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Email: shermanpub@aol.com
Visit us on-line at: clarkstonnews.com
Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon. - Fri.

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Don Rush Asst. Publisher
Phil Custodio Editor
Mary Keck Reporter
Wendi Reardon Sports Reporter
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Subscriptions: \$30/year in Oakland County, \$33/year out of county, \$38/year out of state.
Deadlines: Community News - noon Friday; Letters to the Editor - noon Monday; Classified advertising - Noon Monday; Display advertising - Thursday.
Delivery: Mailed periodicals postage paid at Clarkston, MI 48346.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Clarkston News, 5 S. Main, Clarkston, MI 48346.
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Supporters of the Clarkston Schools \$20 million bond proposal posted signs on Dixie Highway last weekend, before Independence Township's sign ordinance said they could. Photo provided

Signs a distraction, bond supporters say

Continued from page 1A
an Oct. 27, 2004, *Clarkston News* article, "Officials not concerned with federal court ruling over political sign ordinances."

In the article "No political signs before their time," July 9, 2008, edition of the *Clarkston News*, Supervisor Dave Wagner said the sign ordinance would be enforced, with signs posted before the 14-day limit removed.

Either way, the issue is a distraction, Herzenstiel said.

"We don't want to take the focus off the kids," she said.

CRISIS, Citizens for Responsible, Intelligent, Spending In Schools, a group not in favor of the \$20 million bond, had signs posted last week in Springfield Township but not in Independence

Township.

"The CRISIS group has done their best to follow the letter of the law regarding our political sign and placement laws," said Henry Woloson, group member.

Springfield Township's sign ordinance says campaign signs can be put up 28 days before an election.

Following the sign ordinance, CRISIS members put up their signs in Independence Township on Tuesday this week.

They also reported two of their signs stolen in Springfield Township. Oakland County Sheriff's deputies assigned to Springfield Township Substation are checking into it.

"No suspects have been identified at this time," said Det. Matt Howe.

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Tax trouble for treasurer

Michael Powell of Independence Township brought to light a property tax error by Clarkston School Board Treasurer Steve Hyer to illustrate a point.

"Hyer's lack of ethics lately really bothered me - I figure he was long past due for an extensive checkup," Powell said.

Powell's issues include Hyer's interview with a Detroit radio station in which he didn't follow school board protocols he supported, as well as the proposed \$20 million bond proposal including a one-mill increase in property taxes.

An Internet search of public property tax records showed the problem - Hyer, also past president of the school board, and his wife claimed an extra tax break meant for homeowners.

"His tax payments should have been much higher. My wife and I are looking at homes so we know what the prices are for non-homestead versus homestead," Powell said. "Inquiring into the local taxing authority confirmed my suspicions of how these properties are homesteaded - all public and easily available to anyone who asks."

Hyer and his wife, Kelly, moved from Bluewater Drive to Lost Pines Drive in Springfield Township in 2011.

However, they claimed both homes as their homestead that year. According to state law, homeowners get an exemption from the local 18-mill school operating millage, but can only claim one homestead at a time.

Hyer said the error was inadvertent and it was fixed in February, 2012.

"If my wife filing a non-homestead tax form late after we moved is somehow news, so be it," Hyer said. "The proper paper work was filed months ago and there is no further or past issue at this point."

Powell said he checked other board members' property records, too.

"I checked them all out - it's easy," he said. "It's all public information."

- Phil Custodio

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Briefly

Layoffs for 14 staff

The Clarkston Community Schools Board of Education approved 14 lay off notices on Monday, 7-0.

The list includes 10 teachers at the elementary level, two teachers at Renaissance High School, one teacher at the middle school, one teacher at the junior high, and one teacher at the early childhood center.

This will cut \$513,834 from the upcoming 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Townhall debate

Independent Tea Party Patriots hosts U.S. Senate candidates Clark Durant, Gary Glenn and Pete Hoekstra in a townhall debate, 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 8, at Fountains Golf and Banquet Center, 6060 Maybee Road.

The candidates are running for the Republican nomination, against incumbent Sen. Debbie Stabenow, Democrat.

Check it up us for more information.

Miles for Smiles

Macomb-Oakland Regional Center hosts its First Annual MORC Miles for Smiles 5K Run/Walk and Quarter Mile Fun Run, 10 a.m., Saturday, May 5, at Independence Oaks County Park in Clarkston.

The quarter-mile walk is free for people with developmental disabilities served by MORC and their caregivers.

Miles for Smiles tickets are \$30, which includes a T-shirt and entrance fee to the park.

Registration is online at active.com and michigan.com or through carol.rowland@morcinc.org or Carol Rowland at 248-276-8007.

Bond success, failure in other districts

Zeeland solves tech bugs after success

BY MARY KECK

Clarkston News Staff Writer

As Clarkstonites weigh pros and cons of the district's \$20 million bond proposal, school districts on the west side of the state offer some examples.

Zeeland Public School voters approved a \$20.3 million bond in May 2010, 2,501 to 1,961.

In Zeeland, about \$5 million was for iPads, wireless infrastructure, Smartboards, and other technology.

About two years into the program, the district is working out some bugs.

Communications Specialist Jim Camenga said the most challenging part of introducing the technology was transforming the schools for wireless capability.

Now that they are wireless, students and teachers can access the Internet anywhere in the school, but this easy entry into the cyber world has made it necessary for Zeeland to install software to filter out pornography and other inappropriate sites.

"We want parents to feel secure," Camenga stated.

The devices also allow students access to the Internet at home and anywhere else they can find a Wi-Fi signal.

Access to inappropriate sites outside school has been an issue in local newspaper editorial pages. Zeeland Schools response was to teach students how to handle those situations and is looking into other filtering systems, Camenga said.

Zeeland has also run into broken iPads damaged by both students and staff.

"They are covered with 'Gorilla Glass' (thin, light, scratch-resistant glass) that will shatter if it's dropped, but the iPad has no moving parts, which makes it durable," Camenga said.

To manage the breakage, the district encourages parents to purchase a \$40 insurance policy at the start of the year. Students

and their parents also sign forms when they receive iPads, which explains they are responsible for the devices.

Without insurance, students pay \$250 for a broken iPad. So far, only one report of a stolen electronic device has come to Camenga's attention, but the iPad was recovered due to its tracer function.

Since the bond vote, Zeeland has fully implemented technology into their two high schools, Zeeland East and West, where almost 2,000 students are enrolled. They plan to begin releasing iPads to middle school students this August, and by Fall 2013, they hope to have all classrooms from 3rd to 12th grade equipped with the technology made possible by the bond.

Camenga said students mostly use their iPads to take notes in class and develop presentations that can be displayed on a large screen to rest of their classmates. Zeeland students use their electronic notebooks at home to review their teacher's lecture or download the reading material in preparation for their next lesson.

The school system also has some bugs to work out later. The 2010 "bond pays for the first major cycle," but because of the necessity for regular upgrades, new devices may need to be purchased in a few years, he said.

To curb costs, the school might switch to a cheaper brand of electronic notebook in the future. In the meantime, Zeeland residents may find themselves voting on a new bond that threatens to take another 'byte' out of their pocketbooks.

Principals at Zeeland East and West did not return calls for comment.

West Ottawa dealt with issues after bond failure

In West Ottawa Public Schools, voters defeated a \$26 million bond proposal in May 2011. The proposal was turned down by 70 percent of voters.

"We did not listen to the people's needs,

and that's one of the reasons the bond failed," said Scott VanderStoep, president of the West Ottawa school board. "You may think you know what's best for the district, but the citizens have a perspective you don't have."

West Ottawa asked residents for \$5 million for technology improvements, \$8 million for an athletic stadium, and \$12.5 million for a performing arts center. Clarkston would devote half of its \$20 million bond to technology.

According to President VanderStoep, West Ottawa is doing fine without the bond.

Students don't have mobile computing devices. They do have access to the school's computer labs, but there are some space issues, VanderStoep said.

He pointed out that students with families who have more financial resources have more access to computers to complete work at home, but those learners who don't have the same access make due with the crowded labs at school.

After voters denied the bond, West Ottawa acquired a small grant allowing them to implement technology in two rooms. If they'd succeeded at getting the bond, the school would have an advanced wireless infrastructure, Smart boards, and netbooks.

These were the school's "biggest need," VanderStoep noted, but voters seemed to think the bond was for "wants instead of needs."

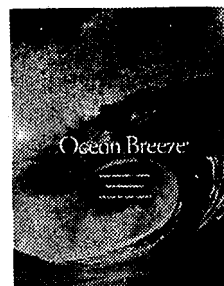
In hindsight, VanderStoep thinks the technology portion of the bond would have passed if it had been separated from the performing arts center and athletic stadium. He also believes the bond failed because of bad timing.

In the future, the West Ottawa board plans to take a more "bottom-up approach" by seeking the advice of residents first. The board now has a new superintendent - Tom Martin - and VanderStoep believes the community is pleased with him.

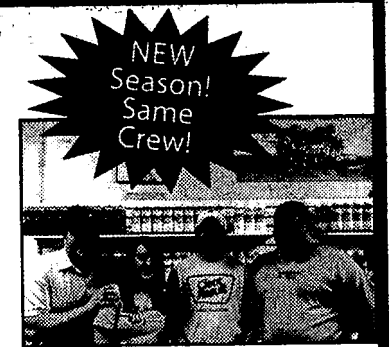
He also said Martin has had success with passing bonds in previous schools, but the board doesn't currently have plans to propose another ballot initiative.

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Native plants can be found for every type of environment, from dry and sunny to moist and shady. With their variety of colors, heights, foliage, and bloom times, native plants add beauty and interest to any landscape.

Landscaping with Native Plants of Michigan by Lynn M. Steiner has a great native Michigan plant list.

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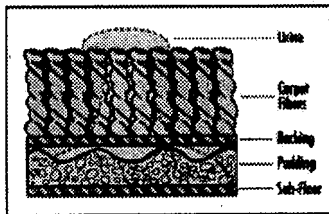
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Owners of even the very best trained pets will occasionally encounter pet accidents like pet urine and pet odor. Owners try a variety of over-the-counter products and service providers, yet the problem still persists. Chemical products containing strong perfumes, deodorants and disinfectants only cover up the problem for a short period of time.



Urine deposited on carpet penetrates carpet fibers and contaminates the backing and the pad, and sometimes, the subfloor. Simple cleaning will not remove this odor. Chem-Dry has developed a patented product that can remediate pet urine odors completely; however, some things need to be determined to get the best results.

The first step is determining where the urine is located.

1. A blacklight analysis can show where urine exist, however, it may not be completely accurate when home remedies and over the counter products are used to treat the urine. Urine crystals may still remain in

the carpet pad and backing but might not be detected on the surface.

2. At Four Seasons ChemDry, we also use Hydrosensors to determine where urine may exist. Hydrosensors will detect the moisture absorbed by urine crystals left in carpet backing and pad. It is extremely important to determine where these crystals exist in order to estimate how much product will be needed to correct the problem.

Although our pet urine removal treatment is very successful, we sometimes recommend replacing the carpet after a pet urine analysis is completed due to the amount of product required to correct the issue. Our experts can help you determine the best steps to take.

To read more about Pet Urine Removal Treatments, visit our blog at www.CarpetCleaningClarkstonMI.com or call and talk to one of our experts at 248.625-9921.



For more information, call 248 625 9921 or visit our blog at www.CarpetCleaningClarkstonMI.com



SCHOOL ART: Haley VanBuskirk, Bailey Lake fourth grader, checks out some artwork at the school admin building with her mother, Valerie VanBuskirk, April 12. Photo by Phil Custodio

Bond plan for rolling out tech

The Clarkston Community Schools proposed \$20 million bond proposal funds technology in three stages, according to administration.

The plan includes \$3.4 million in bond money for fiscal year 2013 for 1,800 computer tablet devices, one each for teachers throughout the district and students in grades 6-7. Cost analysis sets price at \$449 per device.

Fiscal year 2014 calls for devices for all students in grades 8-9, 1,300 in all.

Fiscal year 2015 calls for 2,900 devices for all students in grades 10-12, as well as one for every two students in grades 3-5. These devices will be kept in classrooms carts.

The devices are scheduled for a three-year replacement cycle starting in fiscal year 2019, funded by \$1.5 million in bond issues.

A third, three-year replacement cycle is scheduled to start in 2025, with \$1.25 million in bond issues.

The plan does not include devices for students in pre-K through second grade.

The plan also includes \$2.5 million in 2013

for data network, wireless, Internet filter, and desktop and laptop computers. The filter license is for three years, with \$75,000 for renewal in 2016.

Technology support costs for media techs and interns throughout the district would be \$17,140 in 2013, \$25,280 in 2014, and \$112,420 in 2015. Sustaining cost would be \$112,420 each year thereafter.

Teacher-training costs from 2013-2016 would total \$2.6 million for technology coaches, and instructional and personnel costs.

Potential areas of savings are listed as going paperless within five years. This would cut printer and copier purchases, leases, and maintenance, paper, ink, and costs of running the machines, textbook purchases, and some student supplies.

For more information, go to sites.google.com/a/clarkston.k12.mi.us/1-to-global-initiative-report/device-examination/total-cost-of-ownership.

— Phil Custodio

Fund balance dip short-term fix, official says

Continued from page 1A

fee to property tax bills, replacing the lights on Main Street with LED lights, and cutting back on capital improvements such as replacing the Depot Park bridge and additions to the city hall.

An important piece of the puzzle is the library's millage, which won't be put in place until the library is reestablished and citizens have voted on it.

The city doesn't currently have its own library, and the council is contracted to pay \$12,000 every six months to Independence Township for library services.

If the district library plan is approved and the city no longer has to make those payments, those funds could help pay down the deficit, Bisio said.

This isn't the first time city council had trouble balancing the budget.

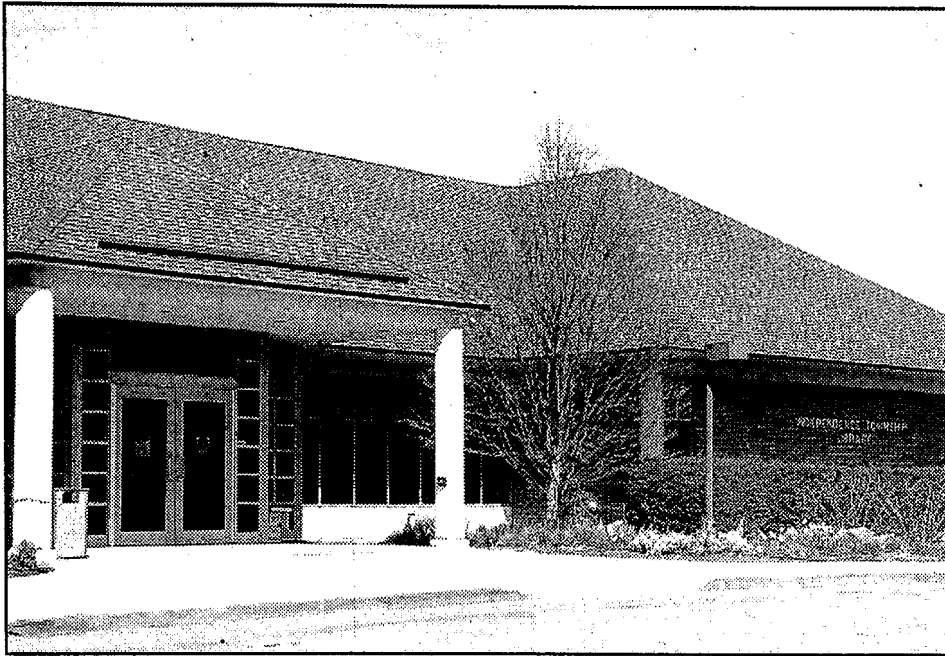
It 2010, Clarkston disbanded its police de-

partment and contracted with Oakland County Sheriff's Office to reduce expenses. However, property values have continued to decrease, so the city needs more long-term solutions.

One solution Bisio said the finance committee is kicking around is dipping into the approximately \$219,000 fund balance, a budget surplus the city has accumulated over the years.

This is "not a long range plan," Bisio stated. "We need to anticipate increasing our revenue in some way" to tackle the ongoing problem of decreased revenue and increasing costs.

While Bisio is "fairly confident we'll cover the deficit this coming year" without needing to ask citizens for a tax increase, raising costs to taxpayers is a solution the council may consider in the years to come if property values continue to drop, he said.



Clarkston and Independence Township are talking about making the township library into a district library. Photo by Mary Keck

Library committee favors higher millage

BY MARY KECK

Clarkston News Staff Writer

The newly formed District Library Agreement Committee is off and running, and considering a higher tax rate for residents.

The committee preferred an eight-year millage rate of 1.38 to support the district library. The library's current .691 millage is voted on every four years. According to Director Julie Meredith, most library mill rates are decided every 6, 8, or 10 years.

A 1.38 mill rate appealed to the committee because it would pay for maintaining the library building.

"We [have served] the public, but it has been at the expense of maintaining the building. Now we're in a situation where the building has definitely been neglected," Meredith stated.

Resurfacing the parking lot, repairing the roof, and fixing ductwork would be part of the library's capital improvement plan if a 1.25 mill rate was accepted, but 1.38 mills would offer the public more, she explained.

With 1.38 mills, the library could expand their e-book collection and add staff such as a part-time children's librarian, which would broaden programming for kids in the community. They could also plan for the future. The library would have "money to sock away" that could be used later to add interior walls that would offer more quiet study space or building expansion, Meredith said.

District library talks broke down in 1992, when Clarkston City Council and Independence Township Board couldn't come to an agreement about how much to raise the library's millage.

The word around town was that the millage increase for a districtwide library would be blamed on Clarkston's new cityhood, so some felt it was "bad timing" to place it on

the ballot.

Twenty years later, the agreement committee was reorganized to try again, meeting on April 16.

The committee unanimously decided those governing the future district library should be appointed rather than elected. They also unanimously agreed there should be seven board members whose terms of unpaid service would last three years.



Meredith

The only decision that wasn't unanimous was the reestablished library's name. Most felt Clarkston Independence District Library was appropriate because the library has a Clarkston address and it would share the district school's name. Neil Wallace, representing Charter Township of Independence, was the sole voice expressing the opinion that "Independence" should come before "Clarkston."

The committee is in the early stages of decision-making. None of their resolutions are set in stone. Instead, they will be presented to Attorney Anne Seuryneck who will bring back a "rough draft of the agreement based on decisions the committee made" to the next meeting, Meredith said.

Along with completing a survey that will be sent out to the community within the next few weeks, interested citizens can attend the District Library Agreement Committee's upcoming meeting on April 25 at 7:30 p.m. at Independence Township Hall.



Gregory Thomas, DDS, MS *†
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Wild Ideas

A column by Mary Keck

Head full of spring

Nothing makes me happier than fresh dirt on my hiking boots, a snooze in a hammock, or a long meditative sit in a field of swaying grass.

Since seeing the daffodils and red buds blooming, my head's been full of spring.

So I think I'll write about my passion for the outdoors in my column, but I can't guarantee that I won't get any other wild ideas.

Over the past couple of weeks, I've had the pleasure of hiking on the Polly Ann Trail and in Independence Oaks.

I took my husband, Lance, and my dog, Killeen, with me when I hit the trails recently.

Although we kept an eye out for Morels among the fallen leaves, we didn't find any.

Based on what I learned from local fungi fanatic Matt Reid, I'll have to wait for the yellows to pop up in May.

Before the rain started to fall, Lance and I quizzed ourselves on the edible plant knowledge we acquired during Mark Angelini's wild foods class.

We found lots of trout lily with their long spade-shaped leaves and fish skin spots.

Bright yellow dandelions were in abundance on the trailside, and we snacked on a few leaves as we passed a pair of turtles sunning themselves on a log.

All this talk of mushrooms and wild foods has got me thinking about tilling up a space for my vegetable garden soon.

If I've learned anything from local plant experts, it's to know the ecology of the area before growing.

So, I'm wondering if you have any advice about choosing a good garden space or if you have any favorite mushroom hunting spots you're willing to share.

If so, shoot me an email at mary@shermanpublications.org or write a letter to the editor and tell me about your wild ideas.



A call for more city help for businesses

Dear Editor,

I wholeheartedly support the Clarkston Retailers Group in their attempts to gain permission to use sidewalk signs and open signs as a tool to draw more customers. To my knowledge, Clarkston is the only jurisdiction in Oakland County that outlaws such signs. For example, Rochester and Birmingham allow sidewalk signs. The visual effect is pleasing and the downtown districts thrive.

As a resident of the village, I feel that a vibrant downtown district is the glue that holds our community together and enhances property values.

The City government needs to help businesses, not stand in their way. Clarkston has

a history of uneven, and erratic, enforcement of its Ordinances. There is confusion over the proper roles of the City Council, Zoning Board (ZBA), Planning Commission, and Historical District Committee. As a result there continues to be contradictory rulings that apply to some, but not others.

The seasonal sidewalk displays at Rudy's Market are pleasing, and add to the ambiance of the downtown Clarkston experience. However, a double standard allows these displays while not allowing sidewalk signs.

How can the City allow sidewalk displays, while telling others they cannot have sidewalk signs?

Steve Wylie
Clarkston

Thanks for Clarkston community for...

Local donations and volunteers

Dear Editor,

On Friday, April 13, Independence Twp. Senior Adult Activity Center held its annual volunteer appreciation at Saint Daniels Catholic Church, where over 100 volunteers and guests attended.

Thanks to the following staff and volunteers for all of the hard work they put into this event: Mary Przybycien and volunteers Shirley Bryan, Ron Frank, Sharon Hubbard, Beverly Krol, Karen Lafnear, Nick Mocerino, Kerri Perna, Mary Jo Reid, Pam Spenser, Margaret Sumner and others who helped prepare food and decorate for this event. Also thanks to staff members John Cezarz, Gordy Cloutier, Pat Drake, Jerry Ellis, Theresa Gordon, Amy Laboissonniere, Mary Melega, John Lowell, Tom Mitcham, Barbara Szematowicz and Gerry Townsend for working as a team for our volunteers. Our 150 volunteers make it possible for us provide a higher level of programs and services to the community. We appreciate everything you do for us.

Without the following businesses and sponsors we would not have such a successful event. Thanks to the following sponsors: Friends of Independence Township Senior Adult Activity Center-Platinum Level; Home Instead Senior Care-Gold Level; Wint & Son Funeral Home, Inc.-Bronze Level; Kroger's on Sashabaw-Flowers and corsages for volunteers; Susan's Hallmark-Gifts for the volunteers.

This year several local restaurants donated food for our luncheon. Our volunteers are very grateful for such a wonderful menu. It was a real treat to try out the different dishes from our local restaurants. Thank you to the following businesses for donating

food for this event: Brioni Café & Deli, Gregg's Gourmet Café, Pizzeria dolce, Red Knapp's Grill & Bar, Royal Diner and the Union Bar & Kitchen.

Last but not least we thank Saint Daniels Catholic Church and Father Christopher Moss for allowing us to have our luncheon in their hall. They have been very gracious to us.

Barbara Rollin, coordinator
Independence Township senior center

Patronage of the arts

Dear Editor,

Many, many thanks to all those who were able to attend the first musical performance sponsored by the Clarkston Center for the Performing Arts (CCPA) in our Music on the Move series. The Red Sea Pedestrians and opening act Glenn Pooman gave phenomenal performances.

Special thanks has to be given to our sponsors; KH Homes who sponsor and fund our opening act, Bowman Chevrolet, Encompass Financial Partners, Clarkston State Bank, and Lavasco Fitness & Nutrition. It would also have not been possible without the generous support from Essence On Main, Rudy's Market, Great Turtle Toys, Lisa's Confection Connection, Ironton Cottage & Cabin Furniture, and the Clarkston News.

A personal thank you to Sue Owen and our partner the Clarkston Village Players for the use of their Depot Theater, and to Lydia and Robyn for creating a theme and the graphics to go with it. For those of you who were unable to attend, we will be scheduling future events in our Music on the Move series and along with all of you, will continue to support and promote the performing arts in the Clarkston area.

Cory Johnston and Development
Committee of the CCPA

Please see pages 10A-11A for letters on the school bond

A Look Back

From The CNews archives

15 years ago - 1997

"When will it all end" New subdivisions were going up all over the Clarkston area, with heavy equipment lumbering over back roads. To deal with the increased population, Clarkston Schools were pursuing a June bond increase to fund a new school.

"Oakland Woods breaks ground on church addition" Three days after the church received final site approval from Independence Township planners for an 8,096-square-foot addition, parishioners and guests gathered for an outdoor ground-breaking ceremony.

"Council at odds over Deer Lake seawall" Clarkston City Council stonewalled an effort to prevent sand erosion on Deer Lake because of a seawall. Council wanted to wait until it had the beach lease in hand from Independence Township. Other council members said the wall plan was ugly.

25 years ago - 1987

"Inside Africa" Clarkston-area couples Ron and Betty Wagner and Jim and Betty Smith reminisced about their trips to Kenya. They photographed elephants, giraffes, and other wildlife during their safaris.

"Theatre named for Kirchgessner" In tribute to John Kirchgessner, the Clarkston High School principal killed in an airplane crash in March 1986, the Clarkston High School Little Theatre has a new name. On Monday night, the Clarkston board of education unanimously approved the name change to the Kirchgessner Auditorium.

50 years ago - 1962

"Jay-Cees to form in Clarkston" Young men of Independence Township met for the second time and voted to form a chapter of the Junior Chamber of Commerce in Clarkston. They discussed beach cleanup and safety, voting, community park development, youth assistance, and other programs.

"Hole in one' for Mrs. Griggs" A nine iron, the wind in the right direction, and a little luck won a hole in one for Dorothea Griggs at the Clarkston Golf Course. She made the rare shot on the ninth hole, a 140-yard stretch. It was the first for the golf course that year, and the first ever for her.

"Clarkston locals" Mr. and Mrs. John DeLind of Clarkston returned home after vacationing in Deerfield Beach, Fla.

Winds are whirling and Jottings is swirling

Not being a fan of the current, and hopefully temporary occupier of the White House, do not expect support of any of his programs in this space.

I do think it was nice of him, when he landed in Columbia for a meeting with Central American countries, to tell us he was there to check out vacation spots for his wife, Michelle.

It was only a day or two later when legal Central American prostitutes went to our federal officials there to demand payment for services rendered our secret service people.

What followed was silence from Obama about his praise for a Columbian vacation for Michelle.

--- 0 ---

• The amount of money Americans earned from January 1, 2012 to April 17, 2012 was enough to pay this year's combined 29.2% federal, state and local taxes. It's referred to as Tax Freedom Day. The money you earn for the rest of the year is yours.

• P. J. O'Rourke said: "If you think health is expensive now, wait until you see what it costs when it's free."

• I'm never going to buy anything from a company that advertises, "Price only good while sup-

plies last." Or, "Prices will never get this low again."

• I wish I'd heard the source of the newscast that said dementia rates will triple by 2020. Wonder if it relates to Obama, Romney, Snyder, Bing, the media or will we have all reached our capacity?

Jim's Jottings



a column by Jim Sherman

• Back to Obama and Columbia for just a second (I promise), He said, "There will be a thorough and vigorous investigation" about our secret service people's illicit actions there. What happened to our government's usual inconclusive, superficial and cursory investigations reports?

--- 0 ---

I recently found a letter I wrote to our three kids from Turnberry, Scotland in 1986.

I wrote, "It's easy to see how the Scottish got their reputation. Drinks are exactly one ounce. There are no wash cloths in our hotel, waitresses return unused knives, etc., to the drawers.

"Hotels shut off hot water at night, teaspoons are half-size and all our golf at Canoustie and both

St. Andrews courses were played in gale force winds.

"The first golfers of the day are 2-somes to set the pace for the day. The countryside is postal card perfect.

"I ordered the Scottish dinner, haggis, stomach of sheep. Looks like meatloaf, tastes like I think old baseball gloves would, landed in my stomach like an anvil. No wonder sheep give it up."

We, the Jerry Olrich's, Hazel and I, loved the whole couple weeks, but driving by their Scottish rules in their traffic caused me to change my shorts twice as often as my shirts.

--- 0 ---

Wasn't that a great sight, our space shuttle being flown last week to the Smithsonian after its 27 flights? Our current leaders have apparently opted to let the Russians, etc. explore whatever is out there in space.

Is it a further symbol of America's decline, a sign our country is changing directions and goals, a loss of imagination, a disruption to our thinking, or are the scientists off in their guesstimates on dementia rates having ended years earlier?

Hippie networking with a smile, cup of Joe

One of the best things we have done was to start hosting weekly "networking" meetings a little over two years ago. I put quotation marks around "networking" because our Coffee Clubs are not typical networking-type meetings.

I say it was one of the best things we've done for a number of reasons. Maybe not the most important, but still of relevance, is the fact our Coffee Club was not in our wheelhouse. In other words, it was out of our comfort zone. As a newspaper we go out and gather and disseminate stuff. We find news, we procure advertising and then deliver all that information to nearly every address in our circulation area. We don't host meetings. Well we didn't, now we host three.

Our Coffee Clubs have forced our staff to get out of bed early, hone our knowledge of our businesses and community; it has introduced us to many folks we may not have otherwise met.

The Coffee Club was an idea borne out of the recession and the popularity of the business networking movement that has swept the nation. It was

a way to give back to our business partners, to get business people together and to grow business in a light and casual way.

Don't Rush Me



A column by Don Rush

When I open up meetings, I often do it this way, "Good morning! Welcome to the Coffee Club, the finest hippie networking experience you're bound to have in the next 90 minutes."

I call it hippie networking because there are no dues, mandatory attendance, or referral requirements. You can come late and or leave early. And, as I say at the meetings, "You can decided never-ever to come back. It's no skin off my nose, but I'd like you to come back."

The only rule we have is to be nice to each other and that you donate a dollar. The dollar is then donated to wherever we are having the meeting. Our newspaper does not keep any of them bucks.

Oh, and one more hippie rule: We are trying to save the Styrofoam Forrests, please bring your own, reusable coffee cup.

And, holy fillthepews, Batman folks are coming to the meetings and doing business and making money!

It has been rewarding to see relationships formed. It's been cool to watch local business-folk get out of their comfort zones, to talk about themselves (everybody gets a minute to give their elevator speech). I enjoy meeting new people and learning about them and their businesses. For example, I learned April is Child Abuse Awareness Month and for the rest of the month, Jenna Pearson of Village Hair and Nail Salon is donating money to the Justice for Lily campaign. (Little Lily died as a result of child abuse in 2010). For every woman's haircut and style, she will donate \$10, and for every man's cut \$5. Call 248-627-5797. I wouldn't have known that were it not for the Coffee Club.

Nor would I have met healing touch practitioner Janet Tait (her biz, Wellness Enhancement is in Clark-

ston). And if I didn't meet Janet, I wouldn't have had my shakra's opened geo (or is it electro?) magnetically.

I love seeing all the smiles and people laughing. It's been a great way to start the day (the Coffee Club starts at 7:30 in the morning and ends at 9). I usually get there about 7 to start coffee brewing.

We have set up a Facebook page, too. If anybody wants to check that out, go to www.CoffeeClubbers.com and you will be directed there.

We have hippie networking Wednesday through Friday, Wednesdays at the Brandon Township Library, Thursdays at the Clarkston United Methodist Church, and Fridays at the Lake Orion Culvers restaurant.

It's such a great group and a wonderful experience.

Come May 31, we are having our 2nd Annual Coffee Club Expo. It's free and open to the public from 4 to 8 p.m. and I encourage folks to check it out. This year we are having it at the Clarkston United Methodist Church.

Watch this newspaper for more information.

Clarkston grad's musical brought to life on stage

The costumes have been picked out, the set is finished and the Clarkston High School Drama Club is putting the finishing touches on their spring musical "Justice in Dusty Junction."

The production is a special one as "Justice in Dusty Junction" was written and composed by 1997 Clarkston grad Jim Territo.

This is the first musical Clarkston has performed by Territo but he composed and performed pieces for their production of the "Pink Panther Strikes Again" in 2007.

He said it was extremely rewarding to see Clarkston students bring his musical to life.

"It is somewhat surreal watching them work to bring their characters to life and make them their own is awesome," Territo added.

"Justice in Dusty Junction" is the story of Deputy Shawn, played by Sam Cook, finding the courage to face outlaw Ugly Monroe, played by Conor Foley.

Helping Shawn find his courage are Bobby Joe, played by Mason Van Gieson, and Mindy Sue, played by Taylor Smith, as well as an ensemble of cast members.

Territo described the production as "Blazing Saddles meets Toby Keith-like soundtrack."

The idea came from an activity Territo al-



The cast of "Justice in Dusty Junction." Photos by Wendi Reardon

ways enjoyed with his dad - watching westerns.

"Most musicals are based on existing stories," he noted. "I loved watching cowboy movies with my dad when I was a kid. 'Jus-

tice in Dusty Junction' takes all those movies and rolls them into one."

Territo is always surrounded by music. After graduating from Clarkston he attended the University of Michigan School of Music.

He earned his bachelor's degree in Music Education & Musical Composition in 2001. He went on to earn a master's degree in Education from Michigan.

He is currently the music and band teacher at Detroit Country Day in Beverly Hills. He also performs at events or nights clubs, directs music for community performances as well as writes and composes for individuals and ensembles.

"I have been fortunate to have taught many talented individuals during my years at Clarkston," said Jeff Tice, theatre director. "I have followed his career throughout the years and have had the pleasure of working with him on a few projects. When he presented me with this musical, I knew my current students would be thrilled to debut this fun-filled production."

Performances are at 7 p.m. on May 4 and 5 at Clarkston High School Performing Arts Center, 6093 Flemings Lake Road.

Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door. The musical is rated PG-13. For tickets and more information, please call 248-623-4024.

For a sneak peek of one of the songs, visit www.ClarkstonTV.com.

~Wendi Reardon

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Public Safety

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

Paint supplies stolen

A trailer filled in painting supplies was taken from the 5000 block of Meadowbrook Court, April 8.

Thief attempts to cash in

A woman pulled into the drive-through at a bank in the 5000 block of Baypointe Boulevard, wanting to cash a \$500 personal check, 9:35 a.m., April 9. She didn't have an account so she was refused. About 15 minutes later, a customer reported a purse in the parking lot and employees called police. The purse, with checkbook, was found to have been taken from a Waterford Township vehicle that morning. The suspect spoke to the bank teller through a slightly opened car door so she is hard to describe, but the vehicle was an early 2000, dark blue green Pontiac Grand Prix with dark tinted windows.

Slurred on the road

A Sashabaw Road restaurant employee called police to report a drive-through customer with slurred speech. Deputies found the driver, a 45-year-old Independence Township woman, and stopped her at Dixie Highway and Maybee Road, 2:21 p.m., April 10. With a preliminary breath test of .174, she was found with two small bottles of vodka, one empty, and was arrested for drunk driving.

Hit and sleep

A 48-year-old Independence Township man drove his SUV into a parked car in the 5000 block of Drayton Road, 11:10 p.m., April 10, left it there, and walked to his home down the road. Arriving home, the vehicle's owner asked where the vehicle was, and he said it was smashed up, then went to bed. The owner went to the crash to fetch the deputies who had responded to the incident. With a preliminary breath test of .188, the driver was arrested for drunk driving, third offense, driving with suspended license, second offense, and failure to stop and identify after an accident.

Suspect stopped

An employee watched as a 38-year-old New Hudson man stuffed eight cans of baby formula in his shirt and headed for the door without paying, 4:33 p.m., April 13; at a convenience store in the 6000 block of Dixie Highway. The employee caught the suspect, who had four prior shoplifting convictions dating back to 1992, and called police. He was arrested for First Degree Retail Fraud and jailed.

Theft from vehicle

Someone took a credit card, medication, and garage door opener from an unlocked vehicle parked in the 5000 block of Dvorak Street, April 11.

Dumper stumped

Responding to an illegal-dumping tip, deputies found a 27-year-old Goodrich man with a trailer filled with tree stumps and brush backed up into the woods near Maybee and Clintonville roads, 9:12 p.m., April 14. Asked what he was doing, he said he was picking up wood someone had left. Asked how he knew it was there, he said he saw it from the road as he drove by. Asked how he could see it in the dark 50 feet from the road, he admitted he was there to dump it. Also, the license plate on the trailer belonged on another vehicle. He was cited for improper place and given a warning for dumping.

Broken glass

Someone threw a beer bottle though the windshield of a vehicle parked in the 5000 block of Parkwood Boulevard, April 13.

Weaving on Dixie

A deputy stopped a 56-year-old Independence Township man for weaving from lane to lane on Dixie Highway near Maybee Road, 2:28 a.m., April 15. With a preliminary breath test of .158, he was arrested for drunk driving.

Stopped on account of pot

A 60-year-old Independence Township man was stopped for running a red light at Dixie Highway and M-15, 8:43 p.m., April 15. Smelling of marijuana, he was found with marijuana in his pocket and pipe on the passenger seat. He was cite for possession of marijuana and running the light.

Drunk driver jailed

A deputy stopped a 51-year-old Orion woman for swerving from lane to lane on M-15 near I-75, 1:05 a.m., April 15. She was found with a 15-pack of beer in the back seat, with three still full. She said she had one or two rum and cokes at a restaurant on Dixie Highway. She had a .13 blood alcohol level, and was arrested and jailed for drunk driving.

Window opened

Someone pried open a window in the 6000 block of Lancasterlake Court, April 17, and stole money.

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Readers' views on proposed school bond Provides tech

Dear Editor,

As seniors, we personally feel we need to vote "yes" on the proposed school bond issue for the following reasons:

State school funding has dropped to the 2005 level and, as we know, with 80 percent of school budget costs for employees, there is little room for cost cutting;

Due to home values dropping, our property tax has also been reduced and we still have the homestead tax program;

Most of us are not being taxed on our pensions and Social Security; and

If we expect our home values ever to regain pre-2007 levels, we need to provide excellent schools and this starts with technology.

To summarize, we, as a group, have not felt the hardships that are a real problem for families educating children.

*Paul and Geri Ilg
Clarkston*

Alternative to bond

Dear Editor,

In regards to "Group spreads word on school bond," April 18 edition, their placing Dr. Rod Rock on a pedestal causes some readers to wonder if their opinion was merited.

Dr. Rock left a school district that had children no different than ours. He left because ours is a more elite district and his salary was increased.

Do you think he would stay here if another school district offered him a job at a more prestigious school with a salary higher than ours? Of course not. No one would blame him. He owes it to his family to provide the best he can for them.

Here's my alternative to raising our taxes for the next 20 years. We charge our athletes on a pay-to-play plan. If we were to do the same for students having the latest computer technology, there would be a number of advantages.

It would be less expensive, instead of paying the increased taxes for 20 years.

Parents would own the computer and students would have it throughout their entire school career. If they moved from the district, their computers go with them.

The student would possess the computer year round, through Christmas, spring break, and summer.

Students going to college would already have theirs - most colleges require them.

Parents would be spending for only their children, not those for the next 20 years.

The school board would reap the benefits of not having to supply them.

Our seniors living on a fixed income would not lose 4.2 percent of their purchasing power - the government gave Social Security receivers a 3.6 percent increase this year, but said cost of living increase by 4.2 percent over the last 30 years.

Our school board or lending institutions could contract to pay each year the amount they would have paid in tax increases until the cost is paid.

Our school board wouldn't have to ask for an additional \$20 million every 10 years.

It would send a message to our school board, they don't have the option of raising our taxes each time additional revenue is wanted.

For those in favor of the tax increase, please don't use the same old excuse, "it's for our kids" when listing its advantages. That line is overused.

Just in case you think I'm against everything pertaining to our schools, I voted for the building of our newest high school. But I will vote against the bond issue.

*John Thomas
Independence Township*

Adds to debt

Dear Editor,

Our former county clerk worked to eliminate stealth millage elections outside the regular two year cycle. If there isn't, there ought to be a law. This May 8 election is costing a casually estimated \$35,000. Rod Rock seems to think it akin to rolling the dice for \$20,000,000. He, and some members of the local school board are willing to flaunt voters, gambling with your money. With Clarkston area taxpayers already in debt tens of millions for public education, a giant new high school, "early education" buildings and luxurious administration offices, they are demanding "just another \$20,000,000."

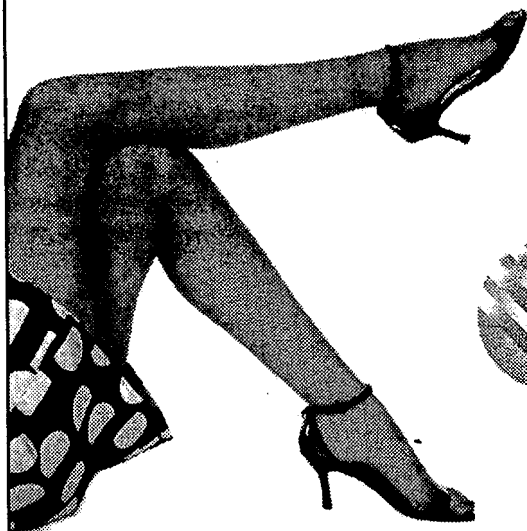
Flaunting election laws are nothing new to the public education lobby. Signs supporting the May 8 election millage went up over the weekend when local ordinance officers are off duty. Political signage in Independence Township is limited to 14 days before an election. This matters not to supporters of another further reach into your future earnings.

The ends justify the means, if you know what that means. Former Michigan legislator and candidate for Governor Joe Schwarz said it best, "The public education lobby is pretty much insatiable...." Vote NO May 8.

*Rob Namowicz
Independence Township*

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Focus on the kids

Dear Editor,

In regard to the Clarkston education bond election, it is disappointing to see the NO supporters continue to behave so negatively and contentiously.

Now they have decided to set up straw men to distract the election with information that is totally irrelevant to the bond election -this is unfortunate.

To me the heart of the difference is in the names. Clarkston Kids First focuses on kids - while the naysayers focus on dollars.

Its also very disheartening when my 6-year-old daughter sees a NO sign in a yard and asks "why wouldn't they want to help my school".

I have only seen positivity come from the administration, the wonderful teachers and staff of Clarkston schools, and Clarkston Kids First therefore, I will be voting YES on May 8th.

For all the negative naysayers: "Don't worry that children never listen to you; worry that they are always watching you" -Robert Fulghum

*Janel Sadowski
Springfield Township*

Reasons to say 'no'

Dear Editor,

I have never voted against a school millage in the past, but I will be voting "no" on the \$20 million Clarkston school bond.

Most of the first half of the bond proceeds of \$10 million would be to provide wireless devices to the students and teachers and to provide the Wi-Fi mast infrastructure, which uses radio waves to provide high-speed network and Internet connections throughout all of the schools.

There are so many reasons why this bond is wrong at this time. I have been made aware of the health dangers of Wi-Fi microwaves in general, but especially when it is turned on all the time in schools where it can affect the health of the students, staff, volunteers, and other visitors.

The district is claiming the wireless devices will have a useful life of six years to justify using the bond to pay for them, but I doubt the devices will survive nearly that long. Where will the district find the funds to pay for the next batch of wireless devices in two or three years to pay for the replacements when they can't be replaced or repaired any longer?

Although probably fun to use, the use of the technology has been tested elsewhere with no evidence of increased test scores or clear benefits to the learning of the students.

It's ill timed with the economy as it is, the unemployment, the high percentage of families in the district on subsidized meals, and the extra \$35,000 it will cost to have the 'stealth' one topic election in May when nothing else is on the ballot and most won't come out to vote.

*Dawn Schaller
Independence Township*

Discuss upgrades at a better time

Dear Editor,

Property owners in Independence Township, do not get caught up in the rhetoric of the school bond proposal of May 8.

I am appalled at the decision to go forward with a \$20 million bond request when Clarkston's school district is already \$200 million in debt.

We already owe more than we have in assets. Sound familiar? This non state bond doesn't need collateral because property owners will be on the hook of having the proposed 1 mill increase continue to increase perhaps to 2 mills when the school district cannot make the payment.

How real is this possibility? Well we have already borrowed from the Michigan School Bond Loan Fund to make our payment on the current bond. This is not an option for the non state bond. So I must ask, if we cannot meet our current obligation how can we commit to a second one?

The state of Michigan has already said less money for the schools is a given, student enrollment is declining, and a shadow wave of foreclosures is waiting to hit the market again, thus driving property values down further, not upwards. In coming money to pay for this bond will be considerably less than predicted.

The real reason there was a rush for the May ballot is because the school was hoping not to compete with the other millage requests which will be on the November ballot. Tax revenues are down for all levels of government.

There is not a crisis in the schools. Nothing catastrophic happens if the proposal is turned down. We need to stop this madness of racking up debt.

The Clarkston school district is not large enough to carry a debt of this size. This is how school districts get into financial trouble. Poor decisions, and missappropriations of funds leave an ugly legacy of overwhelming debt long after the current people in charge have gone.

Please make your decision on May 8th as a concerned citizen and property owner. We can always discuss upgrades to the system when the economic reality is better.

*Mary Walker
Independence Township*

Look in next week's paper for our view on the school bond, and go to the polls, May 8.



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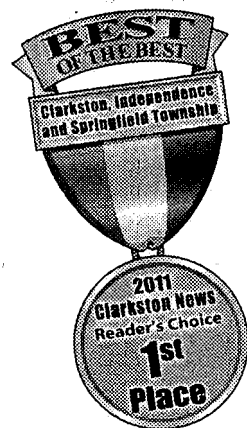
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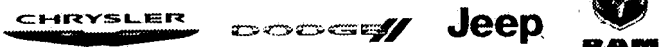
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Wolves downpour on Falcons

BY WENDI REARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer

The dark clouds clouded in around Rochester High School where the Wolves were battling for an OAA Red win.

The clouds threatened rain but Clarkston kept going at the top of the third inning with two hits from sophomore Ryan Rea and junior Ryan Slaughter to put them on bases.

Freshman DJ Zezula went up to bat next and brought in the two runners on his hit. Senior Alex Barta followed with his hit to bring in Zezula and sophomore Sean Martens, putting the score 7-0.

The Wolves struck again at the top of the fourth inning as the rain started to pour on the Falcons' field. Slaughter hit a triple to bring in Rea and Zezula, who also had an RBI during the inning.

By the time Clarkston finished their defense plays against the Falcons to finish the fourth inning the rain was fiercely coming down and the game was stopped, 9-1.

The game will continue - at press time the day and time had not been decided.

The Wolves beat Lahser on Tuesday in eight innings, 6-3. Slaughter was the winning pitcher.

"He struggled in the first inning," said Phil Price, head coach. "He gave up three runs early then dominated the rest of the game. He didn't give up anymore."

He added the difference came from the way Slaughter was approaching the game from the mound.

"He started pitching being a pitcher instead of just throwing," Price said. "He got a little competitive. It was a big boost for us."

Boosts also came from hitters junior Nick Mazzone, senior Jake Forsten and senior Dylan Peck.

"It was really uplifting," said Price. "Nick set the tempo and did a great job on base and stealing. Forsten batted second and he had some big hits and Peck added big support."

The Wolves opened this week against Lake Orion on Monday. They lost, 14-1. Martens brought in the lone run off his hit.

"They are pretty good," said Price before heading into the game. "They have some very good pitchers and we are looking forward to some competition and see what happens."

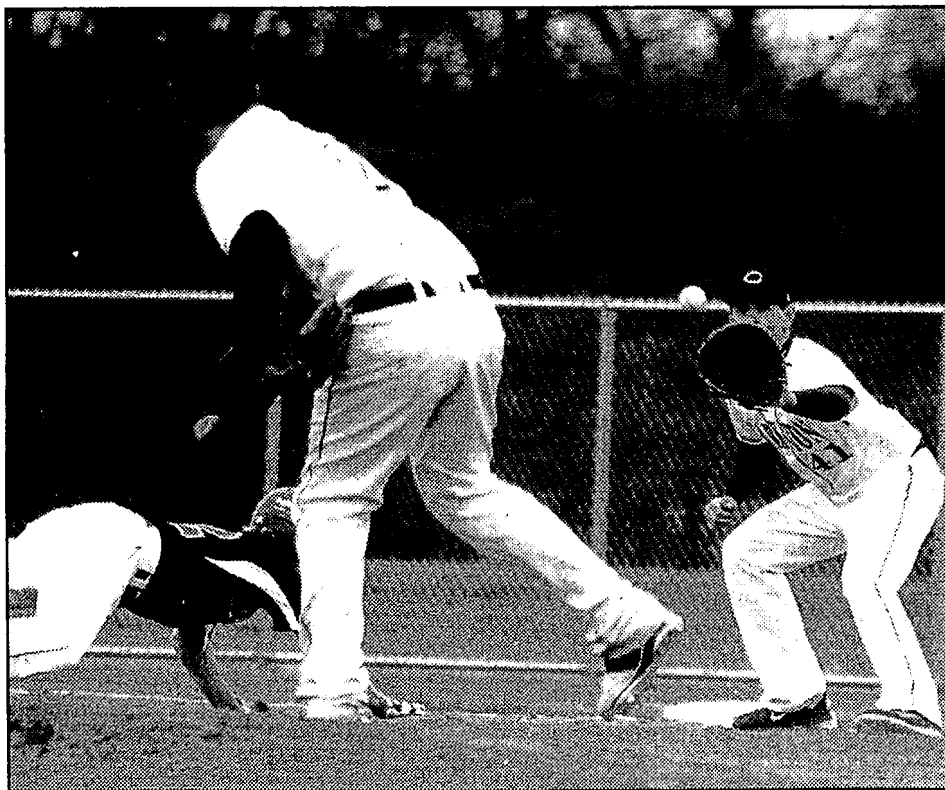
The boys host Rochester Adams on Friday in a double header. It is the second match up between the two teams after Clarkston beat them earlier in the season, 9-7. The Wolves were two points behind in the seventh inning and scored four runs to win.

"I am sure they are going to be coming out with a little more fire in them," Price said. "They are well-coached and a good team."

He added strengths going into this week will come from defense.

"Our kids are very prepared," he said. "When our pitchers are hitting their location it is helpful and when we are playing good defense. Hopefully we get better and better as the year goes."

The games begin at 4 and 6 p.m.



Alex Peck throws to Alex Barta on first base before a Rochester runner makes it back. Photo by Wendi Reardon

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Michael VanderWeel during the game against St. Michael's College - Toronto, April 15. Photo by Wendi Reardon

Reeling in points

BY WENDI REARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer

Senior Michael VanderWeel saw his first lacrosse game when he was in sixth grade and ever since he was hooked.

"I liked how you have to use both hands," he added. "It's not a single hand dominant sport like hockey or football. You have to be good both hands and be ambidextrous."

For the last three years he has aided the Clarkston Boys Varsity Lacrosse team including last year's regional run against Brother Rice where they ended the season.

"It was a really hard loss," he added. "We worked really hard all season and we came up short in regionals. It was really emotional because it was the last time I got to play with my senior friends. But it gave me something to work for this season. Our goal is to beat Brother Rice. It gives us a desire to work and have a better work ethic."

He said the team is strong this year.

"We just need to play a full game of Clarkston lacrosse," VanderWeel said. "If we keep working like we are and keep having the hard practices we will have a great shot of winning the state championship and beating Brother Rice."

To prepare the boys are taking on tougher teams to prepare - including St. Michael's College - Toronto.

"He had a helluva game against them," said Brian Kaminskas, head coach. "He started the season on the second line and we moved him up. He has been playing hard and had a great game against Bloomfield. He has come into his own."

VanderWeel also played football before devoting all of his attention to lacrosse. He said the training in football helped.

"Football is a really physical sport and there is a lot of hard hitting," he added. "It toughened me up for lacrosse because you have a lot of slashes. When you get a slash you just keep going."

VanderWeel has had offers to play college lacrosse after high school but decided to focus on his studies. He plans to attend Oakland Community College for a few years before he transfers to Miami, Florida as he pursues his dream of being a marine biologist.

"We went snorkeling one time in Key West, Florida and since then I have been interested in marine life," he explained. "I always wanted to go snorkeling and be with the animals in the water."

His parents are Joy and Larry.

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Soccer

Goalie junior Katie Miller added her fourth shutout for the season last Thursday against West Bloomfield.

The Clarkston Girls Varsity Soccer team beat the Lady Lakers, 3-0.

Junior Lindsey Renkiewicz was the first to score for the Lady Wolves less than eight minutes into the game off a pass from senior Caitlin Kirby.

Clarkston struck again ten minutes later with another goal. West Bloomfield held control of the ball in the Lady Wolves' turf. Clarkston turned it around as senior Andrea Dumais closed in on the net and made her shot. Senior Sarah McCallum assisted on the goal.

During the second half, freshman Alexis Shamoun scored the final goal with an assist from senior Lindsey Adams.

Miller had four saves during the night as the Lady Wolves improved to 4-3-1, 4-1-1 OAA White.

The Lady Wolves host Youth Soccer Night on Thursday when they play Andover.

"They are really excited," said Sarah Wasilk, head varsity coach. "They like youth soccer night. I think it really shows them how much the kids look up to them. It is good for the community. It is good for the younger girls. It is good for our girls to see how much they are appreciated."

Admission is free for kids wearing soccer jerseys. Kids can also win a free hot dog during the Soccer Shootout during half-time.

JV begins at 5:30 p.m., varsity follows.

Golf

The Clarkston Boys Varsity Golf team finished the OAA Red tournament at Twin Lakes with a 339.

Jimmy Delnick shot a par of 84; Cam Krausman, 83; Dan Corazza, 85; Jack Alli, 87; Alec Genter, 93; and Nick Surovec, 97.

This weekend they head north for the Traverse City Invitational.

Taking over tournament

BY WENDI REARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer

Going into the sixth inning against Warren Regina on Saturday the Lady Wolves needed just a couple of runs to break their opponent's 4-2 lead their Girls in Pink Classic.

By the time freshman Makenzie King stepped up to the plate the base were loaded. With one hit she brought one runner in. Senior Tara Perry followed suit by bringing another teammate home to tie the score.

The girls took the lead off senior Megan Hastings hit which brought two runners home. But they captured the win off junior Sydney Hasselbach's 3-run homerun after hitting it into centerfield and over the fence.

"She ignited the team," said Clarkston Girls Varsity Softball Head Coach Don Peters. "She had a great day. She had two significant hits."

Clarkston finished the game with a 11-5



Tara Perry runs for first. Photo by LW

win over Regina. Freshman Rachel Vieira hit 3-for-4, Perry hit 2-for-4 with two RBIs, Hastings hit 2-for-4 with three RBIs. Freshman Madeline Maday was the winning pitcher with seven strikeouts.

The girls continued the day with wins over Fenton, 3-1, and Sterling Heights Stevenson, 1-0.

"It was a great day for the girls and a great day as we raised money (for Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation)," said Peters. "I couldn't have been prouder of their mental toughness and how well they played together as a team. We won a trophy and had some fun. As a program we feel strongly the team has been blessed in a lot of ways from the community and their parents to give back."

Maday was the winning pitcher against Stevenson with 11 strikeouts. Hasselbach had one RBI and hit a double for the lone run in the fourth inning.

Freshman Candace Kitchen was the winning pitcher against Fenton with five strikeouts in six innings. Hasselbach hit 2-for-2 with two doubles. Vieira hit 2-for-3 with one double. Vieira, Perry and senior Shauna Siwicki had one RBI each.

Clarkston also beat Troy in their double header last Wednesday, 4-3 and 8-7.

"That is always a good feeling," said Peters. "Since I have been at Clarkston they have been our main rival in softball. It was a good defensive clutch plays when they had to. They got the hits when they had to, too. They are definitely defining what we do - clutch hitting and clutch defense. They made some plays in the last game and they were in tough situations."

The Lady Wolves play North Farmington on Wednesday and head to Avondale next Monday. Both are double headers beginning at 4:30 p.m.

"We are playing tough teams," said Peters. "North Farmington is ranked ahead of us in the county, the state and in our league. It should be a lot of fun. We are looking forward to see how the girls grow in the season. It will be a good indicator of where we are at."



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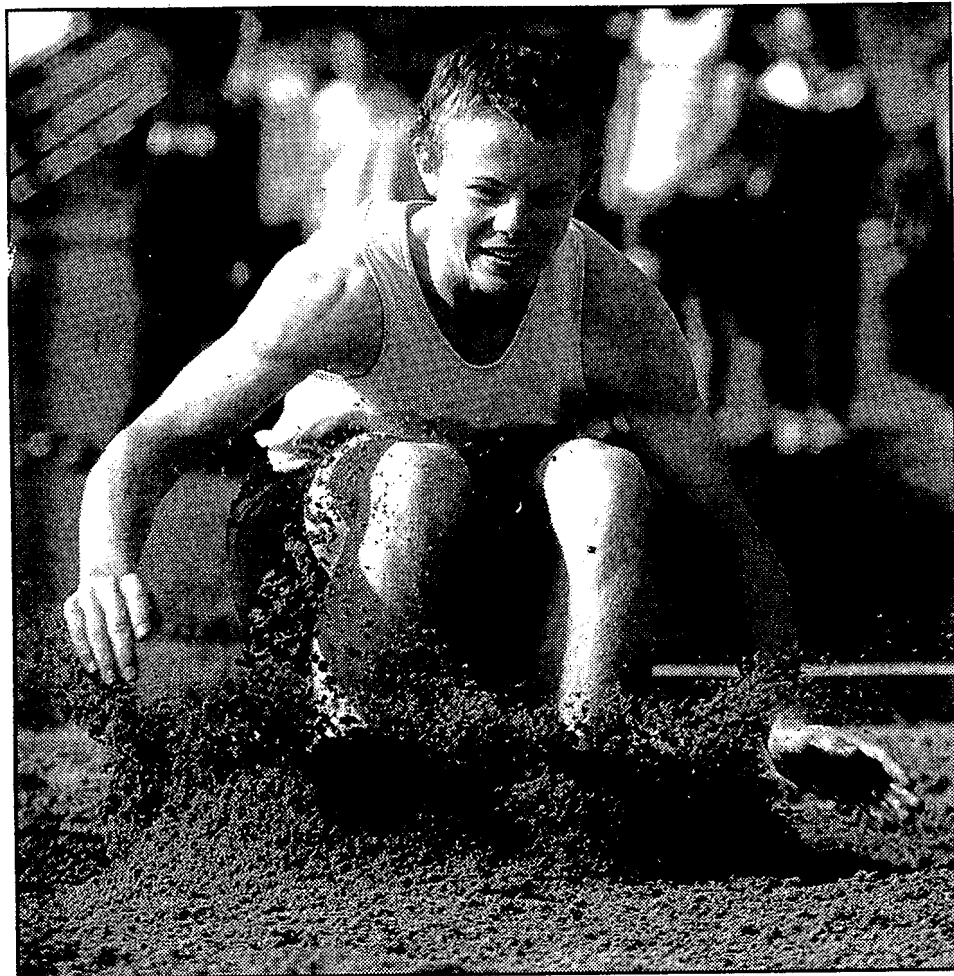
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Merrick Canada lands with an impact against Rochester. Photo by Larry Wright

Going the distance

BY WENDIREARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer

The Clarkston Track & Field teams went for another win - this time against Rochester on April 17.

"They are always going to be tough," said John Bennink, head coach for the Clarkston Boys Track & Field team. "The last couple years we are more experienced. Rochester has really good sprinters and distance kids. We know we will have to run."

The boys team beat Rochester, 96-32, and took first place in 11 events.

They are as follows: Colin Kupper, 44'9" in shot put; Matt Wright, 125' 5 1/2" in discus; CJ Gozdor, 6'5" in high jump; Caine Watlington, 16.84 in 110 hurdles; Mike McCord, 44.17, 300 hurdles; Adam Bruderick 51.88 in the 400-meter dash; Sam Tanielian, 2:00.98 in the 800-meter run; 3,200-meter relay team, 8:51.51; 1,600-meter relay team, 3:38.3; 800-meter relay team, 1:34.76; and the 400-meter relay team, 45.02.

"We have some young guys contributing," added Bennink. "The toughest part of our team is definitely our distance kids - Adam Bruderick, Spenser Pawlik, Sam Tanielian, Daniel Byrne, Austin Draving - they are all big contributors. They have been around four years and have scored points

since. They made this year nice because I know I can count on these guys to get points and to score in a meet no matter who we go against."

The team remains undefeated after three matches as they went against Lake Orion on Tuesday.

"There hasn't been a whole lot of guessing," Bennink added. "We know what we've got. We know what we can do."

The girls team beat Rochester, 79-49, taking first place in 11 events. They are as follows: Kayle Sherwood, 32'2" in shot put and 85' in discus; Tessa Manilla, 5'2" in high jump; Maacey Petersón, 16.74 in 100 hurdles; Maddie Wilson, 12.76 in the 100-meter dash and 27.06 in the 200-meter dash; Natalie Smith, 11:46.21 in the 3,200-meter run and 5:12 in the 1,600-meter run; Jill Harris, 2:26 in the 800-meter run; the 3,200-meter relay, 10:19.27; and 1,600-meter relay, 4:21.81.

The Lady Wolves also improved their record to 3-0.

The teams head to the Titan Relays on Saturday at Stevenson High School in Sterling Heights. They head to Oxford next Tuesday, 745 North Oxford Road, 4:30 p.m.

"We are going to have to come and run everytime we got on the track," Bennink said "We are strong all the way around."

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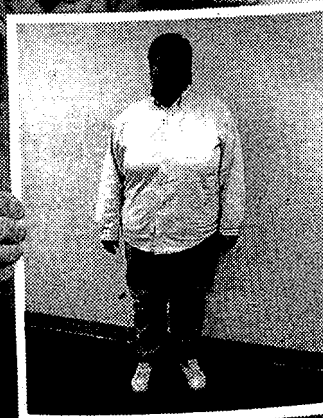
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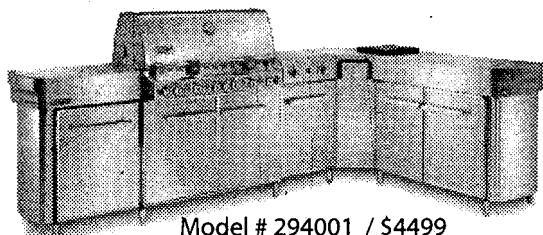
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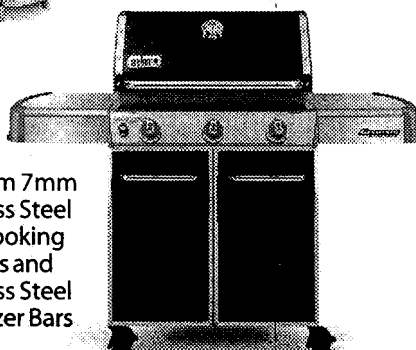
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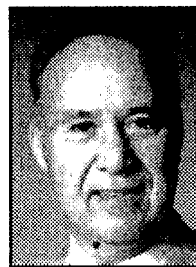
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Obituaries

Howard P. Altman, 87

Howard P. Altman, age 87, of Gaylord, died Saturday, April 21, 2012 at Tendercare of Gaylord.

Mr. Altman was born on Feb. 8, 1925, in Flint to Henry and Mable (Ransford) Altman. He attended school in Flint and while a senior, was drafted into the Army. He worked for Oakland County as the Director of Elections for 20 years, retiring in 1989.



On Oct. 10, 1950, he married Shirley Terry. After retirement, they moved north to Gaylord. He was an avid golfer; having golfed his age a number of times, (while in his sixties), loved sports of all kinds, enjoyed feeding the birds and making feeders, and was a member of St. Mary Cathedral parish.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years Shirley; his children Kathleen (Don) Ireland of New Mexico, Kristine Iid of Brighton; Stephanie (Michael) Bonvallet of Illinois, and Scott (Lynette) Altman of Georgia. Also surviving are 7 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and his brother James of Kalamazoo. He was preceded in death by his daughter Sandra Altman.

Funeral services will be on Wednesday, April 25, at 11 a.m. St. Mary Cathedral in Gaylord, Fr. Polycarp Mblanawa officiating. Visitation was April 24 at the Nelson Funeral Home in Gaylord, and at the church on Wednesday beginning at 10 a.m. Interment, Otsego Lake Township Cemetery.

Memorials are appreciated to Heartland Hospice through the Nelson Funeral Home P.O. Box 1548, Gaylord, MI. 49734. Please visit www.nelsonsfuneralhome.com to post condolences online.

Barbara Guthrie-Pace

Barbara J. Guthrie-Pace of Clarkston passed away April 20, 2012, at age 70.

She was preceded in death by her husband Charles and grandson Todd Brow Jr. She was the mother of Charles (Reta), Barbara and Tammi Brantley; grandma of Jessica and Eve; daughter of Ralph (the late Florence) Taylor; sister of Mark Taylor.



Funeral service, Friday, 12:30 p.m., at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston, where friends may visit Thursday, 6-8 p.m. Memorials may be made to American Diabetes Association or Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation.

Online www.wintfuneralhome.com guestbook

Margery J. Daniels, 81

Margery J. Daniels of Clarkston passed away, April 17, 2012, at age 81.

She was preceded in death by her husband Norman. She was the loving mother of Mike (Linda) of Lake Angelus, Aimee (Tom) Goss of Ann Arbor, Pat (Debbie) of Ann Arbor and Mary Anne (Blair) Collins of Waterford; also survived by 10 grandchildren and six great grandchildren; sister of Virginia Ostrowski, the late Bill Rich, Barbara (John) Vickers, Peggy (Carl) Shoelander and Ruth (Harold) Stolicker.

Visitation was April 20 at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Funeral Mass was April 21 at St. Daniel Catholic Church, Clarkston. Inurnment Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly. Memorials may be made to Kids Alive International. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Obituaries posted daily
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Alton J. Secord, 92

Alton J. Secord, "Pete," lifelong resident of the area, passed away April 21, 2012, at age 92.

He was the husband of Shirley for 71 years; father of Sharon (Wilbur) Sinift, Dawn (Tim) Jones, Randy (Pat), Cheryl (Dennis) Omell and Anna (Ian) Anderson; also survived by 11 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren.

Mr. Secord retired from Pontiac Motor Division in 1974 as a specialized clerk, completing 34 years of service. He was a member of the Pontiac Elks 810 and the Brandon and Waterford Senior Centers. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Funeral service, Wednesday, 10 a.m., at the **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston. Interment Lakeview Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to American Cancer Society; Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.



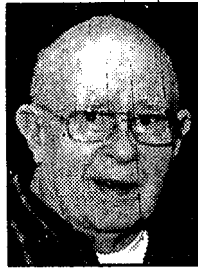
Glen R. Westfall, 74

Glen R. Westfall of Ortonville, formerly of Union Lake, passed away April 18, 2012, after an extended illness, at age 74.

He was the beloved husband of Kathy for 53 years; father of David (Regina) and Deb (Troy) Vallow; grandpa of Christopher and Shannon Westfall, Justin and Nicholas Vallow; brother-in-law of Lyle Wilson.

Mr. Westfall was a pipefitter at Fisher Body and Orion Assembly and a member of UAW 5960 for 38 years. A heartfelt thank you to Glen's caregivers at Autumn Ridge and Odyssey Hospice.

A gathering of family and friends will be held at a later date. Arrangements entrusted to **Lewis E. Wint and Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston. Memorials may be made to Senior Day Care program at Waterford Senior Center or Odyssey Hospice. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.



Robert Brian Vaillancourt, 59

Robert Brian Vaillancourt of Waterford passed away April 20, 2012, at age 59.

He was the loving husband of Brenda for 30 years; dear father of Brienne and Brooke; son of Marelyce (the late Robert); brother of Cheryl (Tom) Dionne, Diane (Frank) Abney; Andrea (Bob) Cervantes, Chris (Cindy) and John (Carrie); son in law of Shirley (the late James) Simpson; also survived



by many nieces and nephews.

Mr. Vaillancourt worked for West Bloomfield Water Department. He enjoyed watching his favorite sports teams, golfing, hunting, landscaping and being outdoors. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army. Bob touched many lives and will be missed terribly.

Visitation was April 23 at the **Lewis E. Wint and Son Funeral Home**. Funeral Mass was April 24 at Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church, Waterford. Rite of Committal, All Saints Cemetery. Any donations to the family will be used toward medical research. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.



Clarkston Rotarian Brad Evans and Lindsay Bannasch, event coordinator at Fountains, are planning the club's spring wine tasting, May 3. Photo by Phil Custodio

Celebrate spring with Clarkston Rotary

The Clarkston Rotary Club hosts its spring wine tasting at Fountains Banquet Center, 6060 Maybee Road, a new location this year, on Thursday, May 3 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

"We're excited and hoping for a big turnout," said Rotarian Brad Evans.

The evening features Michigan Wineries; Bel Lago, Black Star Farms, Brengman Brothers at Crain Hill, Brys Estate, Chateau Chantel and Forty-Five North.

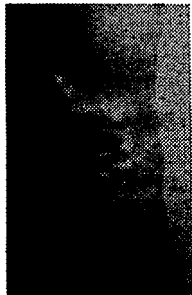
In addition to being available for tasting, the wines will also be available for purchase by the bottle or case.

"That's the nicest part," Evans said.

Tickets are \$35 per person or \$45 at the door and may be purchased from any Clarkston Rotarian, the Clarkston Chamber of Commerce or from Fountains Banquet Center.

Proceeds benefit Clarkston Rotary's many community projects.

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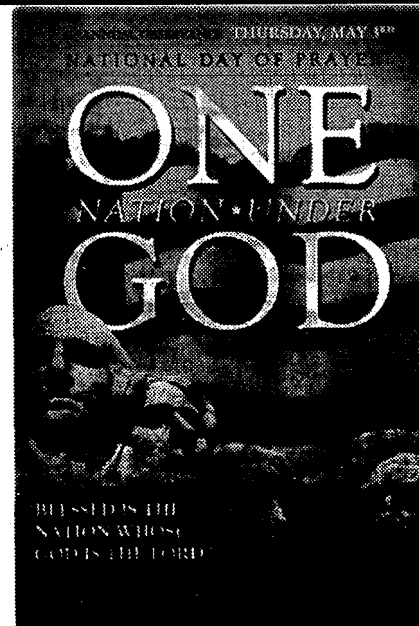
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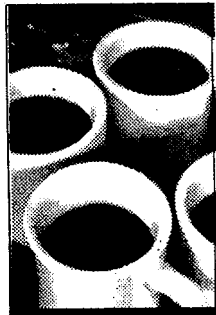
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Clarkston Coffee Club

News about and for local business folk

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Time for tree maintenance

Trees provide property owners beauty, shade, and privacy, as well as habitat for birds and other wildlife, if you take care of them, said Tatiana Duva, owner of Village Tree Service in Clarkston.

"Springtime is an excellent time to make decisions about what to do with trees and shrubs—you're outside more, and taking a fresh look at things after the long winter," Duva said.

If neglected, trees can develop undesirable, and even dangerous, conditions. "Unfortunately, many people don't realize the importance of tree care until disease, infestation, or a storm takes a large tree or limb down, causing serious damage," Duva says. "The cost of damage to your home, vehicles, utilities or other landscaping features, is much higher than the cost of preventative maintenance." And trimming deadwood and unproductive limbs and branches can keep disease and insects from weakening otherwise healthy trees, in addition to improving their overall appearance.

"Most trees have a natural shape and beauty," says Duva, "but that's often compromised by crowding from other trees or proximity to buildings. People are often amazed at what the selective trimming of limbs or removal of an unhealthy tree can do for their property." With more than 15 years in the tree service industry, the past six as owner of Village Tree Service, Duva knows her business.

Originally from Columbia, Duva became a U.S. citizen in 1997. She has worked in all



Tatiana Duva

aspects of tree service, including tree, shrub and ornamental removal and trimming, deep root fertilization, land-clearing, stump removal, and spraying. And, she's added to those skills the talent of managing her own company. "Some people are surprised to find that the owner is a woman, in what's traditionally a male-dominated business. But my crew and I work very hard to please our customers." Village Tree Service employs eight people, including a certified arborist.

Based in Clarkston, Village Tree Service is fully licensed, bonded and insured, and serves Oakland, Macomb, Genesee, and St. Clair Counties. The company specializes in hazardous removals and offers free estimates and senior citizen discounts. For more information, call 248.494.0650 or visit www.villagetreesserviceusa.com.

Business achievements

Rebecca E. McGovern of Clarkston State Bank was chosen an "Elite 40 Under 40" by Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson from nearly 400 nominees.

McGovern is currently a Vice President in the Commercial Lending area of Clarkston State Bank.

Over the past seven years, she has held numerous positions including Commercial Credit Analyst, Portfolio Manager and Commercial Loan Officer



McGovern

In addition to her lending responsibilities she is also very active in the community.

She is the president of the Clarkston Coalition for Youth, treasurer of Christmas in Action of Oakland County-Clarkston Area, Executive Board member of Automation Alley Finance Committee, member of Lighthouse of Clarkston Open Your Heart Committee, Rainbow Connection Dobson Committee and the Clarkston Chamber of Commerce.

She obtained her Bachelor of Science in Finance from Oakland University and Masters of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University.

Team up for financial future

Many investors rely upon financial advisors to help them manage their investment portfolio.

Ideally, the financial advisor and investor should work together, as a team, to find the right investments and make informed decisions to help meet investment objectives. Below are some keys to developing a partnership with your financial advisor.

Review investment objectives. Your financial advisor will help define your investment objectives, but he or she needs your assistance to do a thorough job.

Think through your objectives before your next meeting. Your participation and feedback will greatly aid your financial advisor in formulating a strategy that fits your unique goals, timeline and risk tolerance.

Ask questions – be an informed investor. Be sure you fully understand the investments recommended for your portfolio. If you don't, it's your responsibility as an investor to let your financial advisor know you need more information.

Don't be afraid to ask questions about your financial advisors recommendations and advice, after all they're your investments!

Understand the risks with each investment. It's important to fully understand the risks in every investment you own and the reasons why the value of your investments may rise and fall. Your financial advisor can help explain the risks involved with each type of investment, and

your questions will help make sure nothing is overlooked. If you don't completely understand the risks associated with your investment, ask more questions until you do.

Meet regularly to review your portfolio. Use these meetings to your advantage, go over

Raymond James



A column by James Kruzan

your current investments, their performance and evaluate other investment opportunities. Regularly scheduled meetings with your financial advisor are a good time to inform him or her about significant changes in your life that may require shifts in your strategy. Also, major changes in the economy or new tax laws should also prompt a review.

Maintain up to date records. Make sure your confirmations and account statements are reviewed and saved in a safe place.

These documents help you monitor your investments on an on-going basis and will be useful come tax time. When you come across something you don't understand, ask for assistance from your financial advisor. The key is being an informed investor and keeping good records will aid you in this task.

James B. Kruzan, CFP, is a Registered Principal and Branch Manager for Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., Fenton and Clarkston.

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- Alexandra and Anna Marie Gladding



"We recycle. I was raised not to waste especially water."

- Vannary Tuomi



"We have a family of four and put out a huge tub to recycle. We take our own bags to the store. My kids are very conscious."

- Megan Forer



"I pick up the litter found on the side of roads."

- Jacob Aberlich

By Wendi Reardon

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Planning a ball to help mission work

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

Erica Cale of Independence Township may not be having a ball during her visit home, but she's planning one.

Cale, 20, spends most of her time in Honduras running Helping Hearts Helping Hands, a mission she founded to help girls in need.

"This is where I want to be, this is where God wants me to be," Erica said.

She's in Clarkston working on the Ruby Ball fund raiser, 5 p.m.-12 a.m., May 5, at Deer Lake Athletic Club.

"This year's event is expected to be larger than ever with awesome live and silent auction items, appetizers, dinner, DJ music by Ben Mackie, dancing, the popular Infinity Photobooth will be back this year, raffles, awesome door prizes, and so much more," she said.

Funds will be used on several new projects.

"We have started working with local hospitals helping children with severe medical conditions," she said. "We're branching out with sponsorship programs, working in many more villages in Honduras."

Her brother Sean, 21, recently visited the mission with friends from Central Michigan University.

"We were able to install four water purification systems that each produce about 70 gallons of clean drinking water daily," she said. "It's very exciting to see progress in the health of children -



Erica Cale of Clarkston, with a child she helped in Honduras. Photo provided

it's saving lives."

The purifiers, which use sand and rock to clean water without moving parts, chemicals, or electricity, cost about \$90 each and last for at least 10 years, she said.

"There are now many, many families and children benefiting from this clean water - it's life changing," she said. "We plan on installing more purification systems down the road."

"The things we take for granted mean so much to them," said Nancy Cale, Erica's mother. "It's amazing to see the mission continue to grow, and how determined Erica is. She hasn't lost sight of her goals."

Challenges continue to be cultural differences, severe poverty, and crime.

"The situation is more dangerous, with murders, drug smuggling, and the political situation," Nancy said.

The effect of crime is more pronounced in the cities, Erica said.

"The small villages aren't affected as much," she said. "But the economy is bad all over the world. Fathers who used to work are now unemployed. There's no government support."

"There are definitely more people who need help," Nancy said. Erica plans to continue branch-

ing out, helping more children and families get medical care and education.

"Education is very important," she said. "It can make a difference. There are jobs in the cities, but you can't get a job without a good education. That's harder for those in the villages."

Clarkston support also includes school supplies donated by children and schools, and knitted items, blankets, and clothing made and donated by local churches and groups.

Auction items for the ball include vacation stays, sports and music lessons, hand crafted items, certificates for services or goods, gift cards, gift baskets, and sports or entertainment memorabilia.

"We're always looking for auction items, anything, really," she said.

Tickets are \$75 if purchased before April 28, \$85 at the door; table of 10, \$595 before April 28. For those under 21, tickets are \$35 before April 28, \$45 at the door. After 10 p.m., admission is \$20.

Childcare is free at Starry Safari Pajama Party at Clarkston United Methodist Church, 4:30 p.m.-12 a.m. Children can wear their pajamas and bring a pillow and sleeping bag for games, crafts, movies and a scavenger hunt.

For more information, email Helping Hearts Helping Hands@hotmail.com, check www.helpingheartshelpinghands.org, or call 248-660-4507 or 248-830-6871.



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Special Events

Youth Recognition Ceremony and Dessert Reception, 7 p.m., April 25, at Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road. 248-623-4313.

Spring Book Sale, 10 a.m., April 25-28, Independence Township Library, 6495 Clarkston Road. 248-391-4424.

Purchase with a Purpose fund raiser for the Elijah Bell Fund, 3-7 p.m., April 26, Premier Eye Care & Contact Lens Center, 5724 Clarkston Road. 248-241-6537.

Meet and Greet fund raiser, Neil Billington for state rep, District 43, 5:30-7:30 p.m., April 26, Fountains, 6060 Maybee Road. \$50 donation. 248-618-7171.

Learning to Live with Eastern Massasauga, Springfield Township Parks and Rec, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., April 28, Springfield Township Civic Center. Indoor workshop, short outdoor hike. \$5.

Spring Fling, Bethany North Oakland Singles Dance, 8 p.m.-12 a.m., April 28, St. Dan's Cushing Center, 7010 Valley Park. \$15. 248-891-8938.

Titanic, the Musical, April 29, ticket to musical at Royal Oak Theatre, lunch at Lilly's Seafood, transportation, \$79, \$84 for non-members. Register at Independence Township Senior Adult Activity Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. 248-625-8231.

A Taste of Spring Wine Tasting Gala, Clarkston Rotary, 6:30-8:30 p.m., May 3, Fountains Golf and Banquet, 6060 Maybee Road. \$35/advance, \$45/door. 248-953-0438.

Friendship Tea, Garden Theme, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., May 5, \$25, 6600 Waldon Road. Benefits ESTHERS Children. 248-890-4876 or 248-625-8240.

Chuck Keegan Race for the Kids, 9 a.m., May 5, Clarkston Junior High School track, 6595 Middle Lake Road. 5K run, 3K walk, Donut Dash for children 10 and under. By April 16, \$50/fam-

Around Town



A calendar of places to go, people to see and things to do

SCAMP Walk & Roll, May 6

Get your feet moving and wheels spinning at Walk & Roll for SCAMP, Sunday, May 6, in Depot Park.

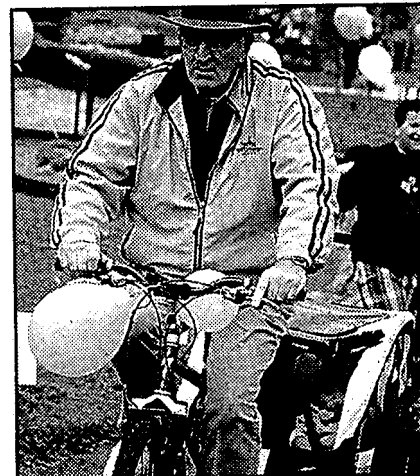
There will be hot dogs, refreshments, live D.J., Stars & Stripes Kids Activity Center with portable gymnastics circuit, bounce house by Planet Kids, and toys and entertainment by Great Turtle Toys.

Walk & Roll is the second largest fundraiser for SCAMP, a non-profit, five-week summer camp in Clarkston for individuals with special needs. The family event, family pets included, features 1-, 2- and 5-mile routes.

The event is free. Student walkers who turn in pledges of \$50 or more, adults with pledges of \$100 or more, and families with pledges of \$200 or more get T-shirts featuring Buzz the Bee.

All participants are eligible for a drawing for a new bike. Special prizes will be awarded to the youngest and oldest walker.

For pledge sheets or information, call



Joe Fabrizio Sr. carts princess granddaughters Lia and Lucy along the route in 2011. Photo provided

248-623-8089 or check www.clarkstonscamp.com. Registration is 12-1 p.m. on May 6. All ages welcome.

ily, \$20/individual, \$5 for Donut Dash. www.clarkstonfoundation.org.

MORC Miles for Smiles 5K Run/Walk and Quarter Mile Fun Run, 10 a.m., May 5, Independence Oaks County Park. \$30. 248-276-8007.

Townhall debate, Independent Tea Party Patriots with U.S. Senate candidates Clark Durant, Gary Glenn and Pete Hoekstra, 6:30 p.m., May 8, Fountains Golf and Banquet Center, 6060 Maybee Road, itpp.us.

Home Landscape Transformation workshop, 7:30 p.m., May 9, St. Daniel Church Cushing Center, 7010 Valley Park Drive. Topics: grass prairie, rain gardens, flower beds, Buffalo grass

lawn. 248-454-6300.

Treasurers and Treats Neighbor for Neighbor spring fund raiser, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., May 18-19, Hart Community Center, downtown Davisburg. Rummage and bake sale. 248-634-0900.

Angel's Place Race, 9 a.m., May 19, St. Daniel Church, 7010 Valley Park Drive. 1 Mile Family Fun Walk, 5K Bruce Clifton Run/Walk, 10K Run, www.angelsplacrace.org.

Weekly meetings

Monday

Clarkston Rotary Club, Mondays, 6:30 p.m.

Clarkston Community Education Center, 6558 Waldon Road. \$10. 248-880-0027.

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.

Tuesday

Pickleball, Tuesdays, Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m., 5449 Clarkston Road, \$3, drop in, all levels welcome; Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m., \$4, drop in. First Congregational Church of Clarkston, 5449 Clarkston Road.

Widowers and Widows On With Life Group, 7 p.m., first Tuesday, third Wednesday. Dinners, breakfasts, golf, social gatherings, rap sessions for ages 35-80. 248-393-8553.

Wednesday

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

Women's Cancer Support Group, second Wednesday, 6-7:30 p.m., McLaren Cancer Institute, 5680 Bow Pointe Drive. 248-922-6623.

Thursday

Clarkston Masons/Cedar 60, first Thursdays, 8 p.m., 1 East Washington. 248-625-4610.

Clarkston Area Lions Club, second and fourth Thursday, 6:30-8 p.m., Carriage House, Clintonwood Park. 248-802-8603.

Young At Heart Active Adults, Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Hart Community Center in Davisburg. \$5 yearly membership, \$5 lunch. 248-846-6558.

Free General Support Group for any type of cancer and caregivers, fourth Thursdays, 2-3 p.m., Great Lakes Cancer Institute, 5680 Bow Pointe Drive. Walk-ins welcome. 248-922-6610.

General Support Group for anyone with a cancer diagnosis, fourth Thursday, 2-3 p.m., McLaren Cancer Institute, 5680 Bow Pointe Drive. 248-922-6623.

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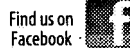
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Explore nature while mushroom hunting

BY MARY KECK

Clarkston News Staff Writer

With the weather warming and flowers blossoming, mushroom hunters young and old are itching to get outdoors in search of flavorful fungi.

Mycologist and fungi-enthusiast Matt Reid calls mushroom hunting "a great exploration. You never know what you're going to find or not find. It's free. All you need is a bag, hiking shoes, and knowledge."

The first bit of knowledge Reid would impart is "Picker Beware!" Humans are not the only critters in the woods who love mushrooms.

"Insects are after them just as much as we are. There are flies that will lay eggs on the caps and larvae will eat down through the stems," Reid cautioned.

If you spot a patch with flies hovering above, you may have arrived too late to pick any quality mushrooms.

Besides the bugs, mushroom hunters should be careful to avoid poisonous varieties.

"Depending on the kind of fungi, you could merely get symptoms such as stomach upset, nausea, or diarrhea," Reid explained.

Mushrooms can also cause more severe reactions.

Reid warned, "your liver could completely shut down. There are even mushrooms in Michigan that will kill you within 24 hours."

Fortunately, there are ways to avoid too much mushroom mayhem.

Reid advised, "any time you're trying a new mushroom, even if it is widely known to be a gourmet edible, you should only try a little bit and only try one, and always keep some of it around in case you do have a problem, so you have something to show the hospital."

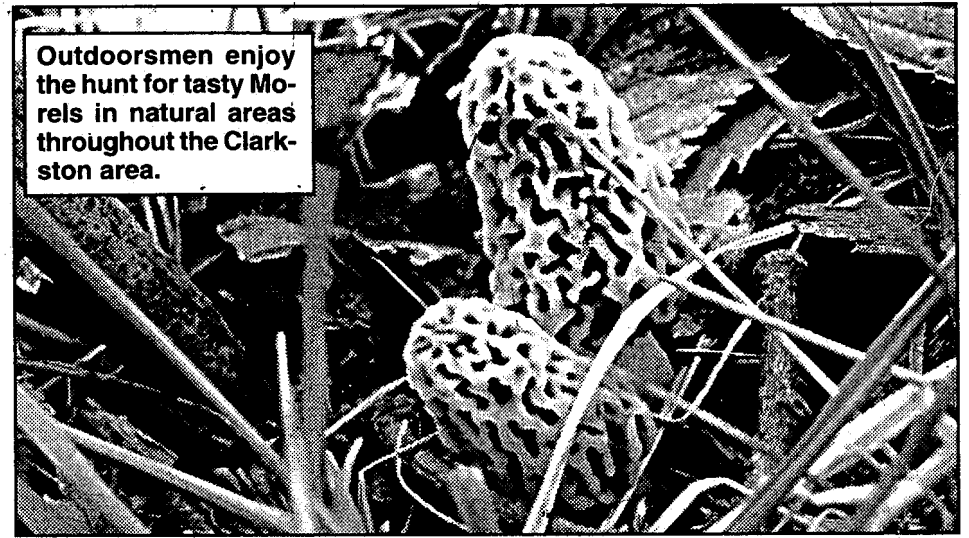
To know what's what, hunters can identify mushrooms by looking at the size of their caps, where they are found, how the gills are oriented on the underside of the cap, and how the gills attach to the mushroom's stem. If you're not certain about what you're looking for, Reid suggests starting with easily identifiable mushrooms like Morels. You should also learn your trees, take along someone with mushroom knowledge, or find a book that offers information on identification.

Clarkston resident Mark Angelini, who is a co-founder of the edible landscaping company Roots to Fruits, offered some tips on good times to go hunting.

"We've had a dry March and April, so if you're an avid Morel hunter, you may have to wait for the next rain," he explained. The brown or yellow sponge-like Morels usually appear after a rainfall. According to Reid, they are also provoked by a rise in temperature.

Luckily for Independence Township residents, there's lots of great mushroom hunting ground if it's the right time of the season.

Outdoorsmen enjoy the hunt for tasty Morels in natural areas throughout the Clarkston area.



Reid and Angelini advise that you use trees as a guide. Morels, for example, have a symbiotic (mutually beneficial) relationship with the trees. Reid noted that "the brown Morel likes soft woods like Aspens, Poplars, and Cotton Woods [because] they sheath the ends of the tree roots like a sock and protect the root from things that may want to feed on it. Morels exchange moisture and nutrients with the tree that comes from broken down debris, which provides the mushroom with sugar in return."

Hunters should remember that even if they're out hunting at the right time, they may not find a mushroom. "Morels are a mysterious mushroom because they are not very predictable," Angelini observed.

Though they are a common variety that is fairly easy to find, Morels don't always grow in the same place. From Reid's perspective, the mystery is due in part to yearly variations in climate. "Every year is different. For mushrooms to fruit you need a certain temperature and relative humidity," he said. The low rainfall takes part of the blame for the small number of Morels available this spring, but there are other factors that have influenced their availability.

According to Reid, "the brown Morel season was really abbreviated. It came on about three weeks early because of the warm temperatures in March and then it got cold again. You probably won't find many anymore except in Northern Michigan."

The abundance of yellow Morels that will arrive later in the season is yet to be determined.

"Yellows will show up around Mother's day," Reid commented.

To find the later Morels, hunters should keep an eye out for dead ash trees and apple blossoms as the famous fungi are often found among the leaves in orchards.

Angelini believes they can even be spotted in the wood chips of landscaping beds, which yield "high organic matter in the soil." Reid, who lived in Clarkston for seven years and now resides in Birmingham, advises look-

ing in the county and state parks, specifically in Seven Lakes, Ortonville state game area, Holly Recreation area, and Orion Oaks.

While Morels are a favorite of most hunters, other varieties such as Wood Ears and Oysters are available at this time of year, too. In the summer, if you target Oak, Beech, and Maple trees you can find Chanterelles, Porcinis, or Black Trumpet mushrooms. During the fall, hunters will come across the Maitake also known as the hen of the woods. Reid said the Maitake is a special, large mushroom that is abundant nearby around September and October.

"It is the only food that is recognized by the American Cancer Society because it has stopped malignancies in laboratory animals," he explained.

Reid believes mushrooms offer humans such great medicinal properties because there are many similarities between mushrooms and people.

"We inhale oxygen, we expel carbon dioxide, and we share the same pathogens as fungi, which is why most of our best antibiotics are derived from mushrooms," he noted.

While the medicinal properties of forest fungi are impressive, most hunters seek mushrooms simply to curb their appetites. Depending on the mushroom's flavor, sometimes it makes sense to put them into stir fries, Reid said.

"I like to make rice dishes with them, but you can't ever go wrong with sautéing them in olive oil or butter," he added. Fortunately for Morel lovers, you can easily dehydrate and rehydrate them if you can't eat all the mushrooms you find while foraging. Reid said, "a good way to preserve mushrooms that won't rehydrate well like chanterelles is to sauté them and then freeze them." He also thinks the best thing to do if you find a large number of mushrooms is to share them with friends.

To find out more about the Michigan mushroom hunting scene, go to www.michiganmushroomhunters.org or check out www.easygrowmushrooms.com.

Religion

Sacred service spiritual path to heaven on earth

April 22, 1970, the date of the first modern Earth Day observance, found me and my junior high school classmates stumbling through the mountains of Oregon's Coast Range planting fir trees and picking up garbage in what was then known as the Tillamook Burn.

The Tillamook Burn was the site of a series of horrendous forest fires in the 1930's and 40's. Over 700,000 acres of 400-year-old fir trees were lost due to the fires that were caused by careless logging operations and smokers whipped up by coastal winds. The first fire burned for nearly 3 weeks before seasonal rains doused the flames.

There in 1970, over 36 years after the initial burn, the skeletons of the burned trees still dwarfed the young men and women who were hopefully planting year-old seedlings into the fertile mountain soil. The little yearlings only hinting at the potential they contained.

In 1973, the Tillamook Burn was officially renamed the Tillamook State Forest. This was

a testament to 24 years of reforestation efforts where millions of seedlings had been planted by volunteers and lumber company reforestation teams. Yet, even today, the forest is but a shadow of what it had been and will again be long after all of us who participated in the replanting are gone.

I remember getting off of the school bus at the end of the day and walking behind my buddy Billy. Billy pulled out a stick of gum, popped it in his mouth and threw the wrapper on the ground. I yelled, "Billy, what the (heck) are you doing? We just spent the day picking up garbage and here you are trashing our street." He just laughed. I picked up the wrapper and put it in my pocket.

My oldest boy is a member of the Clarkston High School Robotics team, Team RUSH. Part of their public service activities is to clean up after home football games. I have participated on a number of occasions and have made the observation that people can be such pigs. I sometimes wonder if they know what a garbage can is. Piles of cups, wrappers, junk of all kinds are casually left behind by the fans as if the world is their toilet. This experience has certainly awakened the kids who are volunteering to be more conscious of their actions.

Spiritual Matters



Pastor
Matthew Long

In our churches...

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

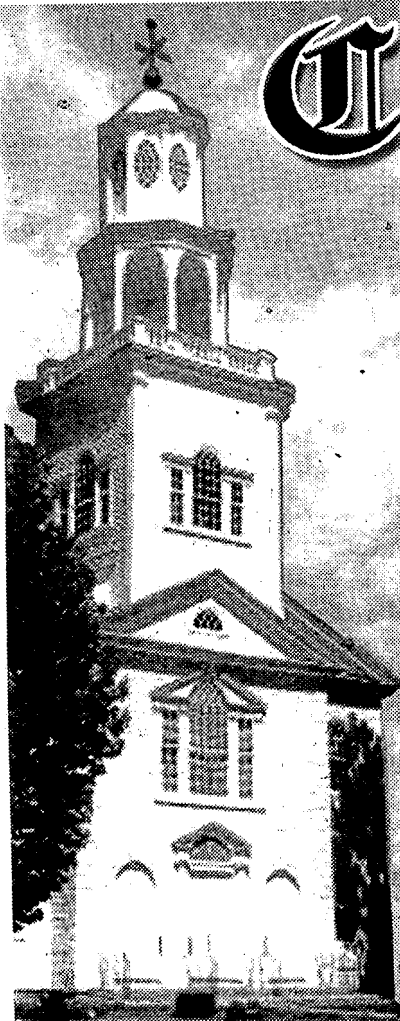
DC4K, DivorceCare for Kids, ages 5-12, Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. DivorceCare for adults runs concurrently. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, 6805 Bluegrass Drive. 248-625-3288.

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

Celebrate Recovery ministry for hurting people, Thursday, 7-8:30 pm., Clarkston Community Church, 6300 Clarkston Road. 248-625-1323. Childcare available.

Spiritual Economics, 6:30 p.m., May 3. Multimedia event based on works of Napoleon Hill, Think & Grow Rich, Eric Butterworth, Spiritual Economics and Charles Fillmore, Prosperity. Free-will love offering. Peace Unity Church & Holistic Center, 8080A Ortonville Road. 248-625-5192.

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e-mail: sttrinity@comcast.net
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TV-10/20 Sun. 2:00pm, Thurs. 9:00pm
Broadcast Worship - Waterford
CATV-10 Tues. 2:30 pm
Worship:
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Mid Week Bible Study
Adult Sunday Morning Bible Studies
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Phone (248) 858-2577

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10:30 am Worship Service
6:00 pm Evening Service
Wed: 7:00 pm Awana Club
6:30 pm Teen Ministry
7:00 pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study

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248-623-1224
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www.ClarkstonFMC.org
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Mother's Group, RCIA, Scripture Study, Youth Group

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Fax: (248) 394-2142
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Dream Keepers Youth Group
Bible Study
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Youth Groups 6-12
Wednesday 6:30 pm
www.FirstCongregationalChurch.org

DIXIE BAPTIST CHURCH

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(248) 625-2311
website: www.dixiebaptist.org
Home of Springfield Christian Academy & Children's Ark Preschool
Pastor: J. Todd Vanaman
Sun: 9:45 am Worship Service
11:00 am Sunday School for all ages
6:00 pm Worship Service
Wed: 7:00 pm Children and Teen Clubs & Adult Bible Study
Nursery available for all services.

CLARKSTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6600 Waldon Road, Clarkston
248-625-1611
Website: clarkstonumc.org
Sunday Worship: 9:00am & 11:00 am
6:00pm Evening Service
Nursery available for all services

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6765 Rattalee Lake Road
Clarkston, 48348
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Nursery, Children & Youth Programming
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6300 Clarkston Road - Clarkston
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Pastors: Greg Henneman, Bonita Laudeman, Kevin Kuehne, Dan Whiting, Geoff Black
Sunday: Worship 9:15 & 11:00 am
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Wednesday: Children's Ministries 6:00-8:00 pm
Sunday: Youth Ministries 5:00-7:00 pm
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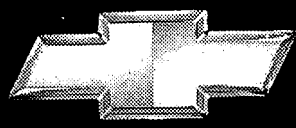
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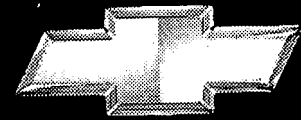
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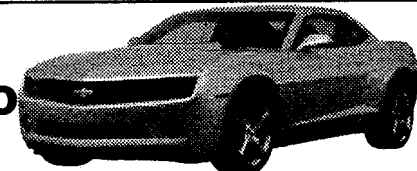
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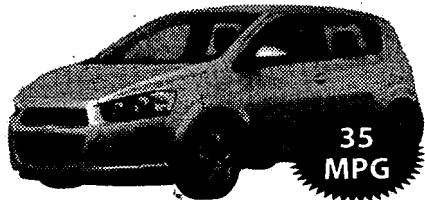
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST FOR THE CLARKSTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ELECTION

TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2012

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Independence will conduct a Public Accuracy Test of the computer equipment to be used for the tabulation of absentee and precinct ballots for the Presidential Primary Election to be held Tuesday, May 8, 2012.

The test will take place at 10:00 AM, Tuesday, May 1, 2012 in the Township Hall Board Room, 6483 Waldon Center Dr. - Clarkston, Michigan 48346.

Barbara A. Pallotta, CMC
Clerk

PUBLISHED & POSTED: Wednesday, April 25, 2012

PUBLIC NOTICE

Because the People Want to Know

INDEPENDENCE TWP.

NOTICE OF REGULAR ELECTION - CLARKSTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2012

IN THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE

To the Qualified Electors:
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Election will be held in the:

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
County of Oakland, State of Michigan
TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2012

The polls will be open at 7 o'clock a.m. and will remain open until 8 o'clock p.m.

ALL POLLING PLACES ARE
HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE
BRAILLE AND AUDIO VERSIONS OF VOTING
INSTRUCTIONS ARE AVAILABLE

At the polling places listed below:

- PRECINCT # POLLING LOCATION
- 1 Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church - 6805 Bluegrass
 - 2 & 6 North Sashabaw Elementary School - 5290 Maybee Rd.
 - 3 St. Trinity Lutheran Church - 7925 Sashabaw Rd.
 - 4 Free Methodist Church - 5482 Winell St. at Maybee Rd.
 - 5 Pine Knob Elementary School - 6020 Sashabaw Rd.
 - 7 Independence Elementary School - 6850 Hubbard Rd.
 - 8 Clarkston Elementary School - 6595 Waldon Rd.
 - 9 Clarkston United Methodist Church - 6600 Waldon Rd.
 - 10 Clarkston Community Church - 6300 Clarkston Rd.
 - 11 First Congregational Church - 5449 Clarkston Rd.
 - 12 & 15 Bailey Lake Elementary School - 8051 Pine Knob Rd.
 - 13 Maranatha Baptist Church - 5790 Flemings Lake Rd.
 - 14 Oakland Woods Baptist Church - 5628 Maybee Rd.

The Tuesday, May 8, 2012 Clarkston Community Schools Election will be conducted in all voting precincts of the Charter Township of Independence, for the purpose of voting on the following proposal:

CLARKSTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BONDING PROPOSITION

Shall Clarkston Community Schools, Oakland County, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds in one or more series therefor, for the purpose of:

remodeling, equipping and re-equipping and furnishing and refurbishing school buildings; acquiring and installing educational technology in school buildings; and developing and improving athletic facilities and sites?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2012 is 1 mill (\$1.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation). The maximum number of years the bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is seventeen (17) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is .82 mill (\$0.82 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited, and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses.)

Yes or No

Absent voter ballots may be obtained from:

Township Clerk
6483 Waldon Center Dr.
P.O. Box 69

Clarkston, Michigan 48347

COUNTY TREASURER'S STATEMENT AS REQUIRED BY ACT NO. 62 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF 1933 AS AMENDED

I, Andrew E. Meisner, County Treasurer of the County of Oakland, State of Michigan, do hereby certify that according to the records in my office, as of March 20, 2012, the total of all voted increases in the tax rate limitation above the 18 mills established by Section 6 of Article IX of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 affecting taxable property in the Township of Independence, in said County, is as follows:

LOCAL UNIT	INCREASE	EFFECTIVE	VOTED INCREASE YEARS
Township of Independence	3.1688	Dec. 2008 (4 years)	
	.4494	Dec. 2009 (10 years)	
	0.1	2008 - 2017 Incl	
Clarkston Community Schools	19.2491	2006 - 2015 (Non-Homestead) 2006 - 2014 Incl.	
Lake Orion Community Schools	18.00	2005 - 2015 (Non-Homestead)	
	2.25	2006 - 2014 Incl.	
Waterford School District	18.00	2004 - 2013 Incl.	
County School District of Oakland County	3.6483	Unlimited	
County of Oakland	.2415	2012 - 2021 Incl.	
Oakland Community College	1.00	Unlimited	
	.7811	Beg. 07/01/2012 (10 years)	

Andrew E. Meisner, Treasurer Dated: March 20, 2012

Oakland County
Barbara A. Pallotta, CMC
Township Clerk

PUBLISHED & POSTED: Wednesday, April 25, 2012

PUBLIC NOTICE

Because the People Want to Know

CLARKSTON

NOTICE OF ELECTION SPECIAL ELECTION MAY 8, 2012 IN THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF CLARKSTON

To the Qualified Electors:
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Special Election will be held in:

City of the Village of Clarkston
County of Oakland, State of Michigan
TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2012

THE POLLS will be open 7 o'clock a.m. until 8 o'clock p.m.

ALL POLLING PLACES ARE HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE
BRAILLE AND AUDIO VERSIONS OF VOTING
INSTRUCTIONS ARE AVAILABLE
AT THE POLLING PLACES LISTED BELOW:

Precinct #1
City Hall
375 Depot Road
Clarkston, MI 48346

THE TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2012 SPECIAL ELECTION WILL BE CONDUCTED IN VOTING PRECINCT 1 OF THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF CLARKSTON FOR THE PURPOSE OF VOTING ON THE FOLLOWING PROPOSAL:

CLARKSTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BONDING PROPOSITION

Shall Clarkston Community Schools, Oakland County, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds in one or more series therefor, for the purpose of:

remodeling, equipping and re-equipping and furnishing and refurbishing school buildings; acquiring and installing educational technology in school buildings; and developing and improving athletic facilities and sites?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2012 is 1 mill (\$1.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation). The maximum number of years the bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is seventeen (17) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is .82 mill (\$0.82 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited, and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or

employee salaries, or other operating expenses.)

Yes or No

INFORMATION ON OBTAINING AN ABSENT VOTER BALLOT FOR THE ELECTION is available at City Hall located at 375 Depot Road, Clarkston, Michigan City Hall Offices will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday For electors to receive an ABSENT VOTER BALLOT FINAL DEADLINE TO RECEIVE AN ABSENT VOTER BALLOT May 7, 2012 until 4 p.m.

Kelly Richter, Clerk
City of the Village of Clarkston
375 Depot Road
Clarkston, MI 48346
248-625-1559

PUBLIC NOTICE

Because the People Want to Know

CLARKSTON

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF CLARKSTON 375 DEPOT ROAD CLARKSTON MI 48346 PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2012

The City of the Village of Clarkston announces a Public Accuracy Testing of the computer program on Thursday, April 26, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. for the May 8, 2012 Special Election.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the computer program used to record and count the votes cast at the election meets the requirements of the lama.

This testing will be held at the City Hall, 375 Depot Road, Clarkston, Michigan.

Kelly Richter, Clerk
City of the Village of Clarkston

PUBLIC NOTICE

Because the People Want to Know

CLARKSTON

CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF CLARKSTON ARTEMUS M. PAPPAS VILLAGE HALL 375 DEPOT ROAD CLARKSTON MI 48346 SUMMARY MINUTES CITY COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 26, 2012

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Luginiski followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Roll. Present - Mayor Luginiski, Bisio, Roth, Hunter, Haven, Hargis and Sabol

Others Present - City Manager Ritter
Moved by Hargis, supported by Hunter to approve the Agenda as presented with the following changes: Old Business 9. b. to be combined with DIA Update - Peggy Roth.

All in favor. Motion Carried.

Moved by Hunter, supported by Roth to approve the Consent Agenda as presented subject to removing item d. Treasurer's Report - ii. Income Statement. This was not included in the packet.

All in favor. Motion Carried.

Resolved by Bisio, support by Hargis to adopt the following resolution:

1. The City of the Village of Clarkston shall contract with American Legal Publishing Corporation for codification of the city's ordinances, excluding the zoning and franchise ordinances as provided in the Codification agreement dated March 16, 2012.
2. The 2011-2012 budget is amended to add a line item of \$2,733 for ordinance codification.
3. The finance committee is directed to include in the 2012-2013 budget expenses for ordinance codification of \$2,733 to American Legal and \$4,750 for legal expenses.
4. The finance committee is directed to include in the 2013-2014 budget an expense for ordinance codification of \$2,734 to American Legal.

Roll Call Vote: Yes - Bisio, Hargis, Haven, Luginiski, Roth, Hunter, and Sabol
No - None

All in favor. Resolution Adopted.

Moved by Hunter, support by Haven to approve the Proclamation for Clarkston's National Day of Prayer to be held on May 3, 2012.

All in favor. Motion Carried.

Moved by Roth, supported by Hargis to adjourn meeting at 8:08 p.m.

All in favor. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Richter,
City Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE

Because the People Want to Know

INDEPENDENCE TWP.

SYNOPSIS

TAKEN BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD
THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
APRIL 10, 2012

- A Regular General Meeting of the Charter Township of Independence Board was called to order at 6:17 PM at the Independence Township Hall.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was given.
- ROLL CALL: Present: Carson, Lohmeier, Pallotta, Rosso, Wallace
Absent: Petterson, Wagner

There was a quorum present.

Also Present: Bart Clark, Superintendent; Carol Gabris, Human Resources Director; Steve Ronk, Fire Chief; Kristen Sieloff, Assessor; Rick Yaeger, Budget Analyst

- Appointment of Acting Chair - Approved
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Approved as amended
- CLOSED SESSION: Union Negotiations, as permitted by MCL 15.286(c)

The meeting RECESSED at 6:20 PM.

Trustee Rosso arrived at 6:35 PM

The meeting RECONVENED at 7:30 PM.

- BOARD / PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS: None
- PUBLIC COMMENT: Robert Clancy; Charles Valenti
- PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Thendara Park Private Road Winter Maintenance Special Assessment District
Jeff McGee; Jon Kreucher; Brian Hartline; Tom Neal; Dan Wheeler; Michael Royce; Bruce Velisek; Jody LaLonde

I. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS:

1. Report: Superintendent's Update (Bart Clark, Superintendent)
2. Report: 2012 Tax Revenue Estimates (Kristen Sieloff, Assessor)
3. Report: Budget Amendment #4 (Rick Yaeger, Budget Analyst)

J. CARRYOVER / POSTPONED AGENDA ITEMS:

None

K. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes - March 20, 2012 - Removed
2. Request to Accept Quote for 2012 Road Chloride - Approved
3. Request to Approve Budget Amendment #4 - Approved

L. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes - March 20, 2012 - Removed

The meeting RECESSED at 9:56 PM.

The meeting RECONVENED at 10:12 PM.

M. REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. Thendara Park Private Road Special Assessment District-Request to Approve
Petition, Road Maintenance Project, Cost Estimate, Duration and Special Assessment District - Approved
2. 1st Amendment to License Agreement with New Cingular Wireless - Approved
3. Bid Award Bid for M-15 Safety Path Project - Approved
4. Request to Relocate Polling Locations and Modify Precinct Numbering - Approved
5. Accounts Payable Check Run and Payroll in the Amount of: \$771,098.91 - Approved
6. Late Submittal - Request to Reconsider Resolution for 2011 Resort Class C License - KJJAR, LLC - Kruse & Muer - Approved

N. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: Board members discussed various topics.

O. COMMUNICATIONS / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS / REPORTS:

1. Report: Quarterly Financial Update (Rick Yaeger, Budget Analyst)
 2. Future Agenda Item: May 1st Regular General Meeting: Public Hearing/Regular Business: Fire Department Millage Proposal
 3. Future Agenda Item: June 5th Regular General Meeting-Regular Business: Proposed Amendments to Open Burning Regulations
- P. ADJOURNMENT: The Regular Budget Meeting adjourned at 10:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara A. Pallotta, CMC
Township Clerk

Published: Wednesday, April 18, 2012

PUBLIC NOTICE
Because the People Want to Know

CLARKSTON

CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF CLARKSTON
ARTEMUS M. PAPPAS VILLAGE HALL
375 DEPOT ROAD
CLARKSTON MI 48346

**SUMMARY MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 9, 2012**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Luginski followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Roll. Present - Mayor Luginski, Bisio, Roth, Hunter, Haven, Hargis and Sabol

Others Present - City Manager Ritter

Moved by Roth, supported by Hargis to approve the Agenda as presented.

Moved by Sabol, supported by Bisio to move item 10. A to follow Public Comments.

All in favor. Motion Carried.

Moved by Haven, supported by Hargis to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

All in favor. Motion Carried.

Resolved by Haven, supported by Hargis to pay the 2 bills submitted by HRC.

Roll Call Vote: Yes - Bisio, Haven, Hargis, Hunter, Luginski, Roth and Sabol

No - None

All in favor. Resolution Adopted.

Moved by Sabol, supported by Hunter to extend meeting passed 9:00 p.m.

Moved by Hunter, supported by Hargis to approve the Poppy Sales for May 17th, 18th and 19th, 2012.

All in favor. Motion Carried.

Moved by Hargis, supported by Hunter to adjourn meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Richter,
City Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE
Because the People Want to Know

INDEPENDENCE TWP.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF OAKLAND
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
THENDARA PARK
COUNTRY CLUB SUBDIVISION
PRIVATE ROAD
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Date: May 15, 2012
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Township Hall
6483 Waldon Center Drive
Independence Township, MI

The Township Board of the Charter Township of Independence ("Township") has received a petition requesting the establishment of a special assessment district for the winter maintenance, which may include snow removal and salting, of the following private roads in the Thendara Park Country Club Subdivision in the Township: Thendara from Neosho south to but not including Thendara Court, Upper and Lower Mohican; Pequot; and Sequoah Park Drive (the "Road Maintenance Project"). Having received such petition from the record owners of land constituting more than 50% of the total frontage upon such roads, and based upon the request in that petition, the Township Board has established a special assessment district to defray the costs of the Road Maintenance Project by special assessment against the benefited properties identified on the attachment to this Notice, which properties together constitute the "Special Assessment District." Periodic redeterminations of such costs may be made without further notice to record owners or parties in interest in the properties within the Special Assessment District. A special assessment roll identifying the total amount to be assessed against each of the parcels of land in the District has been prepared, with the names of the respective record owners of each parcel, if known. Said special assessment roll is on file and available for public inspection at the Township Clerk's Office, which is located at 6483 Waldon Center Drive, Independence Township, Michigan.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at the above time, date and location, the Township Board of Trustees shall meet for the purpose of hearing statements and objections by any interested person with respect to the amount of the special assessment.

Appearance and protest at the hearing is required in

order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the State Tax Tribunal. An owner or party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest, or shall be permitted to file his or her appearance or protest by letter at or before the hearing and his or her personal appearance in such case shall not be required.

BARBARA A. PALLOTTA, CLERK

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE

PUBLISHED: March 28, 2012

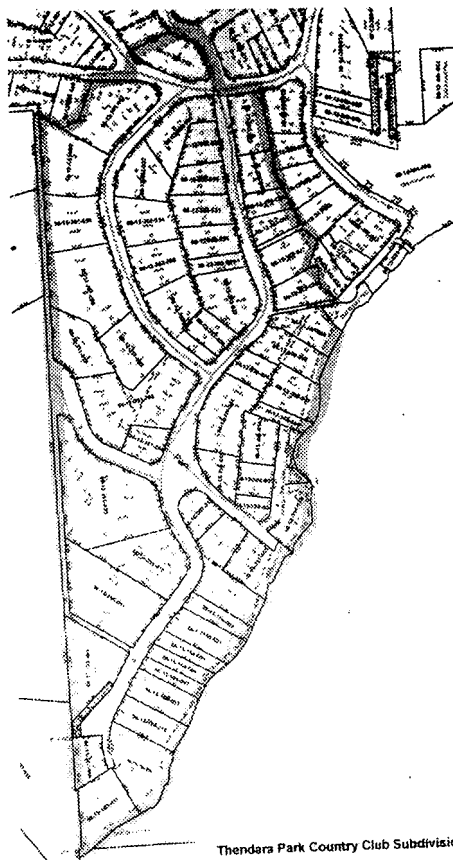
PUBLISHED: April 25, 2012

MAILED: April 23, 2012

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

Benefitted properties having frontage on roads as noticed in the Thendara Park Country Club Subdivision (map attached):

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| J-08-12-306-042 | J-08-12-352-036 | J-08-12-356-049 |
| J-08-12-351-042 | J-08-12-352-037 | J-08-12-356-053 |
| J-08-12-351-050 | J-08-12-353-033 | J-08-12-356-054 |
| J-08-12-351-055 | J-08-12-353-035 | J-08-12-356-055 |
| J-08-12-351-058 | J-08-12-353-036 | J-08-12-357-010 |
| J-08-12-351-059 | J-08-12-353-037 | J-08-12-357-011 |
| J-08-12-351-061 | J-08-12-353-038 | J-08-12-357-013 |
| J-08-12-351-063 | J-08-12-353-040 | J-08-13-102-004 |
| J-08-12-351-064 | J-08-12-355-009 | J-08-13-103-009 |
| J-08-12-352-001 | J-08-12-355-010 | J-08-13-103-011 |
| J-08-12-352-016 | J-08-12-355-011 | J-08-13-104-002 |
| J-08-12-352-021 | J-08-12-356-025 | J-08-13-104-005 |
| J-08-12-352-026 | J-08-12-356-031 | J-08-13-104-006 |
| J-08-12-352-030 | J-08-12-356-038 | J-08-13-104-007 |
| J-08-12-352-031 | J-08-12-356-040 | J-08-13-104-019 |
| J-08-12-352-032 | J-08-12-356-043 | J-08-13-104-021 |
| J-08-12-352-033 | J-08-12-356-044 | J-08-13-104-023 |
| J-08-12-352-034 | J-08-12-356-048 | J-08-13-104-026 |
| J-08-12-352-035 | | |



Thendara Park Country Club Subdivision

**The Classifieds
Attract Buyers.**

Looking to sell your used car, television, sofa, baseball card collection or anything else under the sun?

Place an ad in the Classifieds!

It's a fast, easy and profitable way to get rid of your unwanted merchandise.

Call 248-625-3370.



Dan and Candy Thomas of Clarkston celebrate 30 years of wedded bliss.

Clarkston grads celebrate 30th

Dan and Candy Thomas celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary, April 17, 2012.

Dan and Candy are both graduates of Clarkston High School. Dan graduated with the class of 1972 and Candy with the class of 1975.

They have two children, both raised in Clarkston. Trisha is a CHS graduate, class of 2002, and is married to their son in law Aaron Nelson.

Barak, CHS class of 2006, is a member of the Army National Guard and will be graduating from Central Michigan University with a degree in Accounting.

Trisha is a Oakland University Masters graduate currently working at Mott Community College.

Dan is a retired Michigan State Police Officer, currently working at Mott Community College in Flint. Candy is working in Troy for an Insurance Company.



Alyssa Spytman earned a spot at nationals with her art work. Photo provided

High school artist honored nationally

Alyssa Spytman of Clarkston received a national medal for her art work and will be honored at a celebration at Carnegie Hall in New York in June.

The Clarkston High School senior earned a spot at the national level by winning Gold Key awards in Printmaking, Mixed Media, and

Art Portfolio in regional competition at the Southeastern Michigan Scholastic Awards.

There were over 13,000 entries judged at the national level and 1,500 students were awarded a national medal.

She will be attending the Rhode Island school of Art and Design in the fall.

Your Official • Chrysler • Jeep • Dodge Lease Turn-In Headquarters

Just Announced!!

\$500 Extra

For Recent College Graduates!

See dealer for details.



CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY



EVENT

Open Monday & Thursday 8:30 am - 8 pm Tues., Wed., Fri. 8:30 am - 6 pm
New Saturday Hours: Sales 10 am - 3 pm & Service 8 am - 2 pm

2012 Chrysler Town & Country

MSRP \$29,435

24 Mo. Lease

\$119⁺ mo.



2012 Chrysler 200 Limited

MSRP \$25,340

24 mo. Lease

\$135⁺ mo.



2012 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo 4x4

36 Mo. Lease

\$189⁺ mo.



MSRP \$31,920

2012 Ram 1500 Crew Cab Express

24 Mo. Lease

\$108⁺ mo.



Official Truck of the Red Wings

2012 Dodge Journey SXT

24 Mo. Lease

\$99⁺ mo.



MSRP \$25,395

2012 Chrysler 300 Limited

36 Mo. Lease

\$169⁺ mo.



MSRP \$27,290

2012 Jeep Liberty Sport 4x4

24 Mo. Lease

\$109⁺ mo.



MSRP \$25,770

2012 Dodge Charger SE

24 Mo. Lease

\$127⁺ mo.



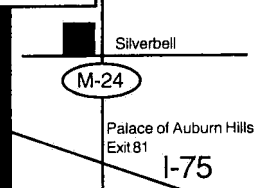
MSRP \$27,515

Additional \$500 OFF for Members of the National Association Of Realtors.

On Select Models

*All payments include your \$999 down, includes all rebates, employee bonus cash, acq. fee included and must qualify for Chrysler Employee Advantage Discount. Plus tax, title, plate, security deposit and destination. Leases are 24 or 36 mo. leases, 10k miles per year, WAC. Security deposit waived with 5 Tier credit. In stock units only. See dealer for complete details. Expires 4/30/12

Milosch's Palace



3800 S. Lapeer Road at Silverbell
1-800-720-7087

Hours: Mon & Thurs 8:30 am - 8 pm • Tues., Wed., & Fri 8:30 am - 6 pm
New Saturday Hours: Sales 10 am - 3 pm • Service 8 am - 2 pm

www.palacecjd.com



Milosch's
PALACE

CHRYSLER JEEP DODGE

DODGE Jeep RAM

Clarkston Mills Mall Spring BLOWOUT

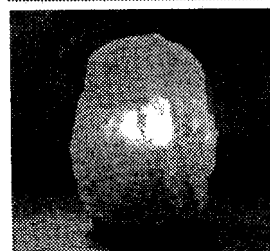
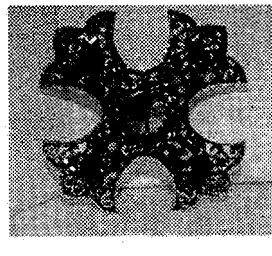
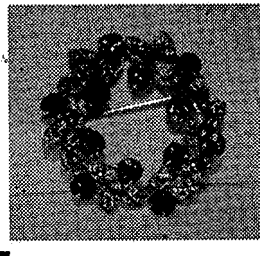
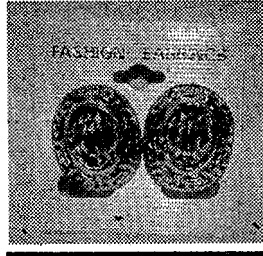
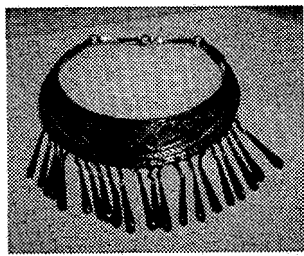
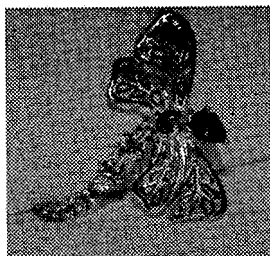
Just in time for Mother's Day!

April 28th 11am-5pm • April 29th 10am-4pm

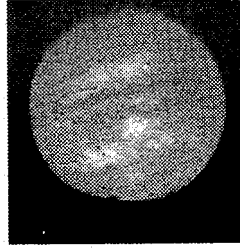
20 W. Washington St. Downtown Clarkston

Jewelry Liquidation SALE 50% - 80% OFF

Antique & Vintage, Native American, Handmade/Michigan Made, Crystal Reiki & New Fashion Jewelry will be on sale.



20% OFF
Himalayan
Salt Lamps



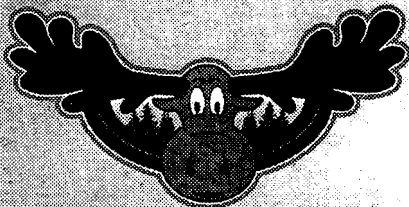
50-70% OFF
Used Books
20% OFF
New Books

Select other items 25-70% OFF
New Stampin Up Rubber Stamp Sets, Incense, Double Wall Insulated Tumblers with lid & straw, Laptop Tattoos, Picture Frames, Signs, Novelty Pens, Pendulums.

SEND A WISH TO THE UNIVERSE

\$1 Donation that goes to the Arthritis Foundation.
Write your wish on special "Flying Wish" paper, light it on fire and watch it soar to carry your wish to the Universe to be fulfilled.

IRONTON



Cottage & Cabin FURNITURE & HOME DECOR



Cabin Tissue Box
\$33



Faux Coyote Fur
Throw \$299



Duck Salt & Pepper
Shakers \$19



River Rock Picture
Frame \$24



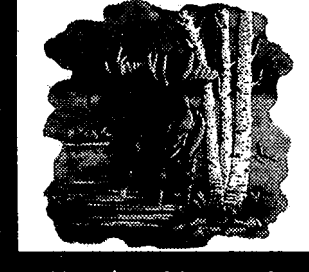
Paw Print Pillow
\$19



Guzzling Bear Wine
Holder \$28



Lakegirl Sweatshirt
\$59



Wooden Moose Art
\$145

25% & More OFF Furniture • 40% & More OFF Accessories (except floral)

SELECTED ITEMS UP TO 75% OFF!

20 WEST WASHINGTON (across from the Mill Pond) 248.620.2400