump sum."

Shop local: "Those folks pay taxes that allow us to buy things." ❖ Neil Wallace



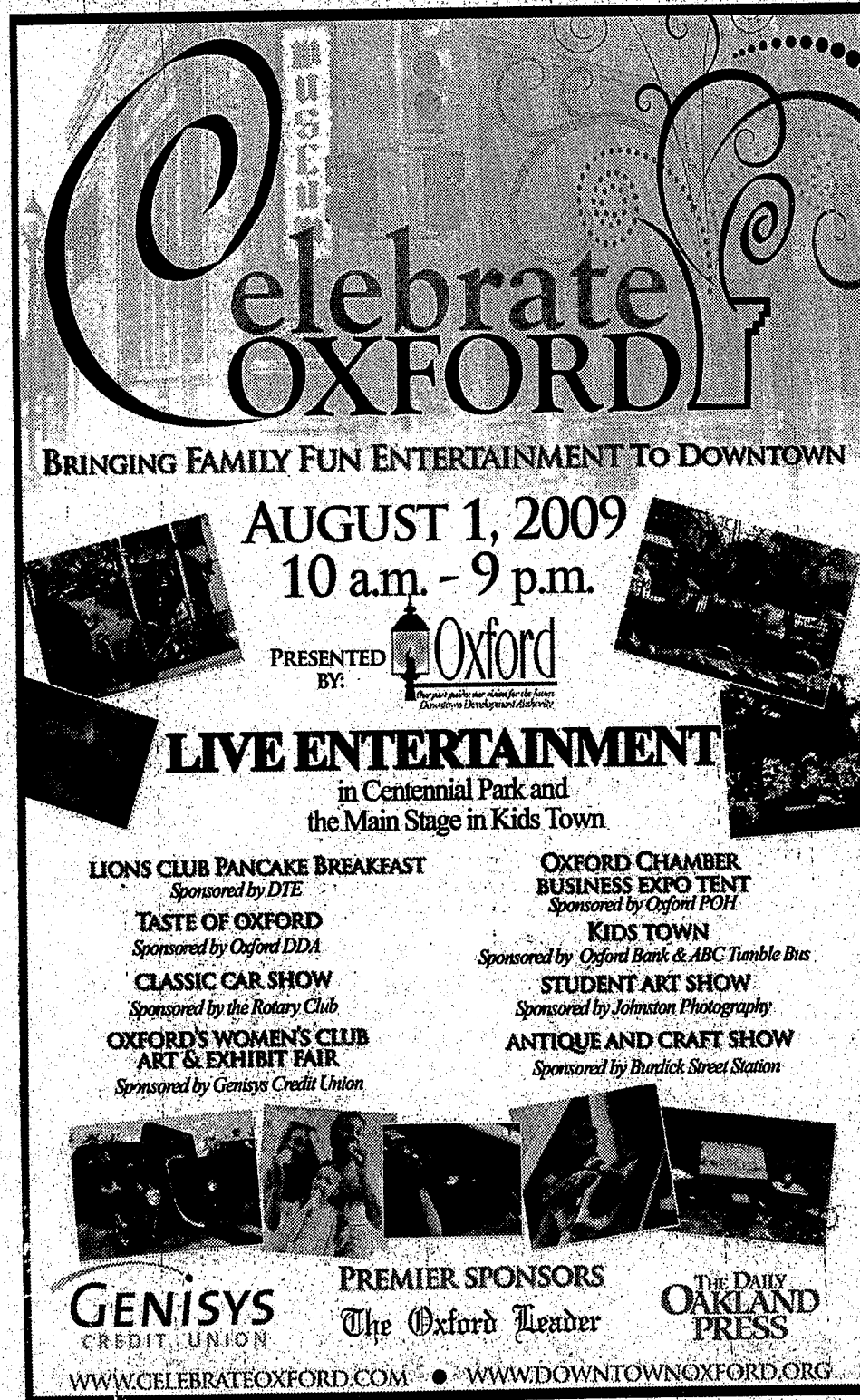
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HR contract approved

But supervisor vows to keep some powers

BY TREVOR KEISER
Clarkston News Staff Writer

The new human resource director's \$87,000 salary, minus 10 cents, is too much for Trustee Mark Petterson.

"That's quite a considerable amount, much more than our fire chief. I am absolutely disgusted that we have hired somebody at this price," said Petterson, one of two who voted against the contract. "In today's economy, we went and hired somebody to do the elected officials' jobs. The public did not vote for this. I think we're making a very, very big mistake."

Carol Gabris's contract was approved, 5-2, at the July 21 board meeting.

Trustee Neil Wallace said the amount being paid to Gabris as an independent contractor is "significantly less" than the amount originally budgeted because Gabris is not receiving benefits, which the fire chief and other department heads receive from the township.

"I believe the public is very well served and only hope we can carve out of the budget for future years a sufficient amount of money to be able to continue to have a professional like this in that role," Wallace said.

Trustee Larry Rosso said Gabris is an "outstanding investment." Much of her role will cover negotiations, formally handled by the township attorney, which was "quite expensive."

"I think we can avoid many of the pitfalls we've had before with employee suits and such matters," he said. "I think the cost benefit will be outstanding in our favor and I welcome Mrs. Gabris to our township and I give her my full support."

Trustee David Lohmeier said getting Gabris is a "fantastic deal over 12 months."

"I'm hopeful that we can look back at these 12 months from now and make an educated determination and see the savings and that we really realized and that we've got the money to go forward," Lohmeier said. "Even if we don't, it's worth the 12 months to get our ship in order."

Treasurer Curt Carson was also excited for the new HR director.

"It's fantastic to have a resource that understands union contracts, and the

negotiation of those things and really can assist us in the tough road we're going to have over certainly this year, but provided we can come up in the budget with the funds to carry on position, it will help us through these rough times," he said.

Clerk Shelagh VanderVeen said she and Gabris met with several township departments and union members and they embraced Gabris "with open arms."

"They were just so thrilled to finally have someone who they could go to on a regular basis that they could share their problems with," VanderVeen said.

Wagner, who voted "no" along with Petterson, said he wasn't willing to give over some his supervisor duties to the HR

director despite the fact that the majority of the board approved it. According to the Michigan Township's Association, it can only be done "if the supervisor consents in writing to a reduction of duties..."

"Even in being supportive of the HR department, which is working out well, I was not going to relinquish additional duties to that position," he said. "I talked with our new HR director and explained to her exactly my reasoning because it was a little bit of a shock to her too, and she understood it and she is willing to assist me in any way, shape, or form."

However, Gabris said she will perform the duties specifically outlined in her contract and approved by the board.

Petterson said if residents aren't mad, they should be.

"I'm not there to coexist, I'm there to do what's right for the public and they (other board members) are not doing what's right for the public," he said. "Those other board members that are there are exactly what is wrong with our township today."

Most HR duties fall on the clerk's office, Petterson pointed out. In last year's election, VanderVeen campaigned with a slate to make elected officials part-time, with professional township manager.

"When is she going to give up half her pay? It's quite obvious she's not going to," he said. "The people should be absolutely furious and demanding someone (an elected official) goes part-time or resigns."

VanderVeen was unavailable for comment.

Tons of Trucks roll Aug. 7 at Clintonwood

Independence Township Parks and Recreation's Tons of Trucks is Saturday morning, Aug. 8, at Clintonwood Park, 6000 Clarkston Road.

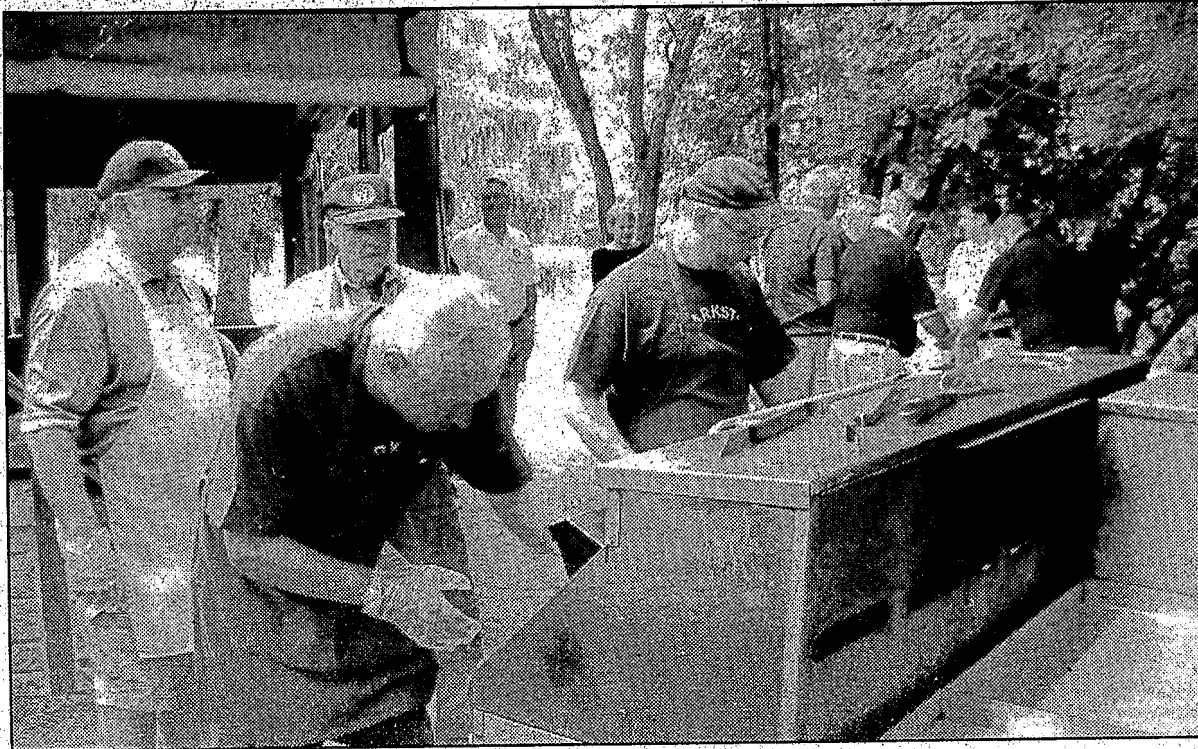
Vehicles of all shapes and sizes will be on display, including fire trucks and police cars. The first 400 children get a free construc-

tion hat, and kids will also get a chance to meet Bob the Builder and go for a hay ride with Yesteryear's Tractor Club at an additional cost.

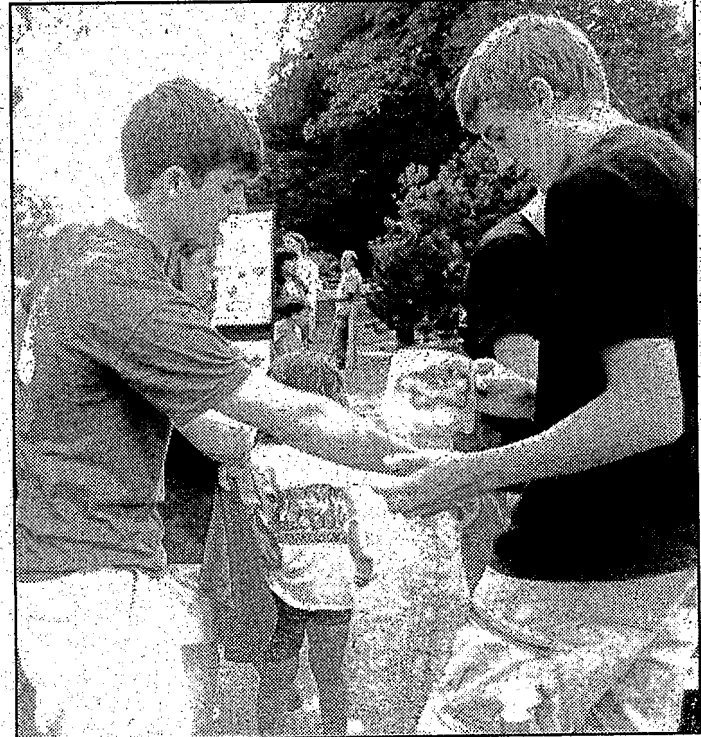
Tickets are \$3/youth in advance and \$5/youth at the gate. For more information go to www.itpr.org or call 248-625-8223.



Carol Gabris



President Jason Webster serves hot dogs while other Rotarians help with grilling.



A SCAMPer gets a spray-on tattoo.

Rotary picnic for SCAMP

Clarkston Rotary hosted a picnic for Clarkston SCAMPers, staff, and families, July 20, with lots of food and entertainment.

This summer's SCAMP hosted 225 campers, enjoying games, art, music, and learning activities at Clarkston Community Schools, swimming and paddle boating at Independence Oaks County Park, and field

trips to Independence Fire Department, Dairy Dream, and other places around the community.

"Clarkston SCAMP is simply about making special people smile and offering a summer full of excitement," said Eleanor Hallman of SCAMP. "We couldn't do it without the help of donors like the Clarkston Rotary."



SCAMPers enjoy a dance at the picnic.



Bingo the clown twists some balloons into fun animal shapes for the kids.

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Keiser's Role

A column by Trevor Keiser

Give me a break

As many know, the last few months at the *Clarkston News* have been super busy for me as I have tried my best to keep up with all the big stories surrounding Independence Township board/ administration.

I found a quote online from Earl Wilson who said "Vacation is what you take when you can't take what you've been taking any longer."

Well just like everyone else, months of hard work catch up to me and the word vacation sounds sweeter and sweeter to me.

This past week I got just that. My best friend Josh came home from MO. to visit with his wife Nicole, and daughter Jeweli.

It's been a couple years since I last seen my friend, but whenever we get together it's like we've never been apart. Part of that is probably because I talk to him almost every day on my 40 minute drive to work, so we keep up with the daily events of each other's lives.

It worked out that I had a few vacation days to use, so I packed my bags and headed up north with Josh and his family to his parent's cottage, located between Midland and Grayling. Only about an hour and half drive, but far enough to recuperate from the busyness of home and work.

My time with Josh included bowling, videogames, time relaxing in the sun out on the pontoon boat, good food, and of course lots of laughter.

As much as I try to avoid the inevitable, I always seem to forget to put sunblock somewhere and end up becoming an enemy of the sun. Such was the case this time as well. I forgot to put some on my face and somehow missed the spot between my swim shorts and my upper knee (a typical burn spot when I mow the lawn.)

Despite coming home part lobster, it was refreshing to get away for a few days and relax a little bit. Morris Fishbein said "A good vacation is over when you begin to yearn for work."

I'm not quite sure if I would say I was gone long enough to use the word "yearn" yet, but I will say I do feel refreshed from being away and I am ready to get back in the grind of the daily routine.



Imagine an accountable government

Imagine a community where elected officials consider electoral results final, votes of the people the definitive word on controversial subjects.

Where defeat of a senior center and township hall meant the township didn't build the senior center and township hall anyway.

Where ballot-box defeat of candidates running in favor of transferring power from elected officials to an unelected, independent contractor meant the board didn't transfer power from elected officials to an unelected, independent contractor.

All Independence Township residents can do is imagine such a place, because

last year's Board of Trustees disregarded electoral results, deciding to build the senior center and township hall, and the new board does it too.

Hiring a human resources director to do a job officials were elected to do reverses the will of the people. Voters rejected a slate of candidates campaigning last year to transfer their power to a professional manager. That means officials shouldn't transfer their power to a professional HR manager, either.

That would demonstrate accountability by our elected officials, and show how voting actually makes a difference. Imagine that.

Editorial

Trustees have some explaining to do

Dear editor,

I am curious why special meetings of the Board of Trustees are not broadcast? The township seems to spend on whatever they want rather than what they need. During July, there have been two regular meetings and four special meetings. Why? What is so pressing?

Does the board think they do better and accomplish more at special meetings when there is no camera in the area?

Certainly it could have been interesting to know why the supervisor walked to the door to

leave in a huff at one of the special meetings. Does the board feel more comfortable in their actions when the public is not observing?

I read where Mr. Wagner gave an unauthorized bonus to Mr. Belcher for bringing the building in under budget, then I read where they are asking for another \$40,000.

Mr. Wagner said "Carson wanted the money for signage for the building and new building furnishings"; Mr. Carson said "signage and furnishings "had nothing to do with that (the money)." So what was it for and who is telling the truth?

I also read Mr. Wallace and Mr. Loemier wants everything released to the public about the

Letters to the editor

purchase of the building, that is over and done with. What I want to know and what the public has a right to know is what the \$800,000 was spent on and why there is additional funds needed?

I would like to see a line-by-line audit of the "building fund" and I think the people have the right to the information.

Brooks Patterson said he and the commissioners are all giving up their car allowances and taking a cut in pay, but the same week Mr. Wagner increases his car allowance without the approval of the board. Apparently Mr. Wagner does not lead by example and seems to do quite a lot without the approval of the board.

I think most of the public has lost all trust in the board as it stands and it will take quite a lot to recover any respect for the board since some of the things that are happening seem unethical, self-serving and maybe illegal.

The township needs to rethink how they do business and the people need to rethink what they look for in the officials they place their trust with.

Linda Donkerbrook

40 year resident of Independence Twp.

Park superintendent will be missed

Dear editor,

Brian Doyle, a long time employee of Independence Township Parks and Recreation is leaving. He has been employed with the township since October of 1987. He has worked at Clintonwood Park 15 years as the park superintendent. Brian was a perfectionist, innovator, motivator, and especially a friend who will be missed.

He always put the township residents best interest first. Clintonwood Park is a gem that supports many activities and is one of the

nicest recreation facilities around. You can find just about everything there. He made the park what it is today with support from his staff.

Brain is leaving the township to support family members at a time of need. He is truly a special person who is putting his family first. He will never be forgotten for what he has done for us. We are lucky to have had him as a co-worker and friend.

Thank you Brian

Mike Turk

Parks and Recreation Director

More letters to the editor on page 7A

A Look Back

From The CNews archives

15 years ago - 1994

"Accident closes I-75" After cutting each other off for miles, two road-raging drivers southbound on I-75 near Clintonville finally hit, lost control, and spun out. They hit three cars, sending four people to the hospital.

"O'Neill wins" Candidate Megan O'Neill beat Republican challenger Kerry-Kammer for U.S. House of Representatives. O'Neill, who ran on a conservative platform, was to go up against Rep. Dale Kildee that fall.

"New academy gives students options" Four Clarkston students were among the first class of the new North Oakland Science Math Academy, shortened to NOSMtech, though pronounced "Awesome-tech." Kyle Hughes was hired to teach math.

25 years ago - 1984

"CVP's Children's Theater presents 'Tumbleweeds'" Under the direction of Sandy Sandord, young actors and actresses prepared their comic-strip-based play. Joe Williams played the title role, and Kristin Ried played Hildegard.

"POH awaits 3rd review of satellite" The hospital was set for final review of its proposed, \$34 million, two-story hospital at Dixie and White Lake roads. POH was competing with five other hospitals for Certificates of Need permits from the state for a center in north Oakland County.

"Teacher takes hiatus to Mexico" Sherill Bailey headed south of the border for a year to teach sixth graders English at the Instituto Lauren's in Monterrey. She learned of the school during a month-long mission trip, painting a church with Volunteers in Mission.

50 years ago - 1959

"Veteran of Year will be chosen at state fair" Each of Michigan's 1,500 local veterans' posts were invited to send nominations. Winner was to be chosen based on contributions to civics, community, and veterans.

"Chairman named for Mothers' March" Mrs. Everett Dennis was appointed chairman for the Independence Township area Emergency Appeal of March of Dimes. The appeal was needed to care for local polio patients.

"Clarkston locals" Carol Kieft returned home from Lapeer where she attended a two-week Red Cross session at Camp Sherwood. She earned her Girl Scout Badge in Life Saving, and enjoyed several cookouts and overnights.

Toenails and all, boys will be boys

I have never questioned whether or not my sons, Shamus and Sean, are true to the Boyhood Club. Time and again they prove themselves. Much to the chagrin to the women in their lives (mother, grandmas, aunts and some cousins) the boys are members of this secret society of fledgling Neanderthals.

Of course, the Neanderthals of my age are less caveman like than the Neanderthals of my father's age; he less than his father and so on. Each successful member of the Boyhood Club who graduates and gets his Neanderthal badge of honor is more refined than his predecessor.

And while yes, it is true the age of knuckle draggin' has gone the way of the dodo, it is the sincere hope of all Neanderthal members that some vestige of manhood remain through the future. It is our stated mission to ensure men do not evolve into something akin to house-pets. We aim to make sure the male of the species always has at least one special purpose.

Females can tell if the males in their clan are members of the Boyhood Club, or Neanderthal, by observing any number of traits -- the most common having and insisting on wearing a favorite baseball cap, tee-shirt or pair of underwear.

I've smiled privately and proudly knowing Shamus, 11 and Sean, 9, want to be Neanderthal when they grow up (even if they don't really know it yet -- that usually happens when the mancub turns 15, 16 at the latest).

First, they do have and like to wear a favorite, ratty, article of clothing, but there is more. Oh, so much more.

They like to burp.
They like to read and watch cheesy pulp fiction and films.

They appreciate a good jack knife and the awesomeness that is the "Mystery Spot."

They stink when they sweat.
They prefer living in the moment, and at the moment hopefully they are sweaty, dirty and doing something that is a little bit dangerous...

... like climbing trees... riding their bikes without wearing a helmet... walking barefoot in the backyard... or doing cannonballs in a pool.

Don't Rush Me



A column by Don Rush

The boys have always had a tendency toward Neanderthalism... they've both exercised their imaginations, playing "Starwars" or "Stargate SG-1." To those not in the know, those are science fiction action films, the first in movie form, the second a television series. Both have lots of hi-tech weapons, perfect for Boyhood Club members to pretend they own.

When Sean was six or seven, I found him sharpening his wee-little toenails, before clipping. This bit of personal hygiene was one of those proud papa moments, we dads get.

Here was my youngest taking care of himself -- he didn't need his mom or his dad to clip his nails anymore, and he was exercising boy-thought, too.

"I'm making them sharp," he said, then he whispered lest folks not in the club hear, "I'm saving them, then I am gonna' make a sword out of them and then..." he went into a round-house-like karate kick and landed like something out of a Bruce Lee movie -- crouching, arms ready to chop, legs ready to pounce, "... I can fight bad guys."

He announced his superhero name: "I am Kid Toenail. Hi-ya!"

Most recently, older brother Shamus announced one of his many plans for fame and fortune. This one, ironically involves not only toenails, but also finger nails.

"Dad," says Number One Son, "Sean and I want to be in the Guinness Book of World Records for having the biggest collection of finger nails and toenails. Don't tell Mom, it'll be a surprise."

Never one to indulge my sons, I promptly found a relatively fancy box, put two clippers in (the smaller kind for fingers and the larger, toenail kind), made them sign their name and date the inside of said box and started them on their way to having the biggest such collection by donating my own nail clippings.

The box discretely sits in the living room, on the coffee table in between the TV and couch. I am sure for a small fee and/or donation, the boys would let anybody come and see their collection.

They have also given me permission to accept collection donations from the world at-large. (You can send them to the newspaper office with a note stating who you are and where you live. One of the rights of passage from Boyhood Club member to Neanderthal is thanking folks who help you achieve your goals -- they will need to send thank you notes.)

Sean has another "get rich quick" plan. He wants me to place a classified stating, "for only a dollar" he will teach folks a string trick. I am still mulling over whether or not to place that ad.

Comments for Neanderthal Rush can be e-mailed to: don@donrushmedon.com

Poor example by Dr. Roberts

Dear editor,

Laura Colvin nailed it... "flat-out disappointing" ("Al Roberts' Rules," July 22)! Congrats to Ms. Colvin for telling it like it is!

In the Air Force, I learned that good leadership is leading by example.

Dr. Roberts missed by a mile..He should have taken a pass, even if four knuckleheads on the school board ARE tone deaf to the district's "painful" conditions!

He just endowed the community with greed as his legacy, starting with a \$600 per month car and mileage allowance.

Gerry Schmidt
Springfield Township

Continuing summer's mindless monotony

But first...
Once in a while (seldom, really) a politician comes along who has a voice and delivery that makes one want to listen. Such a man was Senator Everett Dirksen of Illinois.

He's been gone several years now, but I kept this quote because it was so well spoken and so political.

"You asked me how I feel about whisky. All right, here is just how I stand on this question:

"If, when you say whisky, you mean the devil's brew, the poison scourge, the bloody monster that defiles innocence, yea, literally takes the bread from the mouths of little children; if you mean the evil that topples the Christian man and woman from the pinnacles of righteous, gracious living into the bottomless pit of degradation and despair, shame and helplessness and hopelessness, than certainly I am against it with all of my power.

"But, if when you say whisky, you mean the oil of conversation, the philosophic wine, the stuff that is consumed when good fellows get together, that puts a song in their hearts and laughter on their lips and the warm glow of contentment in their eyes; if you mean Christmas cheer; if you mean the stimulating drink that puts the spring in the old gentleman's step on a frosty morning; if you mean the drink that enables a man to magnify his joy, and his happiness, and to forget, if only for a while, life's great tragedies and heartbreaks and sorrows; if you mean that drink, the sale of which pours into our treasuries untold millions of dollars, which are used to provide tender care for our little crippled children, our blind, our deaf, our dumb, our pitiful aged and infirm, to build highways, hospitals and schools, then certainly I am for it.

"This is my stand. I will not retreat from it; I will not compromise."

--- 0 ---
• Someone's marketing "moist wrap" toilet paper? The only people who have money for that are those with stimulus money.

• Senate majority leader Harry

Reid: "This health bill will not cost taxpayers any money." The man's an idiot.

• In June I wrote that the liver and onion dinner I made for myself was the worst I'd ever had. Then C.J. (no one can spell or pronounce his last name) gave me some more beef liver. I looked up

a recipe, and found it so simple even I could do it. Saute chopped onions in butter, then put it aside. Fry liver three minutes on one side, flip 'em, dump on the onions, fry three minutes. It was as good as any liver meal I ever had.

• My dumbness knows no bounds. Not long after I bought an electric can opener I realized most of the canned good I buy have pull-tab tops.

• I know testimonials are one of the best ways to sell products. But, some are nuts. Take the guy in the commercial for a hair growth product, who supposedly used it and says, "It's the best decision I ever made in my life." I know some bald guys who think hair is time consuming, expensive and belongs on other animals.

• Last Wednesday night, July 22, President Obama took to the airwaves to urge immediate passage of an 1,800 page health law. He has said he hasn't read it, I've heard of no lawmaker who has read it, and I believe none of his cabinet has read it all.

Among the things this law will do is let government decide sickness treatments of people over 70. Give us expensive treatment or let us die? At what age are we no longer of use to society or family? Is this person a conservative or leftist? All in all it appears to be a master plan to establish a czar-led government with a lifetime leader.

God bless America, or as his former 20-year Chicago pastor Jeremia Wright said, "God damn America!"

Jim's Jottings



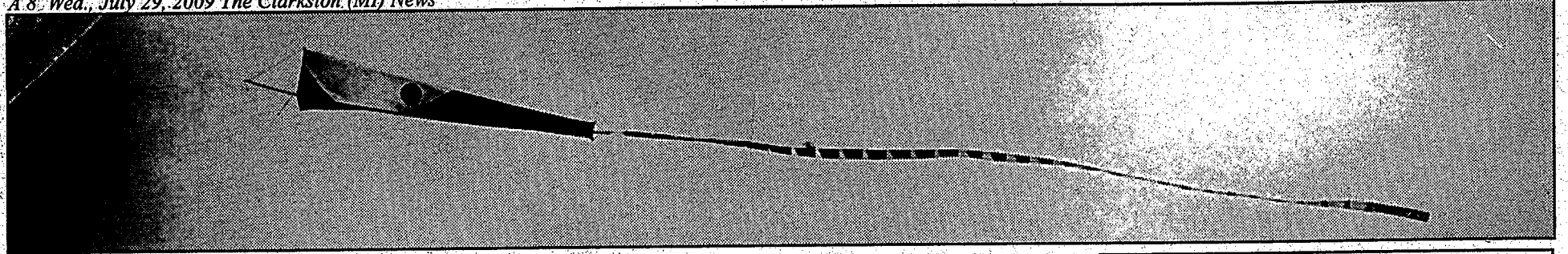
a column by Jim Sherman

Faded Ink

Write a Letter to the Editor!

The Clarkston News reserves the right to edit for accuracy, brevity, or clarity. Letters must include the full name of the writer, home address and daytime telephone number for verification (which will not be published).

Deadline is noon the Monday before. Earlier is better! Submission does not guarantee publication. Send to 5 S. Main Street, Clarkston, MI 48346; fax 248-625-0706; or ClarkstonNews@gmail.com.



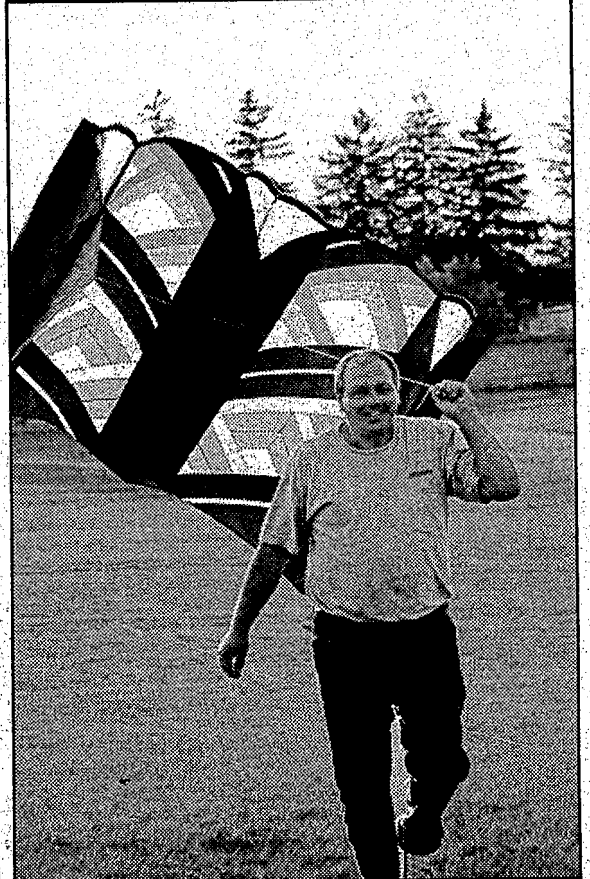
Kite enthusiast Gary Tobias brings one in as the sun sets.

Lets go fly a kite

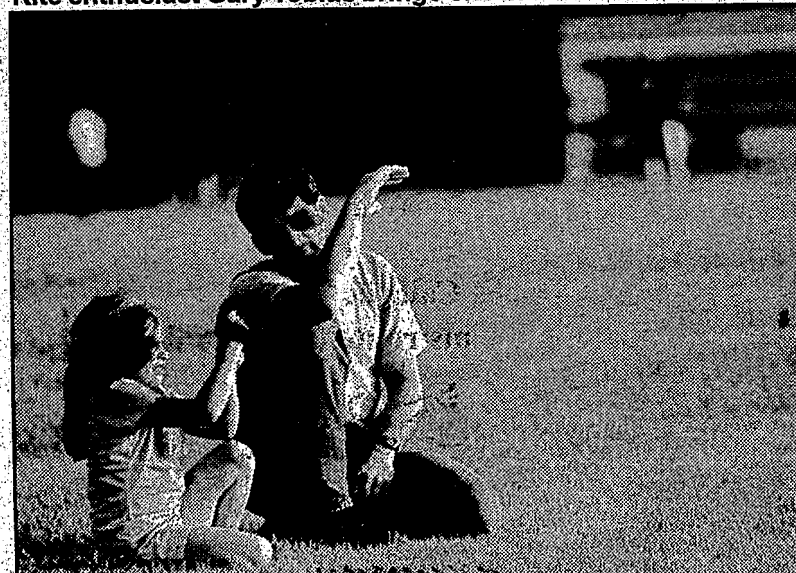
The winds weren't exactly whipping Tuesday, but enthusiasts and curious passersby managed to get quite a few kites high in the sky over the field near Dixie Baptist Church in Springfield Township.

Great Turtle Toys, located in Independence Township, will host the kite fly at Dixie Baptist every Tuesday, from 6-8 p.m., during the summer. There's no charge, and all are welcome to stop by.

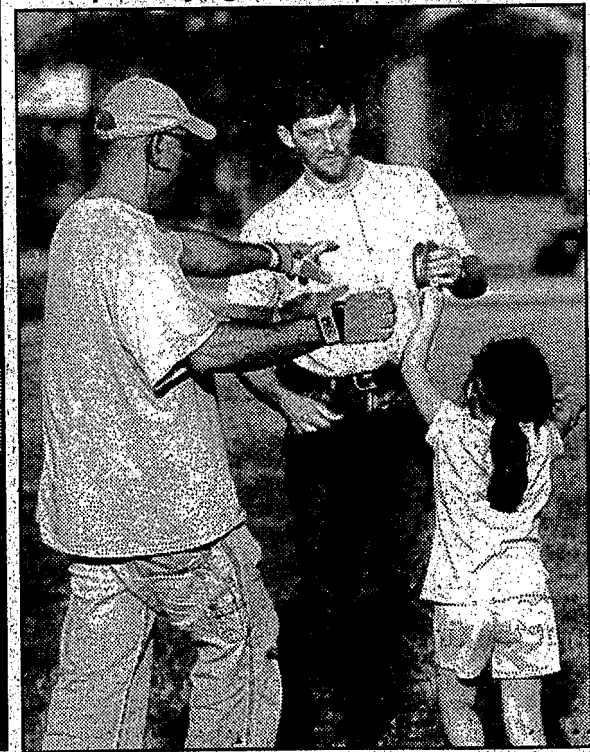
Photos by Laura Colvin



Gary Pace of Independence Township said he took up kite flying after retiring last year.



Neil Carpenter is nearby to help daughter Eko Carpenter -- if needed. Eko tries to grab the kite as it comes down. Gary Tobias, left, lends a kite and a few pointers.



Creep with a camera

A Springfield Township man called police after his daughters, age 12, 10 and 6, reported they were walking to a friend's house when an unknown man photographed them as he passed in his car July 7. The man, who was driving a late-model midnight blue four-door Chevy Blazer with an American flag sticker on the rear window, reportedly never stopped his vehicle or attempted to speak with the girls. He was described as a white male in his 20s with brown collar length hair.

Gone to pot

A 24-year-old Warren man was arrested and jailed after Springfield Township deputies pulled over a suspicious car driving without headlights near the 12400 block of Andersonville Road July 9. While police were questioning the driver, the passenger leapt from the vehicle and took off running. Deputies pursued and apprehended the man, who had marijuana, as well as a large wad of cash, stuffed in his trousers. The discovery led police to search the vehicle, where more pot was located.

Only gone an hour

A 21-year-old Springfield Township man called police after returning from an hour-long absence from home July 11 to discover someone stole a quad, which had been parked in the storage shed near his home in the 7000 block of Eagle Road, while he was away.

Public Safety

Reports from Clarkston Police, Oakland County Sheriff Deputies and Independence Township Fire Department

Game gone

A woman living in the 9500 block of Bart Ave in Springfield Township called police July 15 after she arrived home to find the screen to her son's bedroom window lying on the ground and a video game system and controllers missing from his room. Deputies noted pry marks on the outside of the window.

Opened for business

Thieves used a garage door opener found inside an unlocked van in the 6500 block of Hadley Hills Ct. July 18 to open the garage and steal cigarettes and beer from inside. The 70-year-old homeowner told police the thieves also took the garage door opener.

Get a job, perhaps?

A 26-year-old Redford Township man was arrested and jailed for larceny July 18 after police connected him to thefts from a number of vehicles at DTE. A patron reportedly alerted deputies after observing the man jump from a pickup truck to grab an item—it turned out to be a woman's stolen purse—from tall weeds along the east edge of the venue's

grass parking lot. Stereo equipment, several GPS units, purses, an iPod, digital camera, and radar detector were found in the man's possession.

Shopping scam

A 61-year-old Independence Township woman filed fraud report July 18 after responding to an ad for a shopper evaluation job and ending up thousands of dollars in the hole. The woman cashed a check sent by the fraudulent overseas company, then followed instructions to send separate checks—one for \$2,935 and one for \$1,703—back to the company in England. The check from the fraudulent company bounced, and the woman's bank withdrew the money from her savings to cover the checks she wrote.

Burgled booze

Springfield Township police were investigating a burglary at the clubhouse of a golf course the 11400 block of East Holly Road after an employee arrived at work to find the rear kitchen door kicked in July 18. Inside, a padlock had been cut off a storage room; about 25 full bottles of liquor were missing.

Watch for muscular crooks

Someone stole a large BBQ grill from the back patio area of a home in the 8100 block of Sleepytime July 18. The owner, who said she'd just cooked dinner on the grill that evening, was puzzled by the theft, noting the grill was eight years old, heavy and would have been heavy and awkward to carry away. The following night, someone stole a chimenea from the side yard of a home in the 9600 block of Canterbury Crossway. The owner told police the chimenea was heavy enough to require two people to carry it.

Just wrong

The service coordinator at recently opened cancer center in 5600 block of Bow Pointe Drive called police July 21 after discovering someone entered the facility's "healing park" over the weekend and defaced a wood sculpture and a privacy fence with black spray paint.

Out a deed, indeed

Police were investigating a case of fraud in Springfield Township after a woman in the process of selling her mobile home reported learning it never belonged to her in the first place. The 44-year-old woman told police she paid \$16,000 directly to the alleged owner in 2003, but recently discovered he never owned it and she therefore had no rights to it, either. Whereabouts of the deed were not immediately known.

-Compiled by Laura Colvin

Attention:

Clarkston-Area Residents

Craig Greenfield Memorial Tri & Du

Sunday, Aug. 2, 2009 7:45 a.m.

800-meter swim, 16-mile bike, 4.5-mile run

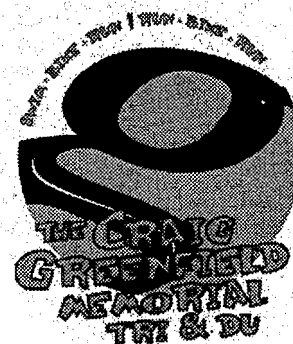
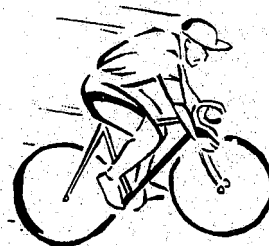
1.5 mile run, 16-mile bike, 4.5-mile run

The race begins at Deer Lake and finishes in Depot Park in the city of Clarkston.

The 16-mile bike course starts at White Lake and Holcomb roads and is an 8-mile loop north on Holcomb and back (the loop will be done twice). The 1.5 mile and 4.5-mile run courses are in and around Clarkston.

Please use extra caution when driving on Holcomb and White Lake roads between 7:45-10 a.m. Sunday. Expect delays if you are crossing Holcomb Street along the bike course. A portion of Holcomb Road between the Clarkston Village West Subdivision and Washington Street in Clarkston will be closed from about 7:45-10 a.m. St. Daniel Catholic Church parishioners who attend the 9 a.m. service are requested to use the Dixie Highway/Deer Lake Farms route (please follow the signs). If you live along the bike or run courses, please make sure your dogs are leashed. Please come out and cheer on the 350 athletes along the bike or run courses or at the finish line in Depot Park.

For more information on the event and how to register, please go to www.3disciplines.com





Glitz Salons hosts their Eighth Annual Cut-A-Thon for Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan. Photo-submitted.

Cut-a-thon for kids

Glitz Salons will hold their Eighth Annual Cut-A-Thon benefiting the Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan.

Last year's event raised more than \$30,000 for the foundation and this year the salon expects even more donations.

The one-day event begins at 8 a.m. on Sunday, July 26 at the Glitz Salon located just north of Great Lakes Crossing Mall in Orion Township.

The day begins with a 5k Run. A silent auction with items from many local businesses up for bidding. Deal or no Deal, Klux hair extensions, massage therapy, horse and carriage rides and much more will also be available throughout the day.

To be sure that the entire family has something fun to do, your little princess can get a princess up-do and tiara for a \$20 donation and then have a photograph on stage with the famous princesses and super heroes at noon. There will also be inflatable games, music and food for everyone.

Entrance to the Cut-A-Thon is free and all events and activities have been donated to offer them at the lowest cost, with all proceeds benefiting the Children's Leukemia Foundation.

"The hair cutting that we offer becomes almost insignificant once people take part in the entire event," said Cherie Barnett, President, CEO of Glitz Salons, Inc. "We have more than 100 employees out there who are excited to be doing something so great for the community and the Children's Leukemia Foundation."

Glitz Salons are dedicated to offering the community the highest quality in service while giving back through charities, community organizations, churches, schools and events.

Glitz stylists are among some of the most educated in the country, with a high emphasis on training and continuing education.

The annual Cut-A-Thon is just one of many cut-a-thons held throughout the year to benefit local charities and nonprofit organizations.

Glitz Salons are located in Clarkston, Rochester, Lake Orion, and Orion Township. For more information, visit www.glitzsalons.com.

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Average Monthly Balance	Annual Interest
\$10,000	\$200
\$25,000	\$500
\$50,000	\$1,000
\$100,000	\$2,000

S.AFETY AND SECURITY

M.ORE PERSONAL LEVEL OF SERVICE

A.TMs. FREE NATIONWIDE**

R.EWARDS PROGRAM

T.ROUBLE-FREE SWITCH GUARANTEE

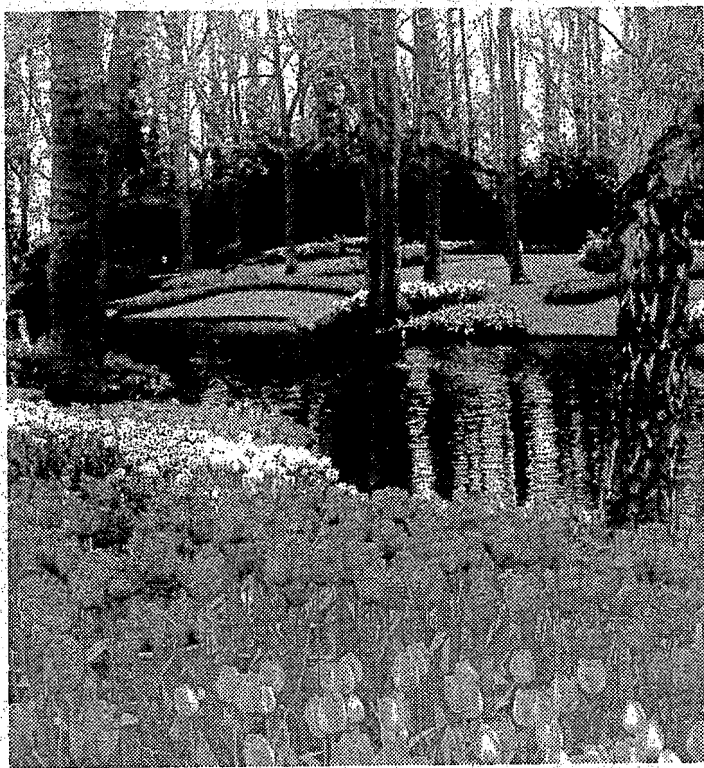
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Big Deal

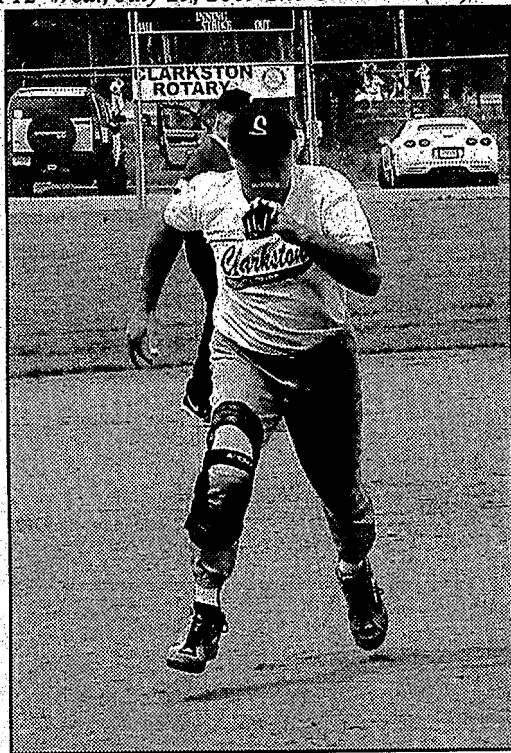


LANDSCAPE MAKEOVER GIVEAWAY



We invite you to enter the **Big Deal** Landscape Makeover Giveaway. Fill out the coupon found in the August **Big Deal** (coming in your *Penny Stretcher* on August 5) for your chance to win a **FREE LANDSCAPE MAKEOVER** courtesy of **ULTRA** Professional Outdoor Services, L.L.C. and the **Big Deal**. Deadline to enter is August 14. Winners will be announced in September's **Big Deal** arriving in your *Penny Stretcher* September 2.

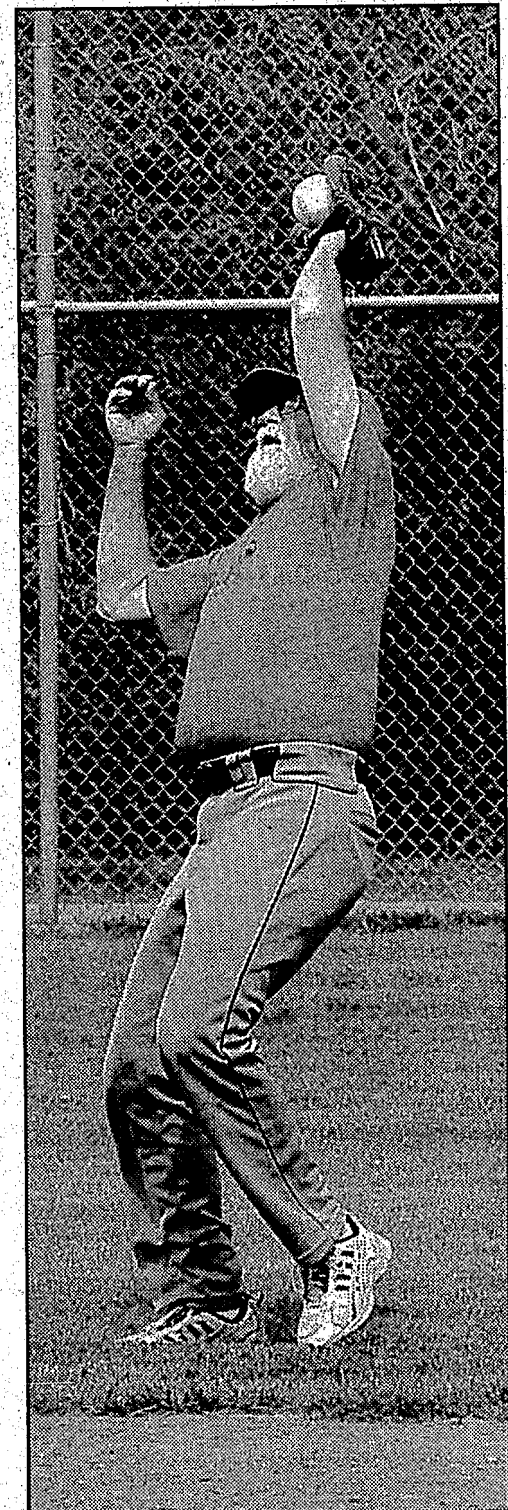
GOOD LUCK!



Dennis Schroeder runs for third base.



Richard Peterson pitches for the Tenuta Food Lane team.



Wayne Anderson makes a catch.



Terry Szklarski gets a hit. Photos by Phil Custodio

Games a hit with 50+ adults

Activities for "senior citizens" don't just mean pinochle and embroidery - it also includes getting outside for sports.

The Independence Township Adult Activity Center offers sports for men and women throughout the year, including Men's Softball 50+, which plays Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. at Clintonwood Park next to the senior center.

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The Clarkston News proudly presents

Golden Times

Boomers bring change to township center

BY PHIL CUSTODIO

Clarkston News Editor

Starting to reach retirement age, Baby Boomers are having as much impact as ever.

"They're redefining what it means to get older," said Margaret Bartos, director of the Independence Township Adult Activity Center, also known as the Senior Center.

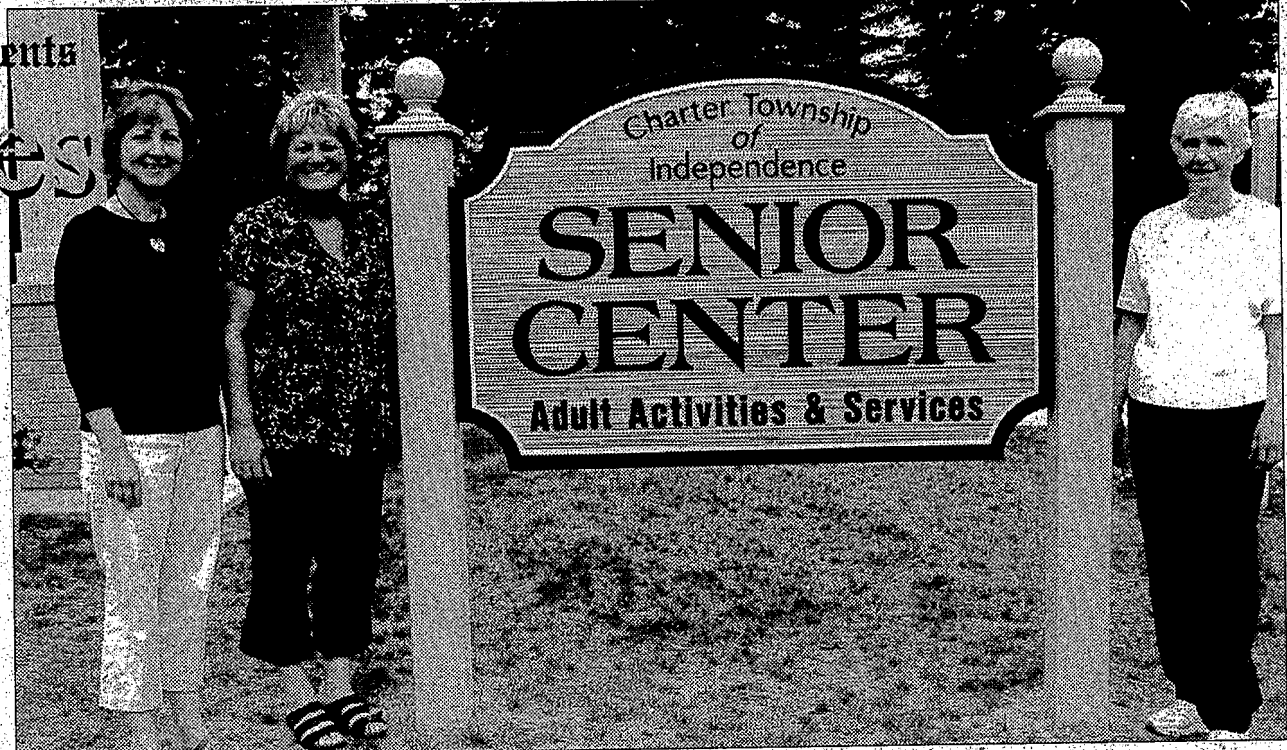
"They're more self-sufficient, greater sense of entitlement, more knowledgeable, they want more choices, and they question everything, as they always have."

For the center, that means programs with more physical and mental activity, as well as community service opportunities, said Mary Melega, senior center programmer.

"We're not just Bingo and embroidery," Melega said. "The challenge is to provide active, interesting programs that keep the brain active."

The center also coordinates with local schools' service learning projects to bring students and seniors together for multi-generational projects, said Karen Koenigbauer, senior services coordinator.

Seniors knit caps for newborns, tutor children, make quilts,



Karen Koenigbauer, Mary Melega, and Margaret Bartos at the Independence Township Adult Activities Center. Photo by Phil Custodio

and work with students on landscaping and flower beds around the center.

"The projects support the whole community," Koenigbauer said. "The youth in the community interact and build relationships with the senior population - it's exciting."

Volunteerism is a priority at the center, with retirees com-

ing to the center to help people with taxes, health care, and even reemployment in a new field, she said.

"They have a chance to do something they've never done before," Bartos said. "It's a reflection of their experiences, growing up in the 1960s, with President Kennedy's call for volunteerism. They have a desire to serve."

Calendar of events

Oh my aching back, with Physiatrist Rob Farhat about causes of back and muscle pain and how to relieve it, 7 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 12, Carriage House, Clintonwood Park, 6000 Clarkston Road. 248-625-8231.

Bucks for Buses, 5-9 p.m., Aug. 13. Fundraiser for transportation for seniors and disabled. Bullfrogs, 2225 S. Ortonville Road. Features band 40 Buffalo Band and Friends. 248-625-8231.

Appledore Tall Ship Trip, Bay City, Wednesday, Aug. 19. Relax as you travel down the Saginaw River. Lunch at Krzysiak's. \$92 per person. Call the Senior Adult Activity Center, 248-625-8231.

Greektown Casino, Thursday, Aug. 20, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Pay \$30 and receive \$20 back on Players Card.

A Capitol Christmas in Washington D.C., Dec. 11-15. Includes a performance at the Kennedy Center and Christmas at Mount Vernon. Pick up a flyer at the senior activity center or call 248-625-8231.

Call us with ideas for seniors, 248-625-3370

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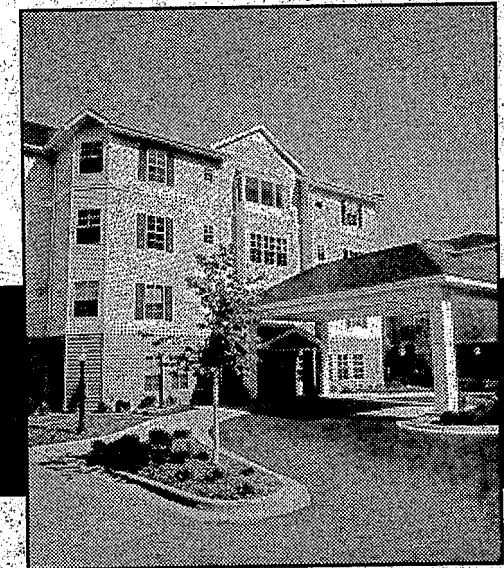
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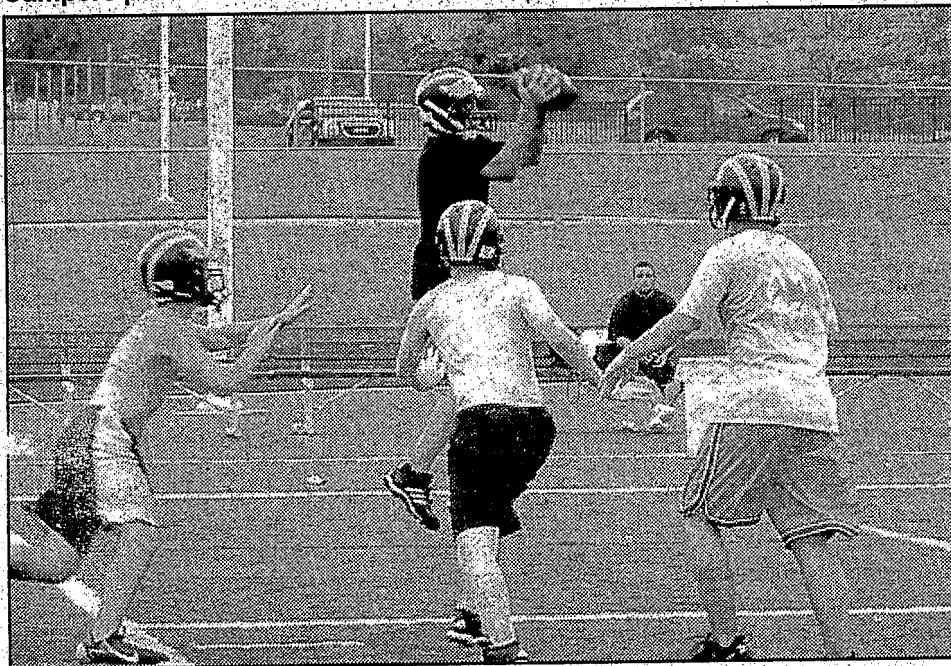




Campers pull off their helmets for a break.



Campers prepare a formation drill.



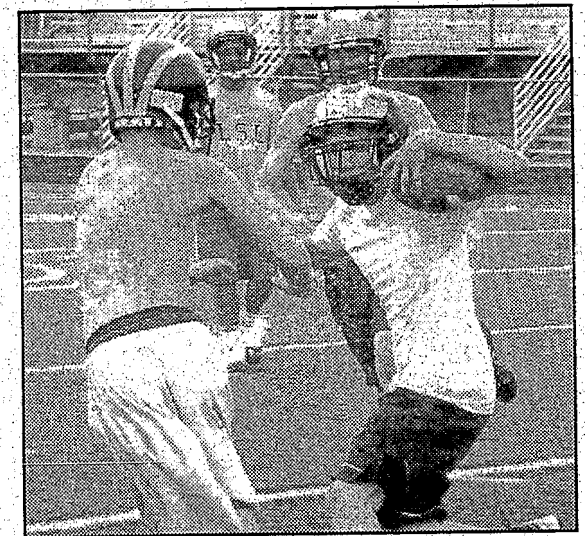
A camper learns how to pull in a pass under pressure.

Learning the ropes

Youngsters worked on their gridiron skills at Clarkston High School's Football Youth Camp last week.

High school coaches and players led campers in scrimmages and drills, working on catching, punts, quarterback throws, hikes from the center, and various offensive and defensive plays.

Photo story by
J.T. Bohland



Players work on moving the ball.

Athletes of the Week

Hitters third in state in first season

In its first year, Clarkston's Ice Fastpitch 12 & Under Blue team placed third in the state NSA "B" championships, then 17th out of 54 teams in the National NSA "B" Championships in Indiana.

Tryouts for next season are at Clarkston

High School softball field, 9U, 10U, and 12U teams, Aug. 8 and 29, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; 14U and 16U teams, Aug. 15 and 16, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Check www.eteamz.com/icefastpitch for more details, or email jjmoore07@sbcglobal.net.

Smith's
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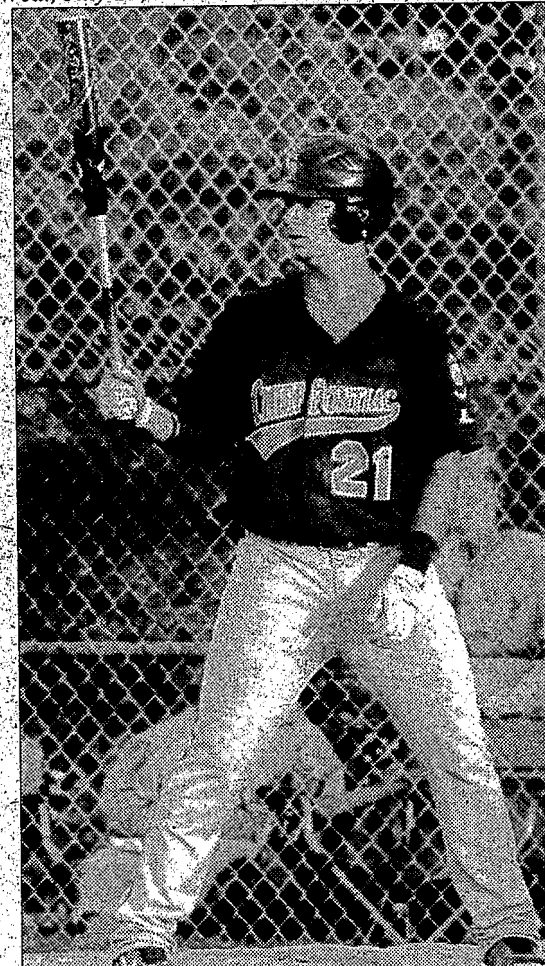
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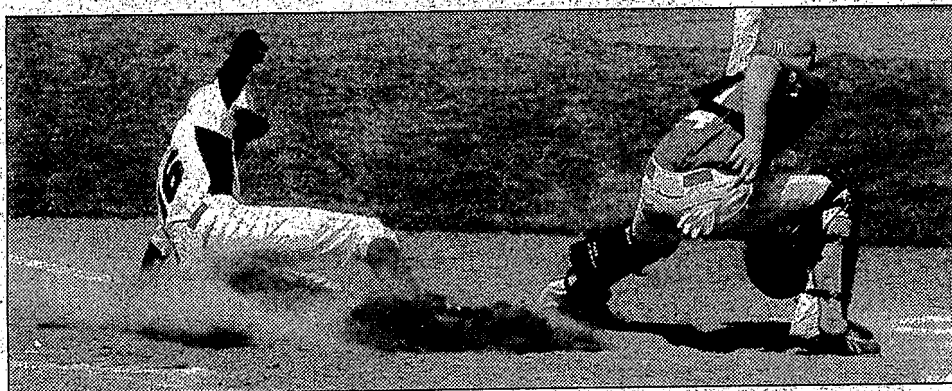
Front row from left are Blue team members Shannon Squanda, Karissa Gawronski, Mackenzie King, Katie Mcknee, Alyssa Gies, Rachel Alli, Sally Muller, and Jordyn McLane. Back row from left, Coach Doug McLane, Alex Favazza, Coach Jill Gies, Ellana Brinson, and head coach Joe Moore.



Drew Loudon, Livonia Post 32, hurls a pitch at batter Cameron Canady of Fort Dearborn Post 364.



Chief Pontiac player Chris Mocerino takes the plate as the team advances to the State Playoffs. Photo provided



Stephen Foster slides in for a run in Livonia Post 32's matchup against Fort Dearborn. Photos by Phil Custodio

Chief Pontiac advances to state

After hosting a 50-year anniversary celebration for Michigan's only American Legion Baseball Team to win the national championship, Detroit Edison Post 187 of 1959, Chief Pontiac Pbst of Independence Township hosted game 6 of the American Legion baseball zone playoffs, July 25.

Fort Dearborn beat Livonia, 9-7, but fell in game 8, 16-5, to Chief Pontiac's own team, July 26.

Chief Pontiac went on to beat Auburn Hills in game 9, 8-5. The Independence Town-

ship team takes on Royal Oak Post 253 in game two of the American Legion State Playoffs, Thursday, July 30, at Adrian College.

Tournament pass can be purchased for \$15 while game passes are \$5. On-line tournament play can be observed inning by inning by logging onto the tournament website at www.post275baseball.com.

A link on the website entitled "State Finals" directs baseball fans to the action.

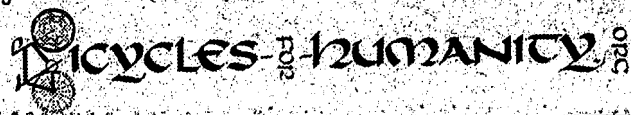
For more information, check www.chiefpontiacbaseball.org.

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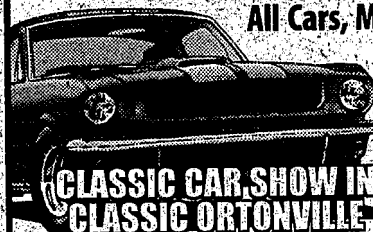
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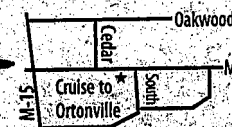
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Homeowner Steve Hoke shows his children's tree house to Debbie Altman and Sandy Gellish.



Tammy Linder and Becky Teta admire the beautiful flowers.



Bob and Carolyn Buchusz and Debbie Clement stroll through Karen Sansome's garden.

Secret Gardens

More than 300 people enjoyed six different gardens on July 15 as they attended Clarkston Farm and Garden Club's annual garden walk.

Funds collected from the walk will be used as scholarship money for 2010 Clarkston High School graduates, different programs in the Clarkston community schools, and plantings at both the Independence Township Library and the Main Street Planter boxes.

Photo story by Trevor Keiser



Birds chirping, bees buzzing, and the sound of a gentle flowing stream is what you'll hear in this garden.



Garden Cathy Grogan, and Bob McGowen talk with Red Hatters Judy Boryczka, Sandy Gellish and Susan Smith about 'Bittersweet Farms.'



Left: Karen Keavy chats with homeowner Karen Sansome about her garden.

WHO TO CALL

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From left, Ann Degen, Lisa Lyons, Caitlin Kirby, Sarah McCallum, Ben Stowers, Ethan Frick, Andrew Salada, Kevin Frick, Austin Klebba, Madison Hoxsie, Emily Beattie, Trevor Potter, Clair Huttenlocher, and Jim Degen planted a new urban garden.

Summer spent in service

Dozens of Clarkston United Methodist Church youth donated a week of summer vacation to volunteer at Covenant House's Detroit campus.

"We hope that during the week of Righteous Mission '09 we might be able to have an impact on both the residents and the staff at Covenant House, and in doing so, be a part of the day-to-day life changing work that is already being done within this incredible organization," said Greg Martin, youth director at the church.

The 87 teens split in two groups, working with Covenant House residents and artists from the Young Association of Heidelberg to beautify the homeless shelter for 18-22 year olds with murals, gardens, and building updates.

One mural features a tree with leaves, another a Bible verse with two hands coming together, and the third a graffiti art motif by Covenant House residents.

"The members of Clarkston United Methodist Church are going above and beyond to help us continue to provide Michigan's youth with the support they need and deserve," said Sam Joseph, executive director of Covenant House Michigan. "Everyone at Covenant House is extremely grateful for this week of service they've offered to update the campuses and interact with our kids. Their efforts will not go unnoticed — this will definitely help boost morale and inspire these kids as they work towards a better life."

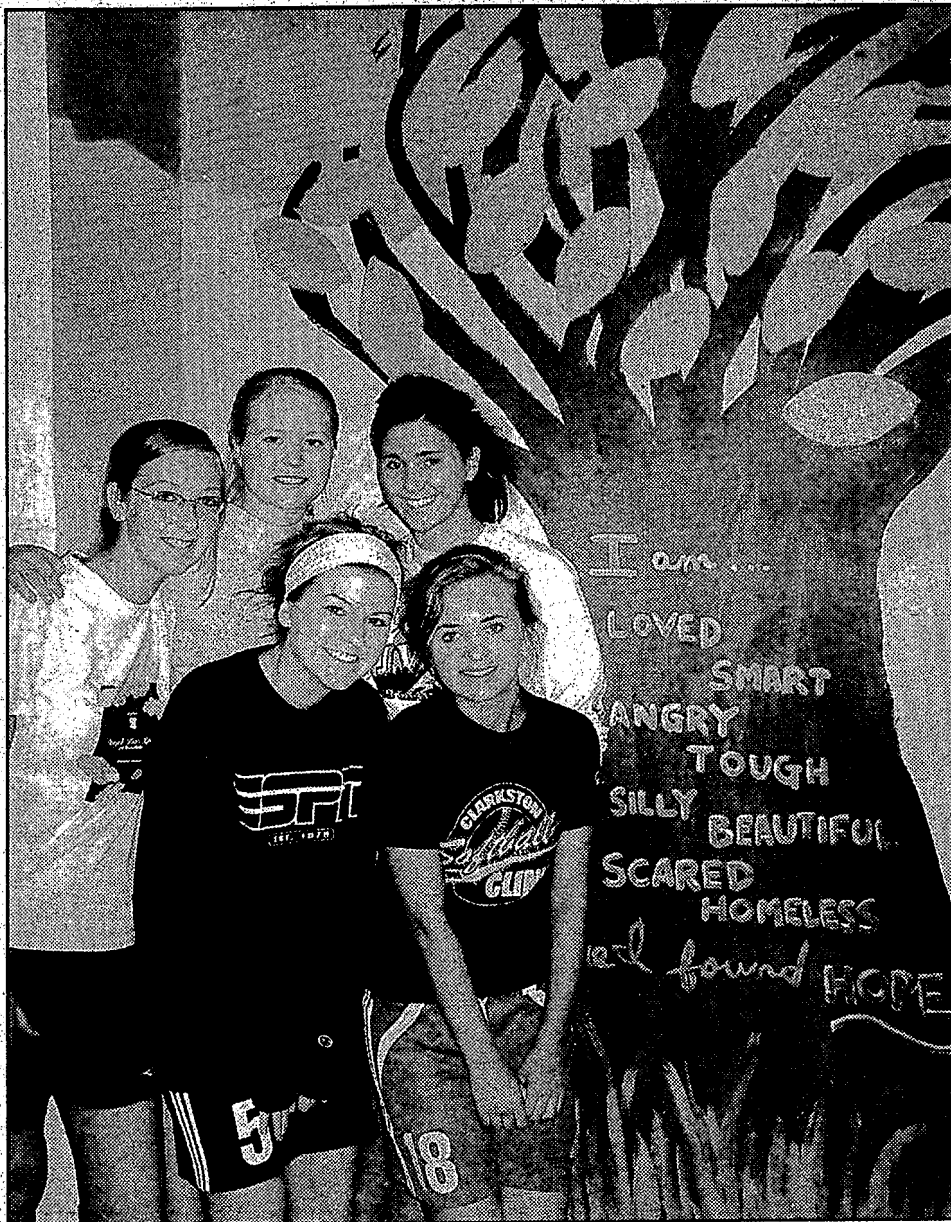
— Phil Custodio



From left, Paige Miller, Sam Hickey, Arsey Miller, and Amber Zuehke assemble benches for the garden.



Standing from left, Tom Zelinsky, Duncan Bone, Davis Vanderveen, Cole Schaeffer, Bob Bice, Andrew Kanous, and kneeling from left, Katie Stone, Mollie Simpson, Emily Beattie, Madison Schaeffer, Melissa Hudson, and Breanna Hendershott planted a healing garden.



From left, Quinni Dabrowski, Shelby Love, and Sam Johnson, and, in front, Holly Degen and Kaitlyn Hoisington, with the new mural in the crisis center.



Professor Meghan Howey demonstrates sifting through dirt to look for Native American artifacts.

Scouts explore Michigan history

Clarkston-area Junior Girl Scouts explored 1,000-year-old Michigan history with a field trip to an archaeological dig in Pellston.

Scouts and their families from Pine Knob, Clarkston, Springfield Plains and Bailey Lake elementary schools learned about Native American inhabitants with help from Meghan Howey, University of New Hampshire professor.

Howey, granddaughter of long-time Clarkston resident Virginia Leonard, invited the Girl Scouts to visit the site in Pellston, on 250 acres of the University of Michigan's Biostation property.

"This was a once in a lifetime experience for the girls and their families," said Dawn

Frasa, Clarkston Elementary troop leader who arranged the visit. "Professor Howey and her team graciously explained how they do their work and then took us on a hike to their current site and let the kids practice digging and sifting for artifacts."

Howey led the Pellston dig for the past four years as part of a National Science Foundation grant. She and her team of under grad and grad students, mostly from UM and University of New Hampshire, uncovered rims from bowls, arrowheads, primitive tools used to grind acorns into meal, and other artifacts.

For more information, check www.lsa.umich.edu/umbs.

— Phil Custodio

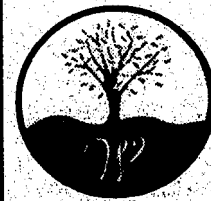
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People Poll

July 29, 2009
Page B1

Confident in president's health care deadline?

"I still have confidence in him. If he doesn't make his deadline. He deeply wants to follow through with this plan and it will happen eventually."

— Keith Viazanko (Demo.)

"I agree with Obama, there needs to be a deadline. This country has waited too long for healthcare. They keep putting it off and can't let it go past fall."

— Jay Smith (Demo.)

"I think healthcare needs to be addressed, but shouldn't be pushed without proper funding."

— Kathy Warzybok (Repub.)

"I don't think it'll happen in years! There's no backing and they need to look for something affordable."

— Jim Priest (Repub.)

By J.T. Bohland

The Clarkston News' Millstream

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

Wed., July 29, 2009 The Clarkston (MI) News 1 B

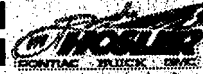
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Clarkston Area Optimists with some supplies gathered for a care package for Marines in Iraq. Photo by Phil Custodio

Marines give thanks for Optimists' help

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

In care packages sent to U.S. Marines in Iraq, Clarkston Optimists included greeting cards for Mothers' Day, Fathers' Day, congratulations, thanks, and other occasions.

The Marines knew what to do with the thank-you cards.

"The Optimists received 25 thank-you cards back from these young men and women from Iraq," said Curt Carson, Clarkston Area Optimist Club president. "It was actually not sur-

prising due to the evident character shown through by each of these young men and women.

"That was a hoot," said Robin Brose, vice president elect. "We weren't expecting them to send thank you notes. It was fun. It spurred us on to do more."

"It was certainly nice to receive a thank you from these young heroes, but what they had to say, set us back," Carson said.

Excerpts from the notes include:

• "Thank you for the care package. Things

from back home really boost morale. It is nice to know we are still supported in our efforts, especially by strangers." - Corporal Joseph;

• "We deeply appreciate the interest and concern you have shown for our well being. We ask that you keep us in prayer, as YOU will be in ours. Thank you for the support and God Bless." - Lance Corporal Edwin Morales;

• "Thank you for taking the time out of your day to send us a few things. It's nice to know that there are a few people out there that think

Please see Marine on page 3 B



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Around Town

Weather Wisdom, 11 a.m., Aug. 1, 1 a.m., Indian Springs Metropark Nature Center off Andersonville Road. Build a thermometer, barometer, wind vane, and rain forecaster. For grade 2 and up. \$3. 248-625-7280.

Nature by Rollerblade, 10 a.m., Aug. 1, Indian Springs Metropark Environmental Discovery Center off Andersonville Road. Interpreter led look at wetland areas. For ages 12 and older. \$2. 248-625-7280.

Just for Tots - Butterflies, 1 p.m., Aug. 2 at 1 p.m., Indian Springs Metropark Nature Center off Andersonville Road. Bring light colored shirt to create a lifecycle T-shirt. \$2. 248-625-7280.

Fun Car Show, 8-10 a.m., Aug. 2, Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road. Classics of all ages. 248-613-0213.

Nature Tech Day Camp, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Aug. 4-7, Indian Springs Metropark Environmental Discovery Center off Andersonville Road. For grades 4-6. Use GPS units, microscopes, weather stations, data loggers, computers. \$75. 248-625-7280.

Spray 'n' Play Nature Day, 12-3 p.m., Aug. 9, Indian Springs Metropark off Andersonville Road. Visit interpreter's tables to see Michigan animals, exhibits, crafts. 248-625-7280.

Wint's Healing Hearts Grief Support Group for all ages for those who have recently lost a loved one, 7 p.m., Aug. 11. Topic: "Normal Grief Responses." Led by Bereavement Counselor Emily Trahan. Carriage House, Clintonwood Park, Clarkston Road. Walk-ins welcome. Free. 248-625-5231.

Bucks for Buses, 5-9 p.m., Aug. 13. Fundraiser for transportation for seniors and disabled. Bullfrogs, 2225 S. Ortonville Road. Features band 40 Buffalo Band and Friends. 248-625-8231.

Insects Galore, 1 p.m., Aug. 15, at 1 p.m., Indian Springs Metropark Nature Center off Andersonville Road. Catch-and-release insect hunt, learn about insects, bug craft. \$3. 248-625-7280.

Labor Day Fair and Car Show, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sept. 7. Clarkston First Congregational Church, 5449 Clarkston Road. About 100 cars and trucks of all types, first 100 gets a dash plaque. Trophies, door prizes at 3:30 p.m. DJ Mark Farnsworth, food, kid's games, auctions, raffles, large flea market. 248-394-0200.

Adult Basketball League, 18 and over, 12-5 p.m., Sundays, Clarkston Junior High, 6595 Middle Lake. \$450/resident team. \$550/non-resident team. Referee fees are an additional cost. Independence Township Parks and Recreation, 248-625-8223.

Travel getaway, bus trip to Branson, \$650, Sept. 20-26, depart from Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road. 248-627-7445.

Pony Basketball League, for high school boys not on the school team, mid afternoons, Sundays, Clarkston Junior High, 6595 Middle Lake. \$200/resident team. \$300/non-resident team. all cost. Independence Township Parks and Recreation, 248-625-8223.

Mothers & More, non-profit dedicated to improving lives of mothers through support, education, advocacy, 7:15 p.m., third Monday, Red Knapp's Restaurant, 6722 Dixie Highway. 248-969-9788.

Grief Support Group, Coats Funeral Home, 6:30 p.m., first and third Mondays, Community Presbyterian Church, 4301 Monroe Street at Sashabaw. 248-623-7232.

Whose Got the Buttons, Mondays, July 20-Aug. 10, 6-9 p.m., Senior Activity Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. \$15 per person. Create a one-of-a-kind bracelet made with buttons. All supplies provided. 248-625-8231.

Therapeutic Yoga classes, Mondays, 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.; Tuesdays, 7:15-8:30 p.m., Jewels Yoga Fitness, 4612 Mountain View Trail, Independence Township. \$12 walk-in fee. 248-390-9270.

Bingo, Mondays, 6 p.m., sponsored by Divine Peace Metropolitan Community Church, at Knights of Columbus hall, 5660 Maybee Road. 18-way bingo, double action, regular jackpots to \$500, local progressive. 248-332-1186.

Clarkston Rotary Club, Mondays, 6:30 p.m., Deer Lake Athletic Club, 6167 White Lake Road. \$15. 248-625-4244.

Fountains charity poker, 5:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday. \$30 buy in. Fountains Golf and Banquet, 6060 Maybee Road. 248-625-3731.

Pilates and Sculpt, Mondays, 7-8 p.m., Bay Court Park's Lakeview room. Independence Township Parks and Recreation, 248-625-8223.

Clarkston Community Band rehearsals, 7 p.m., Tuesdays. Especially needed: percussion, clarinets, trumpets. \$30/semester. Band room, Sashabaw Middle School, 5565 Pine Knob Lane. Independence Township Parks & Recreation, 248-625-8223.

50+ Golf, Tuesdays, tee off 7:30-8:30 a.m. tee off. Heather Highlands, Springfield Township. On-going, non-league play. \$8 greens fee and \$12 registration fee. 248-625-8231.

Breast Cancer Support Group, first Tuesday, 7-9 p.m., MIRO Mid-Oakland Medical Center, 6770 Dixie Highway. 248-625-3841.

Needlework Night, fourth Tuesday, 6:30-8 p.m. Stitch and visit. Everyone welcome. Springfield Township Library, 12000 Davisburg Road. 248-846-6550.

Community Singles, third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Community Presbyterian Church fellowship hall, 4301 Monroe St., off Sashabaw, Waterford. All ages, men and women. 248-394-0412.

BNI, Clarkston Waterford chapter, Tuesdays, 7 a.m., St. Stevens Church, Sashabaw north of Walton. 248-625-1365.

Belly Dancing, Tuesdays, 10-11:30 a.m., Bay Court Park. Independence Township Parks and Recreation. 248-625-8223.

Outdoor Pickleball for 50+, Tuesdays/Thursdays, 7:30-9 a.m.; Fridays, 7:30-9:30 a.m., July and August. \$1 drop in fee. Tennis courts, Clintonwood Park. 248-625-8231.

Clarkston Area Optimist Club, 7:30-8:30 a.m., Wednesdays, Clarkston United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, 6600 Waldon Road. 248-622-6096.

Meet and greet, North Oakland Bethany, last Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Mesquite Creek, 7228 N. Main St. 248-464-0756.

Clarkston Area Lions Club, second and fourth Thursday, 6:30-8 p.m., Carriage House, next to the Senior Center, in Clintonwood Park. Visitors welcome. 248-802-8603.

Local Business Network, Ortonville/Clarkston Chapter, first and third Thursdays meets, 7:45-8:45 a.m., Mico's Real Estate, 7183 Main Street. 248-505-5091.


Local Business Network, Independence Township Chapter, 7:15 a.m., second and fourth Thursdays, North Oakland County Board of Realtors, 4400 W. Walton. Call Stacy Meagher, 248-241-6000.

Yoga for the fibromyalgia patient, 11:30 a.m., first Saturday. Taught by an instructor living with fibro. Support and community follows class; \$12 walk-in or purchase 10 visits for \$100 class card. Jewels Yoga and Fitness, 4612 Mountain View Trail, Clarkston, 248-390-9270.


Softball leagues, men and women, 50+ and 70+, Independence Township Parks and Recreation. Games run through beginning of August. Call Lisa McCoy at 248-625-8223.

Volunteering, Avalon Hospice, sit with patients, hold their hand, listen to stories, personal care, or just be there. Two hours a week or more. 800-664-6334; Oakland County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, 248-559-1147.

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Marine makes parents proud

Continued from page 1A

about us and appreciate and support us. Thank you again, we really appreciate it!" - *Sergeant Taylor*; and

• "Hey, I would like to say thank you for all that you have done for us. Words can't describe our appreciation or gratitude that we have for you. You all are the true heroes." - *name illegible*.

The Optimists sent at least one shipment a month since April to a Marine unit in which Clarkston Optimists John and Jane Cocciolone's son, First Lieutenant Ryan Cocciolone, is assigned.

Ryan, a 2002 Clarkston High School graduate and former Junior Optimist, is serving his second deployment in Iraq.

"We're very proud of him," Jane said. "They're very appreciative. They love it. It lets them know we're thinking of them."

The club will send more packages within the next couple weeks. To donate, call Carson at 248-620-2100.



First Lieutenant Ryan Cocciolone, in middle, commands a Personal Security Detail as part of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, First Marines, Ninth Battalion, stationed at Al Asad Airbase in Iraq.

Faded Ink



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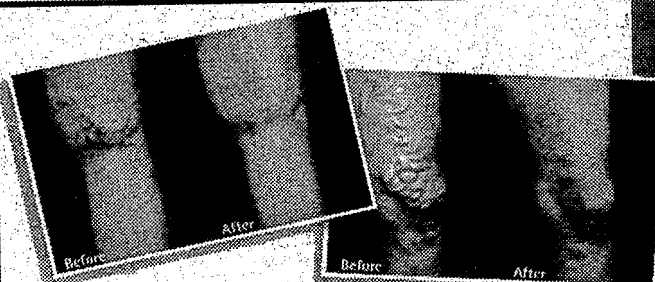
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"MY LEGS HAVE MORE ENERGY AT THE END OF THE DAY...NOT TIRED AND ACHY."
- 45 yr. old office worker, Burton

"I SHOULD HAVE HAD THIS DONE 10 YEARS AGO."
- 65 yr. old retiree, Grand Blanc

"I DIDN'T KNOW MY VARICOSE VEINS COULD GO AWAY WITHOUT SURGERY... NO MORE LUMPY BUMPY LEGS."
- 37 year old mother of 4, Davison

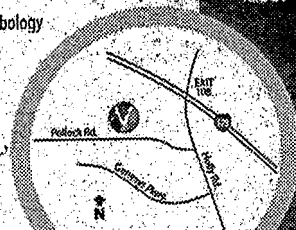
"THE SWELLING IN MY LEGS WENT AWAY THE NEXT DAY."
- 36 year old dance instructor

"IT'S 3 DAYS POST-OP AND I DIDN'T KNOW HOW MUCH MY LEGS REALLY HURT UNTIL AFTER THE PROCEDURE. I CAN'T WAIT TO GET MY OTHER LEG FIXED."
- 36 year old health care professional

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VARICOSE VEINS worsen over time. If untreated the symptoms of this unsightly condition may include symptoms such as pain, leg heaviness, leg fatigue, swelling, burning and itching. Eventually, varicose veins can lead to open sores on the foot, blood clots and tissue loss. So free yourself today and call to find out more about this quick and effective laser treatment.

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Brad M. Sweda, MD
Board Certified Vascular Surgeons



Why All The Household Dust?

I'm Keith Meadows, owner and operator of American Power Vac, Inc. For years, I've been improving our community's health one family at a time. 90% of the calls I receive everyday are from desperate people complaining about dust. They tell me they dust the TV on Friday, but by Sunday they are pushing the dust out of the way again so they can watch "Desperate Housewives" and none of them know exactly where it's coming from. I tell people that simply having your ducts cleaned will drastically reduce household dust, and the reason is, your cold air returns.

Cold air returns suck in dirty air, and over time it builds up until you have the same type of debris that you would find in your vacuum bag. Cold air returns are also the reason new homeowners are experiencing dust. While your drywall was being sanded, your cold air returns sucked all of the dust through the system and it settled on the bottom of the duct lines, where a little at a time it gets blown back into your home.

This debris cannot be removed without a professional. Which brings me to my next point: choosing an air duct cleaning company. Most companies use truck mounted equipment, which is like a shop vac that you would vacuum out your car with inside the back of a van, absolutely useless. Visit our website for photos of our equipment vs. truck mounted equipment at www.americanpowervac.com.

We use the right equipment to clean your duct work correctly.....the power vac truck. It is the most powerful equipment in the industry. This is where

the entire truck is the vacuum and the truck motor powers the equipment. It's the size of an ambulance and when engaged twelve large air bags will come out of the roof. What makes the difference in equipment? Power! To put things into perspective, your furnace moves 2,000 CFM's (cubic feet of air per minute), basically what you feel coming out of your register. Truck mounted equipment only moves 4,000 CFM's. American Power Vac moves over 16,000 cubic feet of air per minute, more than quadruple the power of any truck mounted equipment. The problem is that there are so many companies with inadequate equipment, advertising cheap prices in coupon books, that it gives people a false sense of what the job's worth. The average price to clean your air ducts correctly with the right equipment ranges from \$374 to \$499+ depending on the size of your home. Any company who charges per register or who has "\$99 Whole House Specials" are companies you want to avoid. American Power Vac, Inc. is

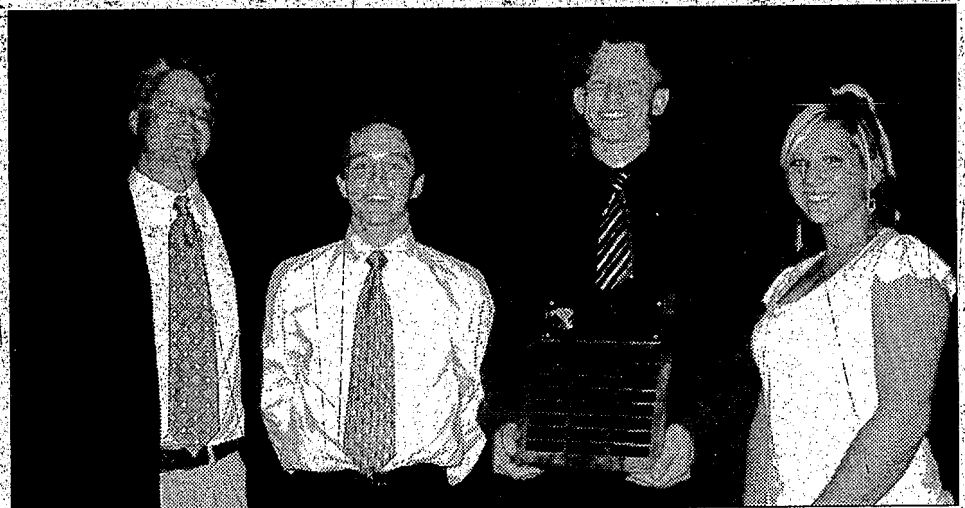


April and Keith Meadows help keep indoor air clean with their local business, American Power Vac.

family owned. You never have to worry about inexperienced teenagers coming to your home. As always, I will personally be there to make sure the job is done correctly. Stop your dusting and call now.

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Milestones



From left, Chris Howe presented Steve Howe Scholarship Awards to Erich Leichtnam, Luke Prudhomme, Shantel Uballe, and, not pictured, Jennifer Jochum. Photo provided

Students achieve success

Eric Leichtnam, Luke Prudhomme, Jennifer Jochum and Shantel Uballe are this year's recipients of the Steve Howe Scholarship Awards.

The Steven Roy Howe Memorial Fund was established to provide scholarship awards to a Baseball or Softball player that has demonstrated superior sportsmanship and athletic ability at Clarkston High School. The recipients are chosen by Dan Fife, athletic director. The awards were handed out by Chris Howe, Steve's brother, at the May 28 Senior Honors Assembly at Clarkston High School.

Lauren Moore was named to the Spring 2009 Dean's List at Taylor University.

She is a freshman majoring in Biology, and is a graduate of Clarkston High School.

Clarkston students Danielle Marie Calangelo, economics major, Marissa Alexandra Ortiz, majoring in English-literature, and Jack Richard Wolfe, English-literature major, were named to Denison University's spring semester dean's list.

Clarkston students Nicholas C. Arkwright, Victoria N. Dennis, Claire H. Glover, Kelly L. Keil, and Emily J. Pierce were named to the Dean's List for spring term at Northwood University.

Central Michigan University's spring semester honors list includes Clarkston students Daniel Patrick Adams, Anamarie D. Allingham, Lyndsay Andary, Jonathan Thomas Arcobello, Sienna M. Badalamenti, Katherine M. Bailey, Chelsea L. Bierschbach, Michael Loren-Alexander

Black, Benjamin J. Blade, Angela Marie Bollini, Heather Lynn Brady, Jonathan Charles Brown, Andrew Paul Cabaj, Krista Jordan Cassisi, Meredith Lynce Clark, Marina L. Dabrowski, Melanie Louise Dunnigan, Susan Elisabeth Fritz, Kaitlin Morgan Grost, Dustin Humphreys, Lauren Nicole Johnson, Amanda Rose Johnston, Jaclyn Anne Johnston, Kathrine Ann Klockow, Anne Christine Maxwell, Paul Daniel McKinney, Rebecca A. Meisner, Steven Edward Merritt, Brittany Rose Noble, Jessica J. Osmak, Rebecca Kaylyn Reas, Leah M. Schmidt, David Erik Smith, Lindsay K. Smith, Spencer Alexander Stege, Wei Sun, Justyne Raye Swiercinsky, William Robert Thompson, Jennifer M. Fittsworth, Stephen Daniel Trawick, Laycee N. Tubbs, Jessica Rachel Vance, Brittney M. Volin, and Michael J. Waraksa, and Davisburg students Stephanie L. Deneau, Adam R. Sharp, and Ashley R. Young.

Jordan deSchilde of Clarkston earned a Juris Doctor degree during spring 2009 commencement at Michigan State University College of Law.

Ashlynd Romkema of Clarkston was named to the Dean's List at Saint Mary's College for the spring 2009 semester. She is the daughter of K. Michael Romkema of Clarkston.

Lyndsey Kitson of Clarkston was named to the National Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at Grand Valley State University.

She is the daughter of Vicki and Don Kitson and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Political Science.

Send milestones to Clarkstonnews@gmail.com

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Religion

World may change, but God doesn't

We have an international event occurring that teaches us a very important lesson for life and one I hope our country learns from.

In the country of Honduras, we have been drawn into a major political conflict. The president of Honduras, Jose Manuel Zelaya, is a left-leaning person in close relationship with Hugo Chavez, president of Venezuela.

Chavez fancies himself to be a leader who will take up the cause of the poor, like his hero Fidel Castro of Cuba. One can only wonder if his intentions are altruistic or self-serving, but we can only guess.

Either way, he has convinced many people in his country to trust his intentions by making him their president first, then allowing him unprecedented political powers.

The constitution of his country limited the terms of the president to stop the trend of many Latin countries to be dominated by dictators. He was able to get the constitution changed through many political maneuvers.

Now many expect that he will exercise his increasing powers to sustain a lifetime in office, as Fidel Castro did in Cuba. Fidel maintained his complete control of Cuba for

50 years.

President Zelaya tried to follow Chavez's path recently by forcing a referendum on Honduras to change their constitution.

This referendum change would allow presidents to serve more than one term in office. He claimed that this was not for his benefit, but you can imagine what the leaders of Honduras believed.

Like the United States, Honduras has a three-branch system of government in order to bring checks and balances on the power of one group. Both the Honduran Congress and the Supreme Court ruled his actions as unconstitutional and a breaking of the law. Both branches in agreement sought his ouster and used the military to remove him from office.

Although it looks like a military takeover, it was in fact the actions of two branches of government seeking to limit the excessive authority of the other. Recent events certainly confirm their suspicions as Hugo Chavez has come out strongly endorsing Zelaya, using his formidable influence through oil wealth to do so.

The American government has come out of this situation on the side of Zelaya and Chavez!

Why has this happened? Because in our past, we were indeed guilty of using these kinds of maneuvers to help

Please see Spiritual Matters, page 12B

Spiritual Matters



Pastor Loren Covarrubias

In our churches...

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, biblically based, financial workshop for everyone, Sundays, 4 p.m. Calvary Lutheran Church, 6805 Bluegrass Drive, 248-625-1611.

Prayer Partner Training, 10:30 a.m., second Sunday. Participants will receive a prayer syllabus. All welcome. Peace Unity, at Sashabaw Presbyterian, 5300 Maybee Road, 248-891-4365.

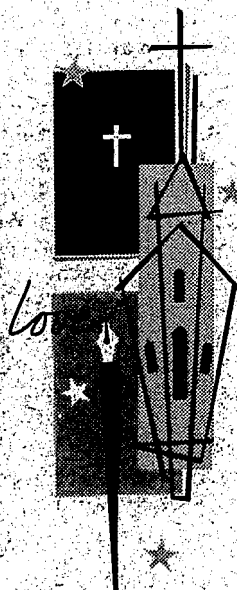
Bethany North, peer support to all faiths dealing with divorce or separation, general meeting, 7:30 p.m., fourth Monday, Cushing Center, St. Daniel Catholic Church, 7010 Valley Park, call Tim, 248-628-6825, or Joann, 248-673-2539.

Yoga, 10 a.m., Wednesdays; 5:30 p.m., Mondays, instructor Noreen Daly. Beginning and intermediate techniques. Bring mat. \$7/class. Peace Unity and Holistic Center, 8080 Ortonville Road, 248-625-5192.

Wednesday Evening FEAST, dinner at 6 p.m., worship at 6:50 p.m., classes for all ages, 7:15- 8:30 p.m. Free nursery. Calvary Lutheran Church, 6805 Bluegrass Drive, 248-625-3288.

The Four Spiritual Laws of Prosperity, class series based on the book by Edwene Gaines, Wednesdays, 12 p.m. Peace Unity Church, 8080 Ortonville Road, 248-625-5192. *Please see In Our Churches, page 12B*

CHURCH DIRECTORY



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 Worship Service
6:00 pm Worship Service
Wed: 6:45 pm AWANA
7:00 pm Teen Meetings & Adult Bible Study
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Broadcast Worship - Waterford
CATV-10 Tues: 2:30 pm
Worship:
Wed: Informal Worship 7:00 pm
Sun: 8:30 am Praise on 1st & 3rd,
Traditional 2nd & 4th
Sat: 6:00 pm
Sunday School 9:45 am
Preschool: 3-4 years old
Preschool: 620-6154

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Nursery Available: 9:00 & 11:00 am
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Bible Study Wed. Eve., 6:30 pm
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Phone (248) 858-2577
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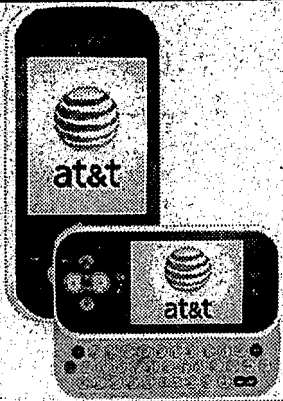
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Bible Study
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Youth Groups 6-12
Wednesday 6:30 pm
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6765 Rattalee Lake Road
Clarkston, 48348
(248) 625-1344
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Morning Worship Service
Exploration Station
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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
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Pastor: Russell Reemtsma
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10:30 am Worship Service
6:00 pm Evening Service
Wed: 6:15 pm Awana Club
6:30 pm Teen Ministry
7:00 pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study

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6300 Clarkston Road - Clarkston
(248) 625-1323
Home of Oakland Christian School
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6:00-8:00 pm
Sunday: Youth Ministries
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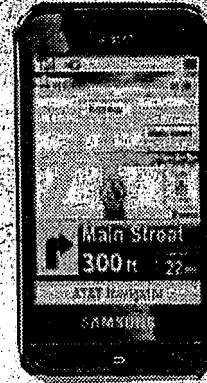
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**LG Xenon
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 - MP3 Music Player

Buy one at \$149 Get One FREE. After a \$50 mail-in rebate debit card and a new 2-yr service agreement for each phone. See below



**Samsung Eternity
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- 3 MP Camera
 - Full Touch Screen
 - Mobile TV
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 - Full HTML
 - Qwerty Keyboard

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- 3 MP Camera
 - Full Touch Screen
 - GPS Navigation
 - Quick Texting Keyboard

Buy one at \$249.99 Get One FREE. After a \$100 mail-in rebate debit card and a new 2-yr service agreement for each phone. See below



**AT&T USB Connect Mercury
FREE***

- Key Features**
- Mobile Broadband
 - Plug & Go Usability
 - Web, Email Capable
 - Memory Card Slot

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**Samsung Rugby
\$49***

- Key Features**
- Built to military specs to withstand dust, shock, rain, vibration, humidity and temperature extremes
 - Perfect for businesses with Walkie-Talkie capability

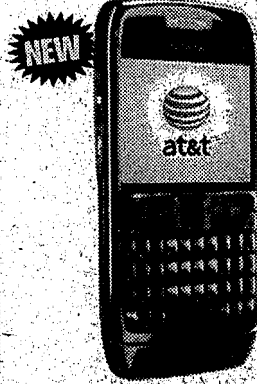
Buy one at \$49 Get One FREE. After a \$50 mail-in rebate debit card and a new 2-yr service agreement for each phone. See below



**BlackBerry Curve 8900
\$149***

- Key Features**
- 3.0 MP Camera
 - Wi-Fi Support
 - Qwerty Keyboard
 - Supports WAV, MP3, AAC, AAC+, WMA

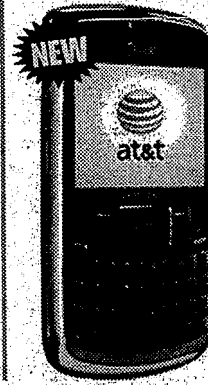
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**Nokia E71X
\$49***

- Key Features**
- 3.2 MP Camera
 - Microsoft® Outlook
 - Lotus® Notes®
 - Supports MP3, AAC, REAL, WAV & WMA
 - Full HTML Browser
 - Voice Guided GPS

After a \$50 mail-in rebate debit card and a new 2-yr service agreement for each phone. See below



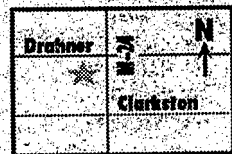
**Samsung Jack
FREE***

- Key Features**
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 - Wi-Fi Support
 - 3.2 MP Camera
 - XM Radio Mobile
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Harrison Township
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(Corner Jefferson & Shook Rd.)
586-790-1987

Royal Oak
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(Btw Crooks & Coolidge Inside K&S Mall)
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*AT&T also imposes monthly a Regulatory Cost Recovery Charge of up to \$1.25 to help defray costs incurred in complying with State and Federal telecom regulations; State and Federal Universal SVC charges; and surcharges for customer-based and revenue based state and local assessments on AT&T. These are not taxes or government-required charges.
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American Legion Chief Pontiac Post hosted Detroit Edison Post 187 players in celebrating their 1959 national championship.

Team celebrates 50-year championship anniversary

Chief Pontiac players and parents hosted a 50th anniversary celebration, July 25, for Michigan's only American Legion Baseball Team to win the national championship.

Most of the 1959 Detroit Edison Post 187 players, and retired White Sox pitcher Billy Pierce, attended the gala event.

They will be guests of honor at the State Championship Banquet in Adrian, July 29. On Aug. 31, Detroit Tigers hon-

ors the team at Comerica Park with a pre-game ceremony. Outfielder Rich Miller will throw the ceremonial first pitch at the game against Tampa Bay.

The team was 49-10 that season, 50 years ago, winning the Michigan title on Belle Isle in Detroit, Regional in Indiana, and National title in Hastings, Neb. The team was on the road for 23 straight days.



Billy Pierce shares some memories with his nephew, Art Kohn Jr.



Art Kohn, coach of the 1959 Detroit Edison team, enjoys the anniversary celebration with Chief Pontiac parents and players.

Clarkston Area Chamber of Commerce www.clarkston.org

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2009 Golf Classic a success!

22nd Annual Golf Classic June 29, 2009

Paint Creek Country Club

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2009 Chamber Golf Committee

CHAIR, Heidi Nettler, Escape International; Bill Burr, All Saints Cemetery; Dennis Deveja, Talent Development Group; Julie Frakes Lobaza, Infinity Business Solutions; Tom Lowrie, Lowrie's Landscape; Tim Martin and Connie Werner, Planned Financial Services; Kay Pearson, Max Brook/Real Estate One; Mark Peterson, National City Bank; Mike Spillum, AXA Advisors; Steve Gabbara, Szott Ford; and Tim Patterson, Booth Patterson PC.

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The Chamber Golf Classic provides essential funding to the Chamber, helping to cover operational expenses that are not covered by annual membership dues.

SEE PHOTOS from the Golf Outing at www.clarkston.org and on the Chamber's Facebook FAN page.

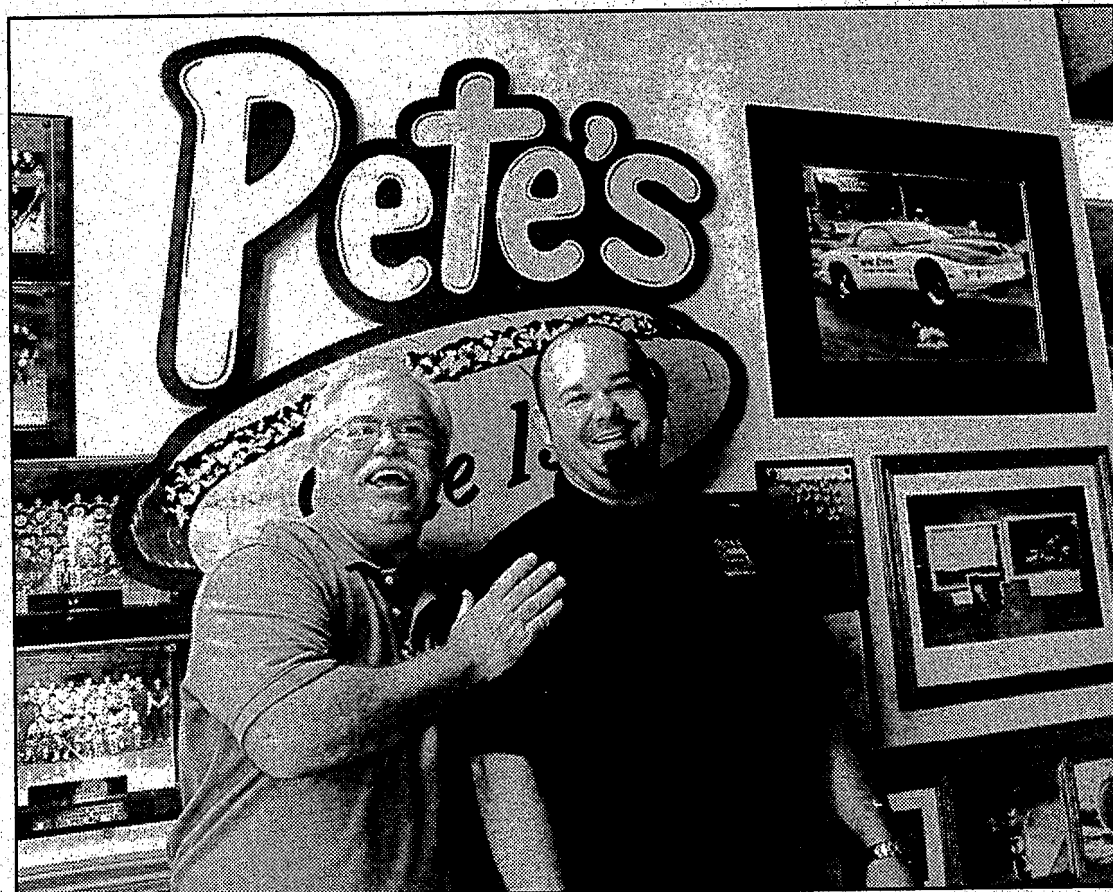
Follow the Chamber on Twitter @CACOC

What's the

Clarkston Area's Monthly
Business News & Info

Vol. 4 # 1

BIZ



Ed Zull, left, and Andy Zull pose for a photo and share a laugh at Pete's Coney II. Photo by Laura Colvin

80 years serving coney

Pete's Coney is celebrating eight decades of family business this year, including the past 22 years in Clarkston.

"The community was very receptive when we arrived here," said Ed Zull, who owns and operates the business on Dixie Hwy in partnership with his brother-in-law, David Slade. "They became a part of us, and we a part of them."

And Pete's community is still growing; Zull's son and daughter-in-law recently opened a new store at 4083 S Baldwin Road in Orion.

In Clarkston, Pete's Coney II is located at 6160 Dixie Highway. Call 248-623-4300.

Business News

RDM Associates of Clarkston announced that Michael Packard joined the firm as director of client services.



Prior to joining RDM Associates, Packard provided Enterprise Resource Planning and Customer Relationship Management systems consulting services in North

America, Europe and Asia with Blackbaud, Inc., provider of software solutions for nonprofit companies across the globe.

Dan Mayernik of Clarkston has joined ImageSoft, Inc., of Southfield as Enterprise Content Management practice manager.

Mayernik brings to ImageSoft more than 12 years experience in the enterprise content management industry, having worked, most recently, with Clearview Software in Auburn Hills, and prior to that, with Pyramid Solutions in Bingham Farms, Mich.

While at Clearview, Mayernik collaborated with the company's internal product development team and integration partners on SharePoint solutions. Additionally, he architected and developed large-scale IBM FileNet ECM solutions for Pyramid clients from a variety of vertical industries.

At ImageSoft, Mayernik will oversee a number of initiatives, including the company's "I" series of technology products (ISign), as well as AutoRedactor and SharePoint solutions.

Mayernik attended Wayne State University earning bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics.

Patrick Zaremba of Zaremba and Company of Davisburg received two awards in the Residential Design category from the Association of Professional Landscape Designers.

Correction

The article "Best Day Care: Planet Kids" should have said the childcare center's 10th birthday final celebration, with free child care for the Clarkston community, is Aug. 15.

Smith earns \$1,500 grant

American Business Women's Association-Greater Oakland Charter Chapter awarded a \$1,500 SBMEF educational grant to Mary Smith of Clarkston. She is a recent graduate of Oakland Community College and her studies are in Interior Design.



Obituary

Wint host Healing Hearts, Aug. 11

Carol A. Chamberlain, 67

Carol A. Chamberlain of Clarkston passed away, July 22, 2009, at the age of 67.

She was preceded in death by her husband Ron and son T.J. She was the mother of Barbara (Brian) Bayley of Pontiac, Ron (Gwen) Chamberlain of Clarkston, Jay (Derek Gans) Smith of Southfield, Jeff (Marnie) Chamberlain of North Carolina, Aaron (Derrick Lewis) Chamberlain of Brownstown Township; also survived by seven grandchildren and one great granddaughter.



Mrs. Chamberlain retired as Latchkey Director at Bailey Lake Elementary School, Clarkston Community Schools. She volunteered at Independence Township Senior Center, and Meals on Wheels.

Funeral service was July 27 at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Interment, All Saints Cemetery, Waterford. Memorials may be made to Independence Twp. Parks and Recreation/Spray Park. Online guest book www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Wint's Healing Hearts Grief Support Group for all ages for those who have recently lost a loved one will be held Tuesday, Aug. 11, 7 p.m. Topic of this month's meeting is "Normal Grief Responses."

The meeting will be led by Bereavement Counselor for Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston: Emily Trahan, M.A., LLPC.; Meeting location is at the Carriage House in the Independence Township Senior Citizen Complex in Clintonwood Park on Clarkston Road.

No registration is necessary, and admission is free. Call 248-625-5231 or email www.wintfuneralhome.com

Obituaries updated at ClarkstonNews.com



5690 Dixie Hwy., Waterford



From left are STAR Achievement Award winners Stephanie Schroeder of Troy, Denise Bristow of Independence Township, and Linda Nembhard of Pontiac, honored by Ruth Johnson, Oakland County clerk.

Honored for hard work

Denise Bristow of Independence Township, Tract Index supervisor in the Oakland County Register of Deeds Office, was honored recently with a STAR Achievement Award for exceptional service.

Bristow, a 35-year county employee, was recognized for her exceptional customer service and for her efforts working with federal authorities to combat deed and mortgage fraud.

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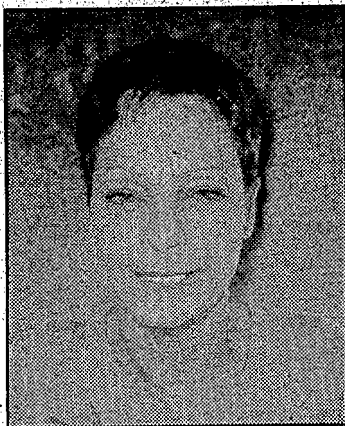
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Carol Evans - (President)

I am writing this letter to, as promised, keep you updated on the possibility of you losing your right to choose your garbage hauler. A report was recently finalized and presented to Oakland County and will soon be presented to the individual Township boards. It is my understanding that the report will include a recommendation that several Townships join together to form an Authority and contract out all waste, compost and recyclables hauling. Upon acceptance of this recommendation, and formation of this Authority; the Townships will begin to move forward with implementing the steps necessary to contract Solid Waste Hauling to whomever they choose, not you.

The company doing this study cites the fact that going to a contracted hauler will help mandate recycling initiatives as well as force haulers to provide single stream recycling. They have mentioned in a recent local newspaper article how Rochester Hills recently implemented such a program and attributes it to a waste hauler contract. I already provide this program. I saw that you wanted a more user friendly and comprehensive program and began single stream recycling last July. I have also begun talks on implementing a Rewards program to further encourage and assist our customers to "Go Green" and get involved in recycling. I did this because it was what was needed, both for our customers and to help protect the environment.

It is also stated that you will receive curbside pickup of compost at no charge. Again, I already provide this service. Our customers enjoy garbage, compost and single stream recycling at a very competitive rate, now, with no fuel surcharges or administration fees. No long term contracts. And in the rare instance that someone is unhappy with the quality of service that we provide, it has always been their right to switch to a different hauler. Isn't that what our nation is, or was, based on?

Additionally, it is being promised that fewer garbage companies will mean better roads. This really isn't true. There was a quote in *The Citizen* that quoted an employee from the Oakland County Road Commission as saying "It will not make a significant difference." Evidence of that can be seen by driving through some neighboring communities that have contracted solid waste. Their roads are typically no better than ours. Aside from that, who will be next? Will we force Fed Ex and DHL out of the area and only allow one delivery company on our roads, UPS? How about pizza deliveries or florists? Will we limit our road access to them as well?

I have received an overwhelming amount of support and responses to the letter that was mailed to you this past spring. A great many of you emailed and called me stating that you were opposed to this measure and wanted to know what you could do. The most important thing to do now is contact the leaders in the Township in which you live. Voice your opinion and let them know that it is your desire to keep your right to choose. Email or write your Township Trustees or Supervisor. Most importantly, find out when this issue will be on the agenda of the next Board Meeting and attend. Let your voice be heard. If you do not do so now, you may lose the right. Some of the people in charge of this study are taking the lack of vocal opposition as a sign of acceptance and are moving forward. A survey has been posted on your local government's website, but very few people even know about it, and the responses have been minimal. If you take the survey, please, keep in mind that we already provide the recycling program they want and are in talks to start a Rewards Program. I know based on feedback from my last letter that the idea of more government control worries a lot of you. It is time to make sure that each and every Township Official hears your voice. Tell them that you are against this measure. Let them know you are against forcing more small Michigan companies out of business.

Thank you,
Carol Evans, President
Smith's Disposal

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Lou Columbus



David Fischer



Debbie Schlegelmilch

The Penske Automotive Group has reached a preliminary agreement to acquire the Saturn brand.

"It's really exciting to work one on one with the Penske Automotive Group to facilitate this purchase. Mr. Penske has a real vision for Saturn."

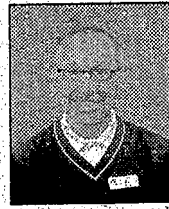
- Tom Delke, President of Saturn of Clarkston, & Saturn of Southfield

"Saturn has a passionate customer base and outstanding dealer network. For nearly 20 years Saturn has focused on treating the customer right. We share that philosophy, and we want to build on those strengths."

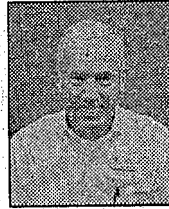
- Roger Penske, Penske Automotive Group Chairman



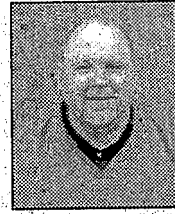
Tom Schaefer



Anthony Angel
Internet Sales Manager



Rick Clift
New Vehicle Sales Manager



John Pearson
Used Vehicle Sales Manager



George Rasak
General Sales Manager



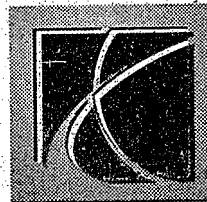
Angie Rüssom
Financial Service Manager



Jeff Saber

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Charter Township of Springfield

NOTICE OF HEARING OF PRACTICABILITY LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD FOR SUSIN LAKE

Notice is hereby given that the Lake Improvement Board for Susin Lake in the Township of Springfield, County of Oakland will meet at the **Springfield Township Civic Center, 12000 Davisburg Road, Davisburg, Michigan at 7:00 PM on Monday August 24, 2009** to determine the practicability of 4 year renewal of a quality lake water management program consisting of aquatic weed control, dam and boat launch maintenance, inspection, repairs and improvements, lake study / testing and administration for the years 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 for the improvement. The estimated annual cost of the project is \$23,775.00

This hearing is called pursuant to the provisions of Sections 30910 of Part 309 of Public Act No. 451 of 1994, as amended.

Lake Improvement Board for Susin Lake
Publish 7/29 & 8/12

PUBLIC NOTICE

Charter Township of Springfield

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF ASSESSMENT LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD FOR SUSIN LAKE

Notice is hereby given that the Lake Improvement Board for Susin Lake, Township of Springfield, County of Oakland, will meet at the **Springfield Township Civic Center, located at 12000 Davisburg Road, Davisburg, Michigan on Monday August 24th immediately following the Hearing of Practicability scheduled to begin at 7:00 PM.** The purpose is to review, to hear any objections to, and to confirm a four-year assessment roll for the purpose of implementing a weed control program, and provide for dam and boat launch maintenance, inspections, repairs and improvements, lake studies / testing and administration for Susin Lake for the years 2010, 2011, 2012, & 2013. The estimated annual cost of the project is \$23,775.00 and the special assessment roll will be on file at the Springfield Township Offices for public examination.

Any person may appeal and be heard at the said Hearing, which is called pursuant to provisions of Sections 30913 of Part 309 of Public Act No. 451 of 1994, as amended. The special assessment must be protested at the Hearing held for the purpose of confirming the special assessment roll before the Michigan Tax Tribunal may acquire jurisdiction of any special assessment dispute. Appearance and protest of the special assessment at the time and place of review is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. An owner of or party in interest in property to be assessed, or his or her agent, may appear in person to protest the special assessment or may protest the special assessment by letter filed with the Springfield Township Supervisor, Attention: Susin Lake Improvement Board, 12000 Davisburg Road, Davisburg, Michigan 48350 at or prior to the time of review, in which case personal appearance is not required. If the special assessment is protested as provided above, the owner or any party having an interest in the real property may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 30 days after the confirmation of the special assessment roll has been published in a newspaper of general circulation.

Lake Improvement Board for Susin Lake
Publish 7/29 & 8/12

PUBLIC NOTICE

Charter Township of Springfield

The Springfield Township Park Commission is looking for a candidate to fill a vacancy on the Commission. The Commission is a seven member elected board that oversees the management of 553 acres of natural areas, a swimming beach, a community center and recreational programming. Springfield Township residents that are over eighteen years of age may submit a resume and a letter of intent to Jennifer Tucker, Director of Parks and Recreation, at the Springfield Township Parks office at 12000 Davisburg Road in Davisburg by August 14, 2009. The Springfield Township Board will be appointing a chosen candidate on September 10, 2009.

If you should have any questions, please contact Jennifer Tucker at (248) 846-6558.
Published: 7/29/09

PUBLIC NOTICE

Charter Township of Springfield

NOTICE OF HEARING OF PRACTICABILITY LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD FOR BIG LAKE

Notice is hereby given that the Lake Improvement Board for Big Lake in the Township of Springfield, County of Oakland will meet at the Springfield Township Civic Center, 12000 Davisburg Road, Davisburg, Michigan at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 20, 2009 to determine the practicability of implementing a three year (2010, 2011 & 2012) renewal of a lake management plan for the Aquatic Weed Control program for Big Lake.

This Hearing is called pursuant to the provisions of Section 30910 of Part 309 of Public Act No. 451 of 1994, as amended. **BIG LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD**

NOTICE OF HEARING OF ASSESSMENT LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD FOR BIG LAKE

Notice is hereby given that the Lake Improvement Board for Big Lake, Township of Springfield, County of Oakland, will meet at the Springfield Township Civic Center, 12000 Davisburg Road, Davisburg, MI 48350, immediately following the Hearing of Practicability which is being held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 20, 2009 to review, to hear any objections to, and to confirm a three year special assessment roll for the purpose of implementing an Aquatic Weed Control Program for Big Lake for the years 2009, 2010, & 2011. The estimated annual cost of the project is \$89,100.00 and the special assessment roll will be on file at the Springfield Township Offices for public examination.

Any person may appeal and be heard at the said Hearing, which is called pursuant to the provisions of Sections 30913 of Part 309 of Public Acts No. 451 of 1994, as amended. The special assessment must be protested at the Hearing held for the purpose of confirming the special assessment roll before the Michigan Tax Tribunal may acquire jurisdiction of any special assessment dispute. Appearance and protest of the special assessment at the time and place of review is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. An owner of or party in interest in property to be assessed, or his or her agent, may appear in person to protest the special assessment or may protest the special assessment by letter filed with the Township Supervisor, Attention Big Lake Board, 12000 Davisburg Road, Davisburg, MI 48350 at or prior to the time of review, in which case personal appearance is not required. If the special assessment is protested as provided above, the owner or any party having an interest in the real property may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 30 days after the confirmation of the special assessment roll has been published in a newspaper of general circulation. **BIG LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD**
Publish 7/29 & 8/5

VIRGINIA

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WISE COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF A CHILD TO BE KNOWN AS SIERRA JADE STANLEY, BORN MAY 30, 2005 BY EVERETT E. STANLEY, SR. AND LINDA G. STANLEY ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of the above-styled matter is an adoption of a child to be known as Sierra Jade Stanley.

And, it appearing by affidavit filed according to law that Elizabeth A. Bowman, the biological mother of the child to be known as Sierra Jade Stanley, whose last known whereabouts and address was Clarkston, Michigan.

And, it is therefore **ORDERED** that said Elizabeth A. Bowman appear on or before the 19th day of August, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. in the Clerk's Office of this Court and do what is necessary to protect her interests.

And, it is further **ORDERED** that this order be published once a week for four (4) successive weeks in the *The Clarkston News* a newspaper of general circulation in Clarkston, Michigan; that a copy of this order be posted at the front door of the courthouse wherein this court is held.
6-30-09 Jack Kennedy

WISE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CLERK

I ask for this:
JOSEPH F. HUNNICUTT
Adkins & Hunnicutt
P.O. Box 626
Norton, Virginia 24273
(276) 679-0696

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The Clarkston News
clarkstonnews@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Because the People Want to Know

INDEPENDENCE TWP.

SYNOPSIS

TAKEN BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE JULY 21, 2009

1. The regular meeting of the Charter Township of Independence Board was called to order at 7:30 p.m., at the Independence Township Hall.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call: Present: Wagner, VanderVeen, Carson, Rosso, Lohmeier, Wallace, Petterson
Absent: None
- There was a quorum
4. Opening Statements and Correspondence
5. The Agenda was amended by adding #5, Task Force Member
6. Citizens were offered an opportunity to address the Board regarding subjects that were not on the Agenda. Public Forum closed at 7:54 p.m.
7. Accounts Payable Check Run was approved
8. Agreement with Independent Contractor for HR services was ratified.
9. Approved postponing discussion regarding Qualified Statements to the August 4th meeting.
10. Approved changes to Employee Manual
11. Rescinded motion of May 5, 2009, moving \$40,000 to Building Fund
12. Approved motion to go into Closed Session to discuss update on Collective Bargaining Agreement with Teamsters
13. Reopened Regular Meeting at 9:45 p.m.
14. Adjourned Regular Meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Shelagh VanderVeen
Township Clerk

Published: 7/29/09

PUBLIC NOTICE

Because the People Want to Know

INDEPENDENCE TWP.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Date and Time: August 4, 2009, at 7:30 p.m.

Place: Independence Township Hall

6483 Waldon Center Drive, 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 will 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 Regular Meeting Minutes of July 7, 2009, and Special Meeting Minutes of July 14, 2009
 - b. Approval of Accounts Payable Check Run

Unfinished Business:

1. Petitions on National Pollution Discharge Elimination Systems Phase II General Permits - Resolution Authorizing Township Attorney to Prepare and Submit Order of Dismissal of Petitions for Contested Case Hearing
 2. Discussion regarding Qualified Statements
- #### New Business:
1. Comcast PEG fees
 2. Approval of Safety Path Repairs
 3. Review of Safety Paths
 4. Sewer Rate Study
 5. Annual Spring Clean-Up
 6. Employee Personnel Manual: Amendment to Procedure 1080.1 from Employment-Discharge Language
 7. Job Posting for Head of Teen Services position at Library
 8. Tri-Party Funding and recommendation for project
 9. Second Quarter Investment Report
 10. Financial Reporting of Parks and Recreation Department
 11. Proposal to require all regular and special Township Board meetings to be videotaped and broadcast by the Cable Department

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 disabilities at a public hearing/meeting upon advance notice in writing or by calling the Township Clerk's Office at (248) 625-5111.

Spiritual Matters

continued from 5B

dictators on our side to maintain power, often times against the popular will of the people.

Now we are trying to prove that we are not what we used to be. The problem with these actions is that we are now doing what we always said we would not do, and that is, intervene into the affairs of the people of Latin America. We are threatening to cut off aid and use our influence to direct the affairs of Honduras. The only difference is the side we are on.

The point of this discourse is to point out how important it is to live by principles and not by external influence.

Any time you are trying to prove something, you respond to a situation not by principle, but by the expectations or the opinions of others.

However, proper behavior, both in the international realm of life and personal realm of life, requires that we live life by a standard of laws and principles. These principles can be fluid as we grow in experience and understanding, but they must be guided by the underlying premise that we established.

We have become a world and a country constantly responding to the events of the times; we are becoming like a ship at sea without a rudder.

This is why I love the Bible. Even in the history recorded we see the changing response of God to man, but the underlying story is still the same.

God is the same and His character is the same. He says so in His word: "I am the Lord who changes not."

The Rev. Loren Covarrubias is pastor of Mt. Zion Church.

In our churches

continued from 5B

625-5192.

Rainbows meetings, Thursdays, 7-8 p.m., Cushing Center., St. Daniel Catholic Church, 7010 Valley Park Drive. Outreach program for children and adults dealing with change in their lives due to death, divorce or other significant loss. 248-625-1750.

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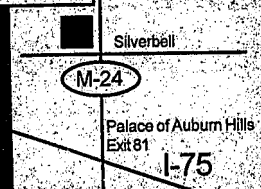
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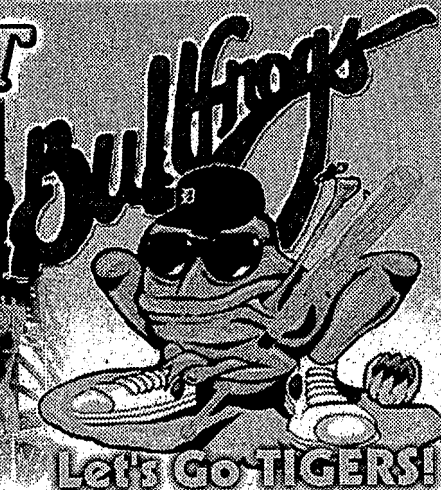
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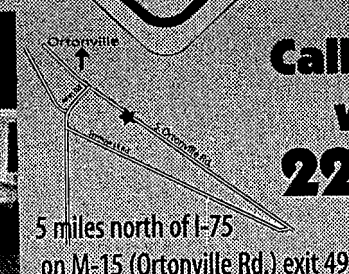
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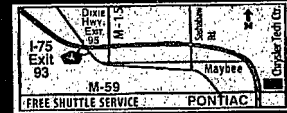
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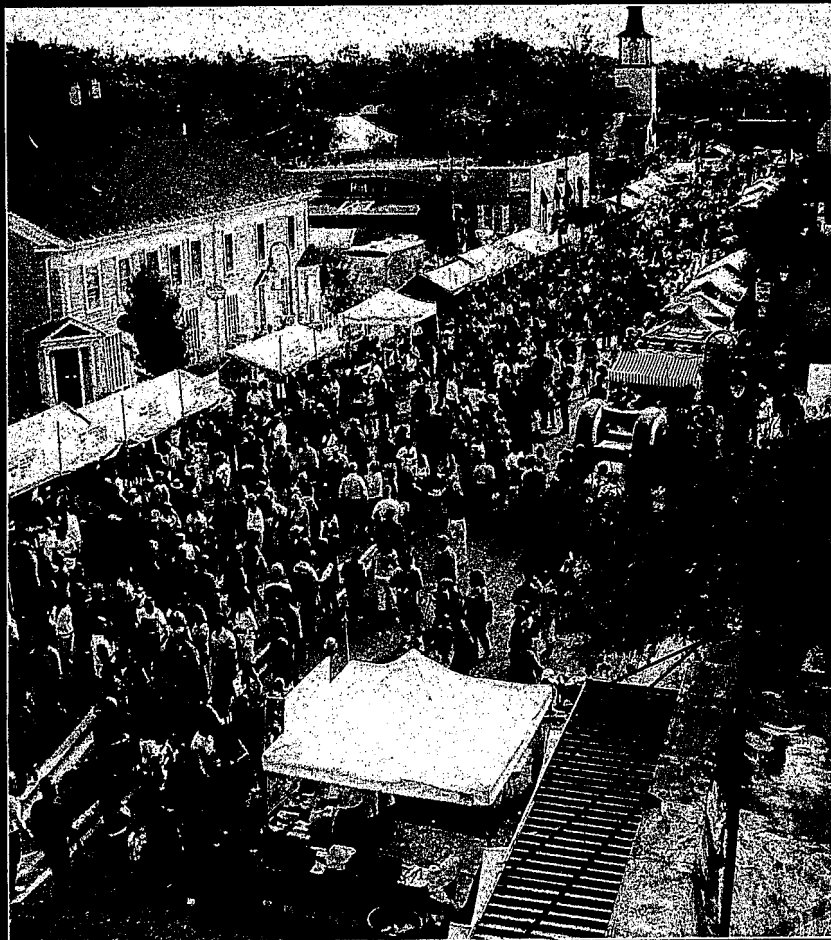
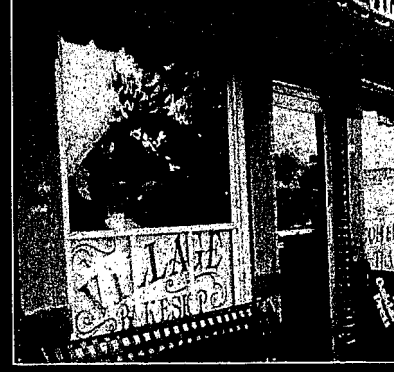
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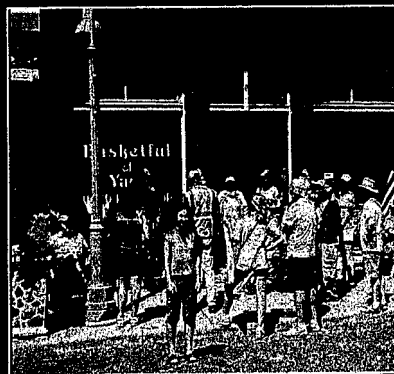


Best of the Best 2009



As voted by The Clarkston News Readers

A Special to The Clarkston News & Penny Stretcher



Congratulations to the following businesses who were voted 1st place in our "Best of the Best" contest!



- Best Veterinarian - Advance Pet Care
- Best Real Estate - Real Estate One/Max Brook
- Best Place to Worship - Bridgewood Community
- Best Attorney - Robert Kostin
- Best Dry Cleaners - Champs Cleaners
- Best Gas Station - Marathon Station
- Best Auto Mechanic Shop - Gott's Auto Service
- Best Auto Body Shop - Clarkston Auto Body
- Best Photography - Winship Studio's
- Best Place to Exercise - Snap Fitness
- Best Florist - Waterford Hill Florist
- Best Financial Planner - Scott Hazelton-Edward Jones
- Best Community Newspaper - Clarkston News
- Best Daycare - Planet Kid's
- Best Hair Salon/Barbershop - Randolph's Hair Studio
- Best Towing Company - Clarkston Auto Body
- Best Ice Cream - Clarkston Dairy Queen
- Best Deli - Rudy's Quality Market
- Best Hamburger - Culver's
- Best Tanning Salon - Luxor Executive Salon
- Best Party Store - Pine Knob Wine Shoppe
- Best Coney Island - Pete's Coney II
- Best Insurance Agent - Dave Smith - State Farm
- Best Pizza - Guido's Pizza
- Best Dance Studio - Spotlight Dance Studio
- Best Caterer - Gourmet Cafe
- Best Optometrist - Allison Eye Care
- Best Bar/Pub - Hamlin Pub
- Best Bakery - Clarkston Village Bake Shop
- Best Restaurant - Mesquite Creek
- Best Breakfast - Leo's Coney Island
- Best Coffee - Tim Horton's
- Best Grocery Store - Krogers
- Best Gift Store - Union General Store
- Best Chiropractic - Hamilton Chiropractic
- Best Physician - Clarkston Medical Group
- Best Dentist - Dr. Krull
- Best Orthodontist - Munk & Associate
- Best Credit Union - Clarkston/Brandon Credit Union
- Best Bank - Oxford Bank
- Best Sandwich - Tropical Smoothie
- Best Auto Wash - Towne Center Auto Wash
- Best Landscaper - Lowries Landscape
- Best Auto Dealership - Al Deeby Dodge Chrysler Jeep
- Best Community Organization - Clarkston Lions Club
- Best Fish Fry - Oakland County Sportsmen Club



Barbara Stinson, with Dr. Gregory Hamilton

Best Chiropractor: Dr. Hamilton

Dr. Gregory B. Hamilton is very grateful to all the people who voted him "Best Chiropractor" for the third year in a row.

"I think the main reason that we won is our attention to patients," he said. "Patients come first and foremost in a practice and that shows by our success."

Hamilton established his clinic in 1985. Almost 25 years later he is still striving to provide the highest quality Chiropractic care

available.

"For over 20 years, I've been providing patients with an effective alternative to drugs and surgery with a holistic approach to healthcare," he said. "We are continuing to add more technology, including state of the art computerized diagnostics, and computerized foot scans."

Call Dr. Hamilton, 7180 Dixie Hwy., at 248-625-7690

*Thanks to All of Who Voted us
Best of The Best for The 3RD Straight Year!*

HAMILTON CHIROPRACTIC

Chiropractic Care for the Entire Family
Serving Clarkston for Over 20 Years
FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION AND EXAMINATION
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Specializing in:

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Featuring Surface E.M.G.
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WHY WE USE COMPUTERIZED SPINAL EXAMINATIONS...

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7180 Dixie Hwy., Clarkston, MI
1 Mile S. of I-75, Near the Corner of Dixie Hwy. & White Lake Rd.

FREE
Computerized Scan
of Your Spine
Mention this ad.



Spotlight Dance Center students perform at events all over Clarkston.

Best dance studio: Spotlight

Musicals, parades, talent shows, and benefits—Spotlight Dance Center students can be seen at all kinds of community events, said Wendy Harris, owner and instructor.

The center offers classes—in ballet, tap, hip hop, lyrical, creative movement and more—for recreational as well as competi-

tive students, age preschool through adult.

“We provide our students with the highest quality dance training and teach kids to believe in themselves, and to work toward their goals,” Harris said.

Spotlight Dance Center is located at 7183 N. Main Street, Suite B. Call 248-625-9030.

Best financial advisor: Scott Hazelton

“I think it’s a nice honor. I was very surprised when I got the nomination,” said Scott Hazelton of Edward Jones, whose been working in the Clarkston area for the past 17 years.

Hazelton said he still remembers going door to door handing out business cards when he first started in the Clarkston area in 1993.

“I think I literally knocked on every door in Clarkston and Independence Township,” he said. “I think we’ve built up a good reputation here in town, and whoever voted for me, I want to thank them.”

One of the things helping him be one of the best is he is a local guy and clients like that.

“They’re not dealing with someone in Southfield, Detroit, or out of state. They like the fact that I’m accessible,” Hazelton said. “There is someone here to take care of you Monday through Friday. There is someone in the office every morning at 8 a.m. and someone usually here after 5 p.m.”

The other thing in which Hazelton prides

himself is looking out for clients’ best interests.

“I try to be very proactive in calling and servicing my clients the best I can,” he said. “We don’t have a cookie cutter method. We look at each individual’s situation and try to prescribe the best investment for them. I think that’s one of the things we do pretty well.”

Call Scott, 21 S. Main Street, at 248-625-7016.



Scott Hazelton of Edward Jones.



Thank You for Voting us #1 in Clarkston!



BEST OF THE BEST
Clarkston, Independence and Springfield Township



2009 Clarkston News Reader's Choice
1st Place

- * Dance classes for ages 3 thru adult
- * Offering Creative Movement, Ballet, Pointe, Tap, Jazz, Hip-Hop, Lyrical
- * Friendly, Experienced, Certified Instructors
- * 3 Classrooms with Sprung Floors
- * Conveniently Located on Main near I-75




SPOTLIGHT Dance Center

248.625.9030


7183 N. Main St.,
Clarkston, MI 48346

www.spotlightdance.com

Registration:
10th Anniversary Open House
Saturday, Aug. 29th
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Registration Continues:
August 31 - Sept. 3
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.




BEST OF THE BEST
Clarkston, Independence and Springfield Township



2009 Clarkston News Reader's Choice
1st Place


Thank You for Voting Us #1

Whether you are starting your financial future, or planning for retirement, call Scott Hazelton at Edward Jones for your financial advice.



Scott R. Hazelton
Financial Advisor

21 South Main Street
Clarkston, MI 48346
248-625-7016
www.edwardjones.com



Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Member SIPC



The Mesquite Creek staff.

Best Restaurant: Mesquite Creek

"It's really exciting, not only because we were voted Best of the Best, but because this is the second year in a row," said Tony Vitale, general manager.

"It's an honor and a privilege to be here in Clarkston and be able to do what it is we do. Thank you to everyone who voted for us and thank you to everybody who keeps continually coming to see us."

The "biggest ingredient" that makes them

the best is the staff, Vitale said.

"Especially in these trying times, the whole team is really pulling together to make sure we keep striving for excellence and striving to be better and better at what we do," he said. "I just give a lot of credit to all the team members who are going above and beyond to make sure every experience is extraordinary."

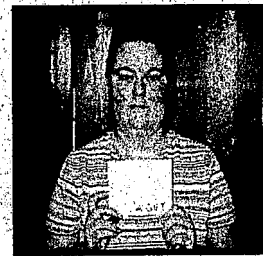
Call Mesquite, 7228 N. Main Street, at 248-620-9300

Dear Clarkston, Independence and Springfield Township Residents ~ Thank You!!! Following are winners from our "Best of the Best" contest, as chosen by you. Those who voted know why these are the "Best of the Best" in town. For those who did not vote, check them out and discover for yourself what it takes to be the "Best of the Best."

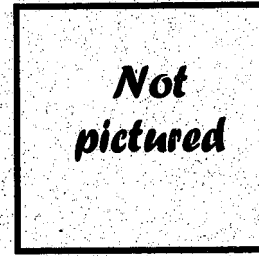
Thank You! Gift Certificate Winners!



Anne Clifton & Daughter ~ 1st Place
Gift Certificate "Spotlight Dance Studio"



Kathy Freeman ~ 2nd Place
Gift Certificate "Leo's Coney Island"



David Mroz ~ 3rd Place
Gift Certificate "Pete's Coney Island"



The New

Mesquite Creek

steaks & seafood

7228 N. Main Street • Clarkston

Conveniently located on M-15 off I-75

Thank You for Voting us "Best of the Best"

\$10 OFF

Your Purchase of 2
or More Entrées
Available Sunday-Thursday

Excludes Early Diner Specials. Valid only at Mesquite Creek in Clarkston, MI. Not be used with any other offer. One certificate per table. Dine-in only. Must present this certificate. Expires 8/31/09.



BEST
Restaurant



New Rear Entrance
Patio Seating Available

Mon-Thu 11-10pm • Fri & Sat 11-11pm • Sun 12-9pm

248-620-9300

www.mesquitecreek.com

Best Eye Care: Allison Eye Care

Dr. Allison M.B. Schulte, voted Best of the Best Eye Care, serves the community in which she lives.

"We see our patients in the community, at Krogers and the Union," said Eric Schulte, administrator and Dr. Schulte's husband. "We have a relationship with them, a long-term relationship."

"We live by the Golden Rule, do our best and treat others as we would like to be treated," said Dr. Schulte, owner of Allison Eye Care.

Dr. Schulte, certified doctor of optometry, spends lots of time with patients, answering their questions and addressing all their needs.

This is the first Best of the Best award for Allison Eye Care.

"I think it's great," Eric said. "It's nice to be recognized - a nice pat on the back."

"I'm very appreciative of all our patients



Dr. Allison M.B. Schulte, with her husband Eric Schulte, and, standing, Dee Lintz, optician, Maggie Atkinson, optometric technician, and Jessica Listerman, optometric technician.

in the community," Allison said.

Dr. Schulte graduated in 1992 from Illinois College of Optometry, and opened her practice in 1998. She specializes in comprehensive visual examinations and a full range of vision care services.

Call Allison Eye Care, 6770 Dixie Highway, Suite 203, at 248-922-1111.



Jimmy, Michelle and Eddie, of Champ's Cleaners, are two-time winners.

Best Dry Cleaners: Champ's

At Champ's Cleaners, business partners and brothers Eddie Karana and Jimmy Frejat work hard to provide customers with high-quality, friendly, convenient, and on-time service.

"We always keep our promises, and we always do our best to make our customers happy," said Karana. "We want to thank our customers for voting us Best of the Best

again this year. We look forward to providing quality service, as always."

Champs offers a full range of professional services, including dry cleaning, leather cleaning and restoration, professional alterations, wedding gown preservation, and laundry service.

Champ's Cleaners is located at 6315 Sashabaw Road. Call 248-620-0104.



Dr. Schulte would like to thank all of the Clarkston News readers that have voted her as the Best of the Best. This award serves as recognition that Dr. Schulte always puts the patient first. It is these patients that have kept Allison Eye Care open for the last 11 years. Dr. Schulte is your Primary Care Physician for your Eye health. She can Diagnose, treat and manage diabetes, macular degeneration, glaucoma along with many other eye diseases. Foreign Body removal and Eye Emergencies are handled every day by Dr. Schulte.

As a life long Clarkston resident, Dr. Schulte has found the support of the community and her patients to be uplifting.

Patients that are hard to fit or medically necessary contact lens wearers will find all of their concerns addressed by the Doctor.

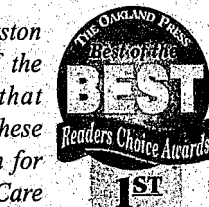
If you are in need of spectacles then the staff at Allison Eye Care can help you with all your vision needs. Our Opticians have the knowledge of the latest lens technologies that will help you in your everyday life. We are currently scheduling new patients and can work with your vision insurance. Your Insurance questions can be easily answered by our Billing department. Call 248-922-1111 to answer these questions and see if we can make an appointment for you and your family.

Allison M. B. Schulte, O.D.

T.P.A. Certified Doctor of Optometry

6770 Dixie Highway • Suite 203 • Clarkston, MI 48346

248.922.1111



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Laundry Shirt Service • Wedding Gown Preservation

6315 Sashabaw Road • 248.620.0104

*Some Restrictions Apply. See Store For Details.



The staff at Waterford Hill Florist works to give customers the best.

Best Florist: Waterford Hill Florist

If it comes from Waterford Hill Florist, it has to be a high-quality product.

"We're really conscientious about what we send out," said owner Theresa Petherbridge. "If we don't like it, the customer's not going to like it. Our name is our reputation. It has to be good."

Waterford Hill is a full-service florist offering arrangements for funerals, weddings, parties and other events.

Gift baskets, stuffed animals, plants, and

services such as graveside deliveries for shut-ins are available, as well. Petherbridge said she's also happy to help a family during difficult times.

"If they have a funeral and don't have the money to pay for flowers, we just let them come in and pick something out," she said. "We don't limit them, we just give them a book and let them decide what they want."

Waterford Hill Florist is located at 5992 Dixie Highway. Call 248-623-0081.



Del Yeoman, Guido's of Clarkston owner, center, and staff were proud to win Best Pizza again this year.

Best Pizza: Guido's

"We would like to thank all of our customers for voting us Best of the Best for the second consecutive year," said Del Yeoman, owner of the Guido's Pizza franchise at 5960

Sashabaw Road. "We at Guido's of Clarkston promise to provide the best customer service and product quality that we all expect." Call Guido's Pizza at 248-620-9999

The Owner's & Staff at Waterford Hill Florist wish to thank our loyal customer for voting us #1 Best Florist



**5992 Dixie Hwy.
Clarkston**

248.623.0081



2009 Clarkston News Reader's Choice 1st Place

Waterford Hill Florist

Our Gift to You

15% OFF

(not valid on Holidays)

Expires 12-31-09



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CLARKSTON BEST OF THE BEST FOR THE 2ND CONSECUTIVE YEAR!

PIZZA · PASTA · SUBS · SALADS · CHICKEN WINGS

THANK YOU COUPON!

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Large Deep Dish

\$7.99 w/One Topping

Clarkston location only • Not valid with any other coupons • Expires 8-30-09



2009 Clarkston News Reader's Choice 1st Place



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Clarkston • Independence
Next to Kroger

WE DELIVER!

Carry-Out · Catering

Monday-Thursday	10am-10pm
Friday-Saturday	10am-11pm
Sunday	11am-10pm

(248) 620-9999

Best Bank: Oxford Bank

Thanks for your kind support! Oxford Bank is very proud to be nominated by you, the readers of the *Clarkston News*, as the Best of the Best in the Clarkston area.

We truly value our relationship with our customers and the entire community, which makes receiving this 2009 Reader's Choice 1st Place award very special.

Each day we challenge ourselves to provide competitive banking products in a courteous and professional manner to you, our valued customers. We enjoy helping you, your family and businesses manage your banking needs.

As we continue to celebrate, in 2009, our

125th year, this award is heartfelt by all our employees, many of whom you've come to know over the years. We intend to continue our longstanding relationship with the community of Clarkston for centuries to come.

For those we haven't yet had the pleasure of serving, we invite you to open up a checking account, CD, or talk to us about a home loan, business loan, line of credit or other banking products.

We would welcome the opportunity to provide you with ongoing, outstanding, customer service—Oxford Bank style.

Thanks again for voting us the BEST OF THE BEST in the Clarkston community!



Al Deeby, Jennifer Buckman, and David Ryda of Al Deeby Dodge Chrysler Jeep.

Best Dealer: Al Deeby Dodge Chrysler Jeep

The whole team at Al Deeby Dodge Chrysler Jeep is extremely honored to be selected as the Best Dealer in the *Clarkston News* "Best of the Best" voting.

We moved to Clarkston in 2004 because of the family feeling and home town community setting.

We experience that every day as people come into our store; and we feel that all year

long in events like Clarkston SCAMP, Taste of Clarkston, the Clarkston Chamber Golf Classic and the wonderful Holiday Lights Parade.

We greatly value and treasure your trust, your business and your friendship; and we pledge to always take good care of you and our community.

— Al Deeby Dodge Chrysler Jeep

The Clarkston News/Penny Stretcher Best of the Best Section Wed., July 29, 2009 7

125 Years of



Thanks to you, we're #1!

Our sincere thanks goes out to the communities of Clarkston, Independence and Springfield Township, for voting us "Best of the Best" in the area. Your show of support for Oxford Bank in the *The Clarkston News* Readers' Choice competition is very humbling.

We try very hard every day to provide you with helpful banking products and an outstanding customer service experience each time you interact with Oxford Bank. You've helped make 2009 even more special as we are also celebrating our 125th anniversary!

Thanks again for voting us your #1 bank.



BEST Bank



7199 N. Main Street, Clarkston • 248.625.0011 www.oxfordbank.com

"Your Hometown Dealer"



Thank You for Voting Us the
Area's #1 Auto Dealership!

248.620.0800

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8700 Dixie Hwy., Clarkston



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Jeep

visit at www.aldeeby.com

(Exit 93 off I-75)



Children enjoy Planet Kids' outdoor play areas.

Best Day Care: Planet Kids

Planet Kids, a family owned, Christian values Childcare Center was recently named winner of Best of the Best Day Care for the second year in a row.

Planet Kids has been building better families for 10 years, and building is definitely a Planet Kids theme in 2009.

"We love what we do," said owner Kelly Collins, a U of M graduate of behavioral science and early childhood development.

"We are investing more in the lives and learning environment of our children in many ways, including creating a new, 1,000-square-foot Lego Land room," said Kelly. "Kids learn through the business of play. This open area gives them space to socialize, build and grow."

Planet Kids has a low staff turnover which ensures a knowledgeable and stable environment for families and children.

"We are proud of our staff," said Kelly. "They are the heart and foundation of Planet Kids. We want the best for our children and families, so we hire the best."

Planet Kid's has been busy celebrating their 10th birthday all summer long with multiple community and family events. The final celebration will take place on August 1st with Planet Kids offering free child care to the Clarkston Community.

"Everyone is invited to come spend a day with us, celebrate and see what we're all about," said Kelly.



Real Estate One / Max Broock's strength comes from its Realtors.

Best Realtors: Real Estate One/Max Broock

Real Estate One / Max Broock Realtors earned the Best of the Best Realtor award through experience and expertise.

"We have a great group of people here, very professional and knowledgeable," said Realtor Angie Batten.

Each Max Broock associate is a proven professional, expert in the latest technology in buying and selling real estate, work-

ing diligently toward achieving clients' goals.

"Today's market is very different, more than ever before," Batten said. "Agents make sure they're educated and able to provide a multitude of services."

For more information, call Real Estate One / Max Broock Realtors, 31 S. Main Street, at 248-625-0200.

Where Being a Kid Is out
of This World!

Now Enrolling



Planet Kids

6 weeks - 12 years

Flexible Scheduling

Full time/Part time

Spring Break & Summer Camps

Star Academy

2 1/2 - 4 1/2 Preschool

Beginnergarten

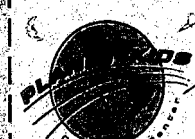
Junior Kindergarten

Full day Kindergarten

New Extended Hours:

Monday - Friday 6am-10pm

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New Enrollees:

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Manager Justin Noble, owner Danelle Orr, and manager Darla Sherman run Clarkston's Dairy Queen.

Best Ice Cream: Dairy Queen

Customer service helped earn Clarkston's Dairy Queen the Best of the Best Ice Cream award.

"We try to keep improving and give customers everything they want," said owner Danelle Orr. "Our menu changes all the time. If we don't have something, tell us, and we'll make it."

Orr accepted the honor with store managers Darla Sherman and Justin Noble.

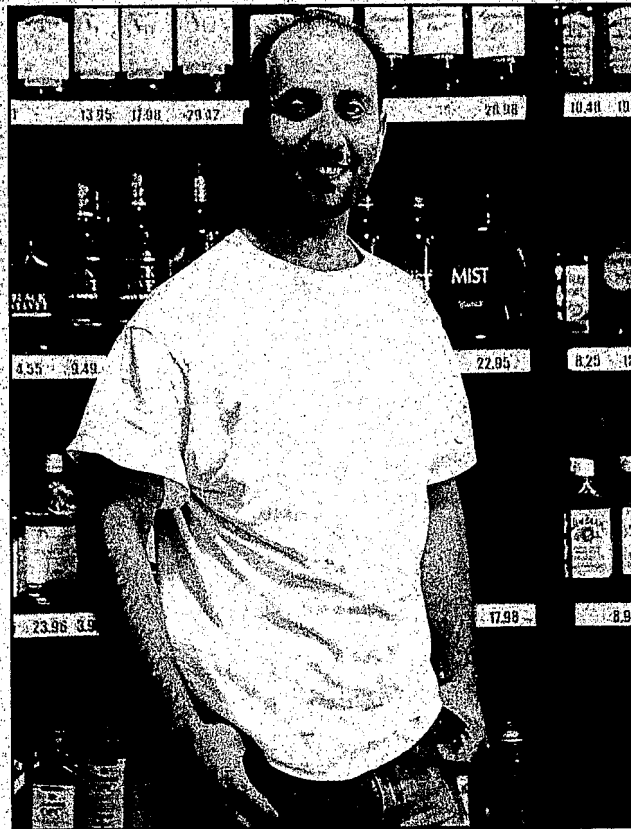
"I think it's an honor, really awesome," Sherman said.

"It's cool," Noble said. "We appreciate it. We'll keep working hard."

"I want to thank these two," said Orr, who is undergoing treatment for cancer. "They run the store for me, these guys and my awesome staff. Kudos to them."

Call Dairy Queen, 5890 Ortonville Road, at 248-625-0099.

Best Gas Station: Marathon



Marathon Gas Station owner Najy Kajy now carries a wide selection of liquor, which he sells at the minimum price allowed by the state.

Marathon Gas Station owner Najy Kajy says he gives his customers good service, good prices and keeps his store very clean.

"We love our customers, and they love us," he said. "That's why they keep coming back."

In addition to gasoline and an array of convenience products, the store now carries a wide variety of liquor.

With shelves stocked floor to ceiling, Kajy said customers are sure to find what they're looking for, or discover something new.

"We have a very nice selection, which we sell at the minimum state price," he said. "You can't get it for less anywhere else."

Marathon Gas Station is located at 4951 Sashabaw Road. Call 248-618-0343.

BEST OF THE BEST
Clarkston, Independence and Springfield Township

BEST Ice Cream

2009 Clarkston News Reader's Choice 1st Place

Clarkston Dairy Queen

Thanks

to the Community for Voting our Ice Cream

The Best

Dairy Queen

M-15 (Ortonville Rd.)
Clarkston, MI
248.625.0099

\$1.00 OFF
any flavor, any size
Blizzard

Dairy Queen
Not valid with any other special.
Clarkston Location Only.
Expires 10-01-09

BEST OF THE BEST
Clarkston, Independence and Springfield Township

BEST Gas Station

2009 Clarkston News Reader's Choice 1st Place

Thank You For Voting us The Best Gas Station for Two Consecutive Years!

Ask for "Najy"

Largest Liquor Selection at State Minimum Price!

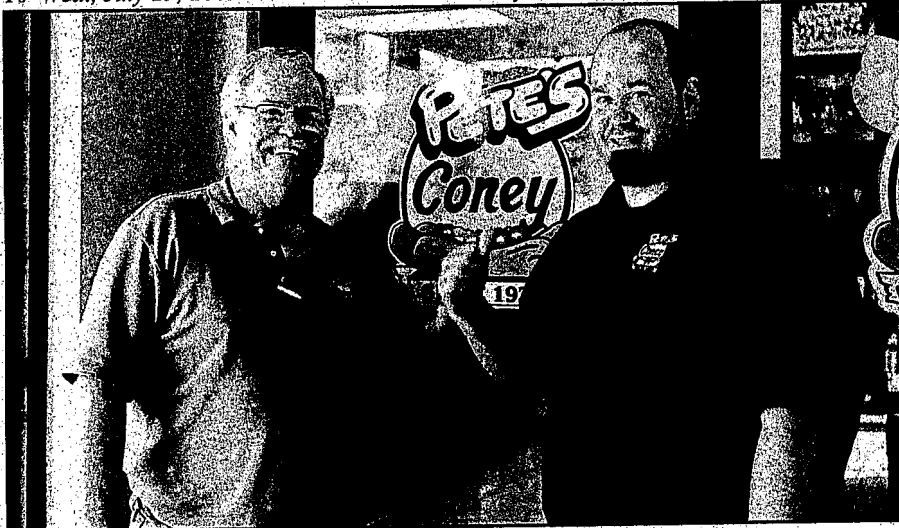
We appreciate your loyalty and will continue to offer excellent service to all our customers!

We are proud to be Clarkston's "Best of the Best" gas station.

MARATHON GAS STATION

4951 Sashabaw Rd. • Clarkston

248.618.0343



Ed and Andy of Pete's Coney II enjoy working together.

Best Coney: Pete's II

Pete's Coney II doesn't have any "customers."

"Everyone who comes in is a friend," said owner Ed Zull. "Everyone who comes in is an important part of what we do."

With great food, cleanliness, good service, and good, quality food at fair prices—not to mention the opportunity to hear another of Zull's jokes or stories—folks keep coming back again and again.

"Winning Best of the Best is quite an honor and tells us our customers appreciate

what we do," Zull said. "We create great meals and a great atmosphere and they enjoy it."

Pete's offers a large menu with selections for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

And now, hungry diners who live closer to Orion have a new option.

Pete's new Orion store run by Zull's son Andy, is open on Baldwin about a mile north of I-75.

Pete's Coney II is located at 6160 Dixie Highway. Call 248-623-4300.

Best Dentist: Dr. George Krull

Dr. George Krull said he was "absolutely tickled to death," to be voted the best dentist in the Clarkston area.

"I want to make it perfectly clear that it's my staff that makes me the best," he said. "They're the important ones out there. I'm simply the quarterback."

After graduating from Indiana University, Krull finished up his schooling at the University of Detroit Mercy and decided to go into private practice.

"I heard about this little town called Clarkston, came up here and visited it. I was met with an invitation from Dr. (Charles) Munk, which was very encouraging," he said. "I decided to put my shingle up here, and felt very lucky that I've made a wonderful decision early on in my career."

Krull said this is where he raised four now adult children.

"One of whom is about to get married," he said proudly.



Dr. Krull and his assistant Gerry Matchiak work on patient Julia Lester.

Krull has served the Clarkston area since 1979. He spent his first eight years working out of Munk's office and has spent the last 20 years in his office across from the 52-2 District Court on Citation Dr.

Krull also belongs to the American Pediatric of Dentistry, where he has given out state examinations for pediatric dentist candidate for the past three years.

"Someday I might even retire," he said with a laugh.

Call Dr. Krull at 248-625-3603.

Thank you for your continued confidence in Pete's Coney II. We appreciate you taking the time to vote us **#1 Best Coney in Clarkston!**

Sincerely,
Ed & Andy

Pete's Coney II
10% OFF Total Bill
May not be combined with other offers or discounts. Expires 08-29-09.

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Best Bank: Clarkston Brandon Community Credit Union

Clarkston Brandon Community Credit Union, serving the Clarkston area for more than 50 years, was voted Best of the Best Bank.

"We are very proud to be named the Best of the Best," said Donna Bullard, president/CEO.

One thing that hasn't changed is the bank's dedication to serving its members.

"Our members are our owners and we strive to make sure every time they visit us, either in person or by using our online services, they have an exceptional experience," Bullard said.

"I think one of the reasons we were honored with this award is we have not lost sight of the reason for our existence - our members. When you put the needs of people first, the business flourishes as a result."

CBCCU offers a full range of financial services, from all types of loans, mortgages, vehicles and VISA, to on-line bill payment services.

"We sponsor five student run credit union branches, two Credit Union sites in Clarkston and Ortonville, a Zoogles Savings Club for our young members, an onsite ATM, and an in-house financial advisor," she said. "We



Front from left, Sian Jasso and Renee Doyle, and standing from left, Susan Cole, Colin Wethy and Alisa Williams, of CBCCU.

can take care of your financial needs. If you want a friendly, member-service driven organization with people you know when you walk in the door, come see us. Thanks again for choosing CBCCU as Best of the Best. We won't let you down."

Best Baked Goods: Village Bake Shop

Quality earned Clarkston Village Bake Shop the Best of the Best award three years in a row, as well as second-place honors for Best Bakery in Oakland County.

"The bakery takes a lot of pride in what we bake, starting with quality ingredients, and everything is made from scratch, including our signature cookies," said owner Stephanie Vo. "Donuts and danishes are also made fresh daily. We also grind our coffee beans for the freshest and best cup of coffee in town, creamy cappuccinos, and espressos are made to order."

The shop also specializes in cakes for weddings, birthdays, and other occasions.

"Our customers are very special to us, most on a first-name basis. The bakeshop is also a place where you can come and relax and talk about the daily topics. It's a relaxed, comfortable atmosphere. We will always strive to be the best in town for our customers!"

New offerings include four flavors of ice cream, she said.

"And also fruit smoothies for those hot, summer days," she said. "So when in the area, stop in and say hello and try a fresh baked



Stephanie Vo, owner of Village Bake Shop.

donut and coffee. We appreciate all of the support we get from the community and our loyal customers."

Call Village Bake Shop, 10 S. Main St., at 248-625-0677.

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Clarkston Office
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Clarkston, MI 48348
248-625-2923

Brandon Office
4 South Street
Ortonville, MI 48462
248-627-9944

www.cbccu.org

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"Best of The Best"

for the 3rd consecutive year!

Everything we bake is from scratch and made fresh daily - Donuts, Scones, Muffins, Bread, Our famous Signature Creative Cookies, Cakes, Bars, Pies, Pastries and much more. We offer Specialty Coffee's and Whole Bean Coffee. Smoothies, Ice Cream and the Best Coffee in Town!

Clarkston Village Bakeshop

\$1.50 Plus Tax **Small Coffee and Regular Donut**

with coupon. Expires 8-31-09

www.clarkstonvillagebakeshop.com

10 S. Main, Clarkston

248-625-0677

Best Body Shop, Towing: Clarkston Auto Body

Clarkston Auto Body and Towing earned two Best of the Best awards, one for Auto Body and the other for Towing.

"We're honored to be voted Best of the Best for the third year in a row," said owner Dale Verhey. "I enjoy working with the people of Clarkston. Many customers have been coming here for 30 years – for that, I say thank you."

The family-owned business was started in 1976 by Dale and his father, Paul Verhey. Paul retired in 1990, but now Dale's son Nick Verhey works there, in charge of towing.

"We're in our third generation now," said Dale. "We treat people the way I want to be treated."

"People trust us to do a good job, stay honest, and do what we say we'll do," Nick said.

They employ about 20 people in three lo-



Dale Verhey and his son Nick Verhey, Clarkston Auto Body and Towing, with their heavy towing truck, a popular attraction at the annual Tons of Trucks.

cations in Independence Township and Waterford.

"We wouldn't have kept going if not for my employees – some have been here 25 years," Dale said.

They use the latest in training and equipment, including a new 50-ton Low Boy trailer for long-distance transport of heavy equipment, all over the country.

Call Clarkston Auto Body, 6470 Sashabaw Road, at 248-625-0080.

Thank You For Voting Us
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24-Hour Towing
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3 Locations

6470 Sashabaw & I-75 248-625-0080	5475 Dixie Highway 248-623-0900	3458 Sashabaw & Walton 248-628-1000
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Best Community Organization: Clarkston Lions

Thank you very much for selecting us the "Best of the Best" Community Organization in 2009! To even be considered among the other Clarkston Service Organizations is an honor in itself.

The Clarkston Area Lions support a variety of sight and hearing related organizations that provide services to our community. Some of the better known examples are Leader Dogs for the Blind, Lions Visually Impaired Youth Camp in Lapeer, Lions Hearing Center of Michigan, Welcome Homes Residential Services, Detroit Radio Information Service, Beaumont Silent Children Fund, and the Michigan Eye Bank.

We also support Lighthouse of Clarkston, SCAMP, O.A.T.S., and the Christmas in Action program. In addition, our club provides annual donations to both the Independence and Springfield Township Libraries. The library contributions are used to purchase books and facilities for the sight impaired. Past donations have helped to purchase large print and talking books,



Lion Angela Tenbusch prepares to take another photo at one of the free eye screening events.

a desktop magnifier, and software to help the sight impaired use personal computers.

Multiple times per year, the Clarkston Area Lions provide free eye screening to pre-school children using photo technology in cooperation with Children's Hospital. This non-invasive photo screening can detect most problems that cause poor vision in young children. It is a great tool, as in most cases the child doesn't know that he or she has a vision

problem. We were able to screen 106 children during four photo screening events conducted during the past 12 months, and we look forward to surpassing that number in the coming year.

The Clarkston Area Lions are also a resource for those who live in our community and need eyeglasses or hearing aids, but cannot afford them. Since our club was chartered in 2005, we have provided eyeglasses to more than 40 area residents, and have assisted two resi-

dents to obtain hearing aids at reduced or no cost.

The Club collects used eyeglasses and hearing aids that are recycled throughout the world. Thanks to many volunteers, it only costs about ten cents to pay the expenses to fit a pair of used eyeglasses to someone in a third world country. For many it means the difference between work and no work or between learning in school or not. All optical facilities in the Clarkston area accept used eyeglasses and hearing aids for the Clarkston Area Lions. Our club has recycled over 12,400 eyeglasses and 94 hearing aids since 2005.

Funding for the above activities comes from a variety of fundraising events, including Entertainment Book sales, selling refreshments at a Concert in Depot Park, and White Cane Week. White Cane Week is the one time a year when local Lions ask the community for donations to help fund the eye care and other services discussed above.

Please visit our website at clarkstonlions.org to see a detailed

list of all the organizations and activities we support. The Clarkston Lions meet at 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at the Carriage House in Clintonwood Park. We would like to invite any man, woman or couple interested in helping others to be our guest at a meeting and consider membership!

Lion Rob Whitcomb, President
Clarkston Area Lions





Brian Pieper and staff at Tropical Smoothie.

Best Sandwich: Tropical Smoothie

It's an honor to be voted Best of the Best, said Brian Pieper, manager of Tropical Smoothie on Sashabaw Road.

"It says we're doing things right," Pieper said.

It's the quality of the products and how well it's put together that makes them the best.

"It's all about staying consistent with the same amount of meat, same amount of sauce

on every single sandwich, quality of the products, they are just top of the line," he said. "We stay away from preservatives, we stay away from steroids, antibiotics, and that's a big deal. It makes the taste of the food so much greater when you don't have the preservatives in there and that's what makes us different."

Call Tropical Smoothie, 7150 Sashabaw Road, 248-620-8005.

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Every Thursday is Kid's Night - Face Painting and Balloons!

Receive 10% OFF The Total Bill	\$1.00 OFF Total Bill Over \$10	\$2.00 OFF Total Bill Over \$20
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of equal or lesser value

Participating location(s) only. One coupon per customer per visit. Not valid with any other promotion or offer. Expires 08-31-09

Congratulations to the following businesses who were voted 2nd place in our "Best of the Best" contest!



Veterinarian - Springfield Vet
Real Estate - ReMax Encore
Dry Cleaners - Spencer's Dry Cleaning
Gas Station - Speedway
Auto Mechanic Shop - Morgan's Service
Auto Body Shop - S & L Auto
Photography - Family Treasures
Place to Exercise - Deer Lake Athletic Club
Florist - Parsonage
Financial Planner - Freedom One
Community Newspaper - Oakland Press
Daycare - Learning Experience
Hair Salon/Barbershop - Clarkston Hair Studio
Towing Company - Morgan's Service
Ice Cream - Dairy Dream
Deli - Brioni's
Hamburger - Red Knapp's
Pizza - Hometown Pizza
Dance Studio - Bella Pointe Studio
Caterer - Tropical Smoothie
Optometrist - Oakland Eye Care
Bar/Pub - Mr. B's
Bakery - Lisa's Confection Connection
Restaurant - Hamlin Pub
Breakfast - Mel's Grill
Coffee - Starbuck's
Grocery Store - Rudy's Market
Gift Store - Bird Feeder
Chiropractic - Dr. Cowan
Physician - Marie Livieratos
Dentist - Dr. Prudhomme
Orthodontist - Orthodontist Specialist
Credit Union - Genisy's Credit Union
Bank - Chase Bank
Sandwich - Subway
Auto Wash - Clarkston Auto Wash
Landscaper - Bordine's
Auto Dealership - Saturn of Clarkston
Insurance Agent - Karen McMurray - All State
Community Organization - Scamp
Coney Island - Leo's Coney Island
Party Store - Dixie-Davisburg Party Store
Attorney - Dennis Kacy
Place to Worship - Mt. Zion
Fish Fry - American Legion
Tanning Salon - Metropolitan

Thank You

Readers of The Clarkston News for Choosing Us...



The Clarkston News is proud to be a part of the Clarkston, Independence and Springfield Township Communities and we'd like to express our sincerest thanks to our readers for choosing us Best of the Best!

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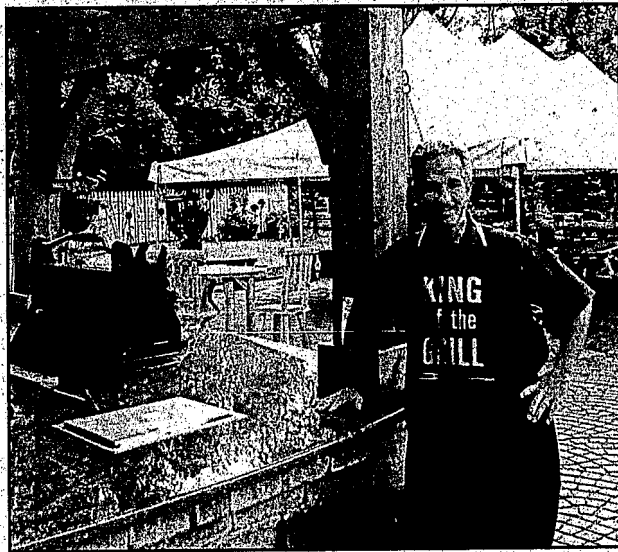
or stop by our door at
5 S. Main Street in downtown Clarkston

Best Landscaper: Lowrie's

Tom Lowrie is in it for the long haul, and said it's "awesome" to be recognized as Best of the Best by the community.

"We always stand behind our products and services," said Lowrie, who's owned and operated Lowrie's Landscape since 1979. "It's important to take care of warranty issues properly—I can't tell you how often we get calls to redo or finish another landscaper's job. They go out of business, or just don't finish the job, and their customers are left with a mess."

Not so with Lowrie's Landscape. The Springfield Township company offers a wide range of services, including an in-house design and build team to plan the perfect landscape, patio, water feature, putting green or other outdoor amenity. Lowrie's also offers bulk supply and delivery of items like mulch, topsoil and gravel. Inside the store, a boutique features accessories such as bird baths, sundials, and statuary.



Tom Lowrie now offers an outdoor area for parties and other events.

Recently, Lowrie began offering an outdoor space—complete with putting green, outdoor gas grill, fire pit, swing set, and plenty of seating—for those interested in hosting a party or other event.

The area, located behind Lowrie's Landscaping, comfortably accommodates about 80 people.

Lowrie's Landscape is located at 9539 Dixie Highway. Call 248-625-8844.

Best place to exercise: Snap Fitness

Snap Fitness Clarkston is proud to have been voted "Best Place to Exercise" for the second year in a row! Free week trial memberships and free enrollment coupons are being offered to anyone looking to get fit and feel great for summer 2009 and beyond!

The mission of Snap Fitness Clarkston is to provide members with a fast, convenient, and affordable workout experience. With 24/7 access to world-class fitness equipment, members can workout at their own pace, on their own time, in a clean, safe, and comfortable environment.

With no contracts and simple membership options, members have the flexibility to utilize a membership plan that works specifically for them.

And with access to the 1,000 Snap Fitness locations nationwide, members can work out close to home, work, or anywhere else!

Snap Fitness Clarkston is dedicated to the ongoing satisfaction and personal wellness of members. With personal training, free



Ron Kulenkamp, Matt Kulenkamp, and Tom Heist.

online features, and continued in-club enhancements, members can always be on the lookout for something new.

As an added incentive, members will have the chance to win free months and free prizes, just for coming in and working out! Snap Fitness Clarkston: Always Open, No Contracts, Fast Workouts, Fast Results! Snap Fitness is locally owned and operated.

For more information and pricing options, contact Clarkston by phone at 248-625-2100, on the web at www.snapfitness.com/clarkston, or in person at 5900 Sashabaw Rd, in the Kroger Plaza.

LOWRIE'S Landscape Celebrating 30 Years of Business!

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Thank You To All Of The Clarkston News Readers For Your Votes 2 Years In A Row!

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2009 Clarkston News Reader's Choice 1st Place

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248.625.8844 • www.LowriesLandscape.com

BEST OF THE BEST
Clarkston, Independence and Farmington Townships
BEST Fitness Center

2009 Clarkston News Reader's Choice 1st Place

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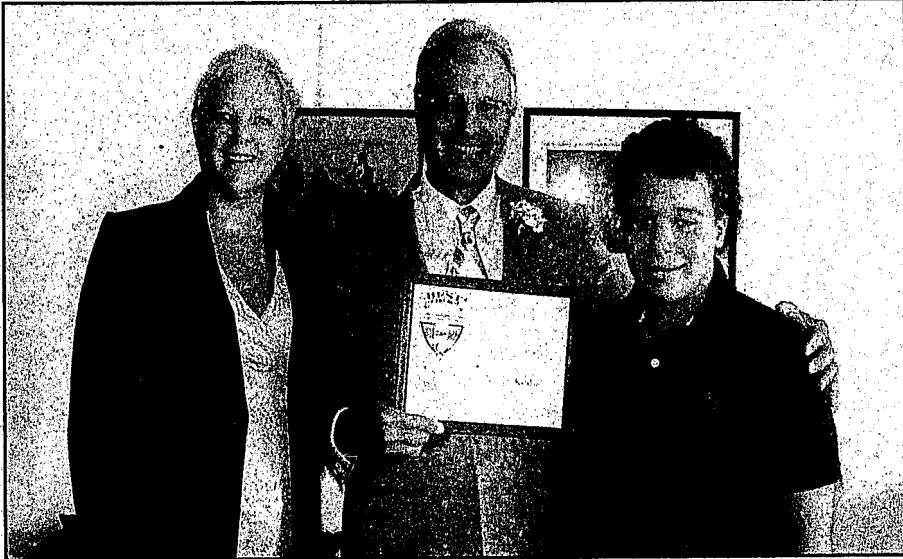
- Brand New state-of-the-art cardio and strength training equipment
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Clarkston
5900 Sashabaw Rd. - Kroger Plaza
Corner of Sashabaw and Maybee

248-625-2100
www.snapfitness.com/clarkston

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A \$149 Value
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Kelley Kostin, Robert Kostin, and Shay Kostin

Best Attorney: Robert Kostin

"My parents taught me to always do the right thing," said second year in a row Best of the Best Attorney Robert Kostin.

Doing the right thing is how Kostin tries to live out every aspect of his life, both in his law practice and his personal life.

"To stay the best, I'm going to use technology to better communicate in business and continue to be the best dad, husband, and attorney I can be," he said.

Not only does Kostin take pride in his

work and his family, he is also proud to be active in the community, serving on various boards. Currently, he is a citizen representative on the Oakland County Parks and Recreation board.

"Parks and Rec is the best doggone thing that I've ever been involved in," he said. "It's easy to like. There are just a few places in the world like Oakland County."

Call Kostin, 11N. Main St., at 248-620-1030.



Gourmet Café manager Donna Butora and cook Aaron Butora, her son, accept the Best of the Best Caterer award.

Best Caterer: Gourmet Café

Gourmet Café serves a wide range of catering needs, from a \$15 order to a \$2,500 banquet.

"No order is too small," said manager Donna Butora, accepting the Best of the Best Caterer award. "No matter what people choose, we make the best."

With more than 30 years in the business, this is their second Best of the Best award in

a row.

"We're extremely proud and happy people are happy," Butora said. "We'll try to keep up the good work, so people continue to come and enjoy good food."

Family recipes, all homemade, include Greek salad dressing, breadsticks, ribs, and spaghetti sauce. Call Gourmet Café, 5914 Ortonville, at 248-625-6613.



Thank you to all of the readers and subscribers of the Clarkston News who voted me the "Best of the Best Attorney" for two straight years. I am humbled by your vote of confidence and thank you on behalf of my family, the Honorable Kelley Kostin and our son, Shay. My legal team of Susan Welker, Julie Packard and myself will continue to provide the same quality and personalized services for all your legal needs including family law, divorce, child custody, adoption, criminal law, including drunk driving and drug cases and personal injury, including auto, motorcycle & snowmobile accident representation for just

Robert E. Kostin, P.C. compensation for injuries which you have suffered as a result of someone else's negligence.

My policy for more than 30 years has been to not charge for the initial consultation on any legal matter whether or not I am retained.

I congratulate the Clarkston News and its staff for outstanding reporting and coverage of news and events of interest to our community. One of my favorite articles will always be the reporting of the academic achievements of our students who make their parents and our community proud.

Gratefully yours,

Robert E. Kostin, P.C.

248.620.1030

11 N. Main Street • Clarkston



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LET THE GOURMET CAFÉ take the heat off your summer party planning

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100 pcs. of Chicken Your choice of Lemon, BBQ or Roasted (25 legs, 25 wings, 25 breasts & 25 thighs) <small>Not valid with any other discounts or coupons.</small>	\$79.99 + tax Offer Expires August 31, 2009	\$10.00 OFF ANY! Double or Party Salad A La Carte Tray of Pasta (Mostaccioli, Lasagne or Alfredo) Offer Expires Aug. 31, 2009 <small>Not valid with any other discounts or coupons.</small>
10% OFF Any Order of \$100.00 or More <small>Not valid with any other discounts or coupons. Offer Exp. Aug. 31, 2009</small>	\$25.00 + tax 100 pcs. of Chicken, 100 pcs. of Bread, a Full Pan of Mostaccioli & 1 Party Greek Salad Feeds Up To 50 People! <small>Not valid with any other discounts or coupons. Exp. 8/31/09</small>	SUMMER CATERING COUPONS
SUMMER CATERING COUPONS • SUMMER CATERING COUPONS • SUMMER CATERING COUPONS		



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Best Salon: Randolph's Salon

Summer highlights range from the coolest platinum to subtle champagnes, while rich luminous tones enhance dark brunettes like Jennifer Lopez.

At Randolph's Salon, owners Mary and Scott Randolph know clients don't just want color—they want amazing color; color with depth, dimension, shine, and style; custom color only available from a professional colorist. Randolph's Salons are Redken Elite Salons.

"We fly in educators from all over the country exclusively to teach our team," said Mary Randolph.

"Our relationship with Redken allows us to afford the highest level of education for our staff, and we have hands-on advanced training in the salons at least 4 times a year." Seven Randolph's stylists hold the pres-

tigious title of Redken Certified Haircolorist, the highest standard in the business, with six more going to NYC for Color Certification testing this summer, Randolph noted, adding that only 30 Oakland County stylists have achieved this standard.

"Our team is so honored to be voted *Clarkston News*' Best Salon two years in a row," said Scott Randolph, noting the salon was also voted Best Salon, as well as Best Manicure/Pedicure in the *Oakland Press* two years in a row.

"With locations in Clarkston and Waterford, and coming Fall of 2009 to White Lake Twp, you owe it to yourself to experience what our guests are so excited about. We're what you've been waiting for."

Randolph's Salon is located at 5890 Sashabaw Road. Call 248-620-2000

Best Bar: Hamlin Pub

"It's always a privilege to be the best of the best," said Karen Kubicki, general manager of Hamlin Pub. "Clarkston is a small town so it's good to be recognized that way."

After being in business just over two and half years, it's "personalities and customer service" that keep people coming back, she said.

"Our bartenders and our servers take the time to get to know the guests," she said. "They appreciate our guests, they appreciate our customers and it shows."

Assistant General Manager Keith Grzymala agreed.

"We're a little bit more than just having a name outside with people walking in here. They're more than a face. We get to know them personally and that goes a long way," he said.

"We've won the award now a couple



Karen Kubicki and Keith Grzymala.

years in a row, I would say that shows consistency, not only for our guests but for us as an operation."

Kubicki said they try to be grassroots and involved in the community as well.

"We try to give back what's given to us," she said.

Call Hamlin, 6397 Sashabaw Road, at 248-922-1700.

RANDOLPH'S SALON

248.620.2000
CLARKSTON
5890 Sashabaw Rd.
Kroger Plaza

248.666.4090
WATERFORD
7400 Highland Rd.
M59 & Williams Lk. Rd.

www.randolphssalon.com

Randolph's Salon, voted BEST SALON 2008 & 2009 by the readers of *The Clarkston News*. We invite The Clarkston readers to celebrate this prestigious honor with us. Just bring in this ad and receive a Complimentary Haircolor Service with the purchase of a haircut (\$40 value New guest only.)



Randolph's Salon

Clarkston (248) 620-2000 Waterford (248) 666-4090

Complimentary Hair-color Service

with the purchase of a haircut

(\$40 value) **New guest only Expires 10-31-09

Look for us in White Lake, Fall 2009



Appreciation Gift Certificate

Hamlin Pub

6397 Sashabaw Rd.
Clarkston, MI
248.922.1700



"Where Everyone's A Regular"



\$5.00 off

\$5.00 off with any purchase of \$20 or more

Sunday - Thursday 11 am - 9 pm

Not Valid with any other discounts or promos

Clarkston Location Only

Thanks for voting us #1

From: Karen Kubicki

Expires: October 30, 2009



Best photographer: Winship Studio

At Winship Studio, owners Kym Winship and her brother Kevin Winship know the folks who come through their doors expect the best: professional, friendly service and a high quality product—portraits that say ‘this is who I am.’

“We treat everyone like an individual,” said Kym Winship, noting her parents Ken and Gail Winship began the business in the family’s garage 40 years ago and have now passed the studio on to their children.

“We’re part of the hometown community here in Clarkston, and our clients have been coming back for years—many come back even after they’ve moved from the area.”

The studio’s Santa Program is very popular at Christmas, she added, explaining that children are videotaped in the studio as they visit with Santa.

Then, each year, parents return with the recording—and the children—adding to the same tape as the children grow up.

Winship offers a full range of photographic services, including wedding, senior



The Winships pose for a photo of their own.

and family portraits, as well as commercial and aerial photography.

“We really want to thank all our customers who voted us Best of the Best,” said Kym Winship. “It was an honor.”

Winship Studio is located at 7183 N. Main Street. Call 248-625-2825 or visit www.winshipstudio.com



Dan Stiff pays Salli Petherbridge for his fish fry lunch.

Best Fish Fry: Oakland County Sportsmen's Club

Oakland County Sportsmen’s club is proud to be voted Best Fish Fry in the Clarkston area.

“It’s quite an achievement,” said Salli Petherbridge, office manager. “Thank you to all of the patrons of the Oakland County Sportsmen’s Club.”

Manager Dan Stiff said they are very concerned with both food preparation and presentation.

“We put in many long hours, making our fish fry what it is, 45 years plus,” he said. “We want to give the people a wonderful meal for a great price.”

Customers can order baked or deep fried

Icelandic cod. Stiff said they are also the only fish fry that offers fried chicken.

“You have your choice of all three at the same time or individual. You can have chicken dinner, fish fried dinner, or baked fish dinner,” he said. “We also do carryout.”

Customers can order a dinner bucket of chicken or fish for \$8 or a combo dinner bucket of chicken and fish for \$8.

“Thank you to the *Clarkston News* for sponsoring the ‘Best of the Best’ and to those who read it,” Petherbridge said. “We’re looking forward to serving you.”

Call OCSC 4770 Waterford Road at 248-623-0444.

Winship Studio

BEST OF THE BEST
Clarkston, Independence and Springfield Township

BEST Photographer

2009 Clarkston News Reader's Choice 1st Place

248-625-2825

Thanks for making us Best Fish Fry

All You Wish To Eat!
Every Friday Night
5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Baked & Fried Fish • Fried Chicken
Coleslaw • French Fries • Rolls • Coffee
Full Service Bar

Adults	\$8.00	Including Tax
Seniors 62 & Older	\$7.50	
Children 5-10 years	\$6.00	
Children Under 5	FREE	

(Smoke Free Dining)

Oakland County Sportsmen's Club
248.623.0444
4770 Waterford Rd., Clarkston
(Second Street North of Andersonville Rd., 1/4 mile Off of Dixie Hwy.)

Best Orthodontist: Munk & Associates

Exceptional, caring service helped earn Munk and Associates Orthodontic Specialists Best of the Best honors three years in a row.

"A lot of people in Clarkston like what we do. They like our results," said Dr. Charles F. Munk. "We have great skills and a great office. We spend a lot of time and attention on each patient."

They offer orthodontics for children and adults; more than 40 years of service; the latest technology in digital x-rays, self-ligating brackets, lingual braces, Invisalign, and Wilckodontics; offices in Clarkston, Oxford, and Davison with day, evening, and Saturday appointments; and community involvement with SCAMP, Clarkston Farm and Garden Club, Independence Parks and Rec programs, Fourth of July fireworks, Taste of Clarkston, and Clarkston Health Care College Scholarship, all in a family-friendly environment.

"Kids enjoy it," Dr. Munk said. "It's a very relaxed place to be. We have a lot of fun."

To stay the best, Munk and Associates continues to research new products and treatment options, and attend continuing education courses to keep the office on the cutting edge.

Call Dr. Charles W. Munk and Dr. Charles F. Munk, 5825 S. Main St., at 248-625-0880.



Dr. Charles W. Munk and Dr. Charles F. Munk.



Bob Gott, Michelle Thomas, and Robert Gott of Gott's Auto Service.

Best auto mechanic: Gott's Auto Service

Gott's Auto Service, family-owned since 1963 and in Independence Township since 1980, earned Best of the Best Auto Mechanic through honest and professional automotive repair and maintenance services to the community.

"We take care of business, and make sure people are satisfied," said Robert Gott, who owns the business with his son, Bob Gott. "We work hard to keep people satisfied."

They employ the latest automotive technology and handle all major and minor re-

pairs on foreign and domestic vehicles.

"We treat customers like family," Bob Gott said. "We give customers all the information we can possibly give them so they can make a good decision."

"They're honest and do great work," said Michelle Thomas, office manager. "They're a great bunch of guys. They won't sell you something you don't need. They answer all questions, and help you out."

Call Gott's Auto Service, 5709 Maybee Road east of Sashabaw, at 248-623-0119.



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Best Auto Wash: Town Center Auto Wash

For the past three years, Town Center Auto Wash, located on Sashabaw Road between Maybee and Waldon roads, has been voted Best of the Best Auto Wash in the area.

Owners Steve Pearson and Gary Miller recently discussed how the wash continually earns outstanding recognition.

"First of all, we would like to thank the community for the award and also for their continued confidence in our company," Miller said. "We would especially like to thank our employees for all their hard work. We realize we're only as good as our employees and we think our employees are the absolute best."

Their philosophy is to buy all their products in large quantities in order to get discounted prices, then pass the discounts on to customers through regular daily specials.

"We continually strive to improve the wash by commu-

nicating with our employees, along with testing new equipment and products."

Next month, the interior of the wash is getting a complete makeover, Pearson explained.

"Although we have been open for only five years, we will be changing all of the equipment that actually touches your vehicle during the wash process," he said.

"For the last couple of years, we have been closely watching development of a foam product that is far superior to the standard cloth products seen in all the washes today. We have observed its tremendous cleaning ability as well as its ability to adapt to all the different body styles of vehicles. Now that the bugs have been worked out, we are excited to finally be able to install it in our wash."

For more information, call Town Center Auto Wash, 6380 Sashabaw Road, at 248-625-5054.



Owners Steve Pearson and Gary Miller of Town Center Auto Wash.



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- High Pressure Wash
- Body Lather • Soft Touch Wash
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- Wax Protectant • Towel Dry

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ULTIMATE

- Bug Removal • Presoak
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- Wheel/Rim Cleaner
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- Triple Foam with Clearcoat Protectant
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- Underbody Wash • Clearcoat Sealer
- Wax Protectant • Towel Dry

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