

The **Clarkston News** My Clarkston. Buy Clarkston.

Vol. 85 No. 34 Wed., August 1, 2012

2 Sections, 44 pages 50¢

**Lots of election info**

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Check out candidate profiles  
 in election special section!

**City sees light on sign ordinance**

**BYMARYKECK**

*Clarkston News Staff Writer*

Downtown Clarkston may look a little brighter now that City Council agreed to waive the \$750 application fee and pay up to \$2,000 to amend their zoning ordinance. The current ordinance doesn't allow internally illuminated signs.

"The retailers are very important to the city," said Mayor Joe Luginski, July 23.

Downtown retailers in attendance displayed the sign they would like to hang in their windows. It is a black-trimmed sign with "open" lit up in red, which has been displayed in the window of KH Home for weeks.

According to the retailers group, the sign brings in customers. The estimated \$2,750 for the ordinance change is more than they can afford. The price of amending an ordinance includes costs such as attorney fees and a small fee for public notices in the newspaper.

"Ten percent of my new growth has come from people verbally stating the only reason they came in was because of my sign being on, and they ended up parking," said Christina Calka, owner of Village Fashion Boutique. "I love Clarkston. It's why I came here. I love the atmosphere here;

*Please see Fees on page 4A*



Clarkston High School Team RUSH students make a push in the championship race at the RUSH Regatta last Saturday. For more, please see page 11A. Photo by Wendi Reardon

**Churches welcome new role in elections**

**BYMARYKECK**

*Clarkston News Staff Writer*

Churchgoers are not supposed to judge others, but on Aug. 7, registered voters who arrive at North Oaks Community Church are expected to do so.

North Oaks on Ortonville Road is home to Precincts 3 and 4 on Election Day.

"Part of our mission is to serve the community," said North Oaks Pastor Steve Brown, who was happy to make the building available for township elections. Brown's church has two

entrances, one upstairs and one on the lower level where voters will enter, depending on their precinct.

Clerk Barbara Pallotta chose to move polling places from schools to churches to increase safety.

Church buildings are less likely to be crowded during the day and they offer ample parking for voters.

Many voters will cast their ballots at churches while others, like Pastor Brown, will use the library.

North Oaks Community Church has about 125 parking spaces, and

*Please see Polls on page 4A*

**New Independence polling locations**

- Precinct 1, St. Trinity Lutheran Church, 7925 Sashabaw Rd.
- Precinct 2, First Congregational Church, 5449 Clarkston Rd.
- Precincts 3, 4, North Oaks Comm. Church, 9600 Ortonville Rd.
- Precinct 5, Calvary Evan. Lutheran Church, 6805 Bluegrass
- Precinct 6, Clarkston Community Church, 6300 Clarkston Rd.
- Precinct 7, Clarkston Free Methodist Church, 5482 Winell
- Precinct 8, Maranatha Baptist Church, 5790 Flemings Lake Rd.
- Precinct 9, 10, Mt. Zion Church, 4900 Maybee Rd.
- Precinct 11, Oakland Woods Baptist Church, 5628 Maybee Rd.
- Precinct 12, Independence Twp. Library, 6495 Clarkston Rd.
- Precinct 13, Carriage House, Clintonwood Park, 6000 Clarkston Rd.
- Precinct 14, Pine Knob Elementary, 6020 Sashabaw Rd.

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From left, Independence Township trustee candidates Kevin Bushroe, David Lohmeier, and Jose Aliaga discuss their views at the Clarkston Area Chamber's election forum, July 25. Photo by Mary Keck

## Dirty politics in township races

Several Todd Waring supporters received shocking letters about their favored supervisor candidate in the mail over the weekend.

While the envelopes postmarked July 27 had Waring's return address in the corner, the supervisor candidate says he didn't send any such correspondence to his supporters.

Waring contacted the Oakland County Sheriff's department, and hired a private investigator and handwriting specialist to find out who is behind the mysterious letters. According to Waring, the messages question his background in law enforcement and include personal attacks along with "nonfactual allegations."

"We're doing everything we can to find the responsible party," he said. "This is an attempt to sabotage my campaign and give

the township a black eye."

He believes whomever is behind the letters found Waring's list of supporters by looking at his campaign finance reports, which are available for the public to view online.

"This squabbling is a perfect example of why I want to be supervisor," he said.

The ugly turn the election has taken doesn't only involve letter-writing, said Waring. His large, \$200 banner, which hung on private property across from Township Hall, has been taken down.

Trustee candidate Jose Aliaga has also noticed signs missing and is offering a \$100 reward for the three signs once posted on the corner of Clarkston and Clintonville roads.

"That's not a good thing to do," said Aliaga of those taking down his campaign signs.

— Mary Keck

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# Springfield candidates look to Dixie

BY KRISTEN COOPER

Special to the Clarkston News

Dixie Highway development is a key issue in the Springfield Township supervisor's race.

For incumbent Collin Walls and challengers Ginny Fischbach and Steve Kovacs III, running for the Republican nomination, Dixie is a valuable opportunity for the township.

For Kovacs, it's so far a lost opportunity. "If this had been successfully implemented in the past, we would have a solid tax base and all the other budget concerns would no longer exist," he said.

If elected, he would work aggressively to develop the area already established and provide a core of businesses consumers will continually patronize.

"This will help alleviate tax burdens," he said. "I would be careful to maintain the rural look when these developments are made."

Fischbach also called for development. "Without a doubt that's where we're missing our biggest opportunity," she said. "Businesses in the corridor would help create a larger tax base and hiring opportunities."

She would like to get current business owners together to find out what's lacking in the area. Any improvements in the area would need additional funds, as there are not currently any set aside.

"There might be creative ways to attain these funds through the businesses that come in," she said.

The township needs to become more business friendly by updating outdated ordinances, she said.

Walls said updates would be very



From left are Steve Kovacs III, Collin Walls and Ginny Fischbach at the chamber forum. Photo by Mary Keck

expensive and property owners will not likely be able to bear it.

"There are a lot of updates in the plan that money will need to be found for, but from a source outside of burdening taxpayers," he said.

Another issue is traffic safety near the Kroger complex on Dixie at Davisburg Road. Fischbach supports plans to change traffic flow in and out of the Kroger lot, maybe to one entrance and one exit.

Traffic patterns and the potential for future development in the area need to be considered before making the final decision, she said.

Kovacs said he would immediately address this situation upon election.

"It's only a matter of time before someone gets seriously injured because of the traffic problems," he said. "The infrastructure was not properly addressed in its initial planning and the people who designed the pattern should reconsider their professional calling."

Walls said there have already been meetings with property owners around the complex and they are enthusiastic about solving the problem.

"The plan is to try and minimize the stacking for turning and the wait for the gas station," he said. "The gas station is a large part of the problem. Whatever course of action is decided, we need to make sure that it is looking towards the future. There's no reason to create a problem for tomorrow."

## Big bucks in Independence supervisor campaigns

BY MARY KECK

Clarkston News Staff Writer

When it is all tallied, Independence Township supervisor-hopefuls will likely spend over \$50,000 on their campaigns.

Every candidate revealed his or her contributors to Oakland County on July 27 in their Pre-Election statements.

Pat Kittle has raised the most campaign funds so far, reporting a total of \$13,875. Neil Wallace's contributions reached \$11,635 while Terry Fortuna reported gathering \$11,505 from his supporters.

Todd Waring raised \$9,950, though he said during the Clarkston Chamber of Commerce's Candidates Forum, July 25, he would exceed \$20,000.

Waring said he still plans to meet the \$20,000 goal and believes he'll collect the rest before Aug. 7. In addition to their pre-election reports, all candidates must complete a post-election Campaign Finance Report.

With the exception of Treasurer-hopeful Paul Brown, who has garnered \$12,980 for

his campaign so far, no other candidates reported raising over \$10,000. Candidates' financial report, which includes a list of their contributors, is available for viewing on [www.oakgov.com](http://www.oakgov.com).

Besides sharing their list of donors, Independence supervisor candidates fielded questions on some areas of past contention during the Candidates Forum, July 25.

Each was asked if they would continue to have a superintendent if elected, and all of them said they would take the position of supervisor without a superintendent.

The candidates were also asked about moderation of the board meetings, which have been known to become heated and end after midnight.

Wallace, who has chaired many of the meetings, defended the way he has presided over the board.

"We have a lot of work to do," Wallace said and added the tone of meetings has improved with "the absence of folks who have been disruptive."

Waring criticized the meetings' organization saying by 11 p.m. there is "no decision-making."

Fortuna emphasized "setting up board meetings for success," and said the moderation of meetings was "indicative of the leadership."

Kittle's perspective was less critical. He pointed out, it's a tough business, but he believes better communication and setting a realistic agenda are ways moderation of meetings could improve.

Almost every candidate for Independence and Springfield Townships squared off during the Clarkston Chamber of Commerce's Candidates Forum. From trustee to supervisor-hopefuls each politician had a chance to introduce themselves to the public and vie for votes.

Independence TV will air the forum as well as a "Meet the Candidates" special on Comcast channel 10. For more information, go to [www.twp.independence.mi.us](http://www.twp.independence.mi.us) or [www.springfield-twp.us](http://www.springfield-twp.us).

## Briefly

### Rush for Food

Time to go grocery shopping and stock up for a good cause.

Your Clarkston High School gridiron heroes are collecting food on Friday, Aug. 17 for their 15th Annual Rush for Food.

Freshman, JV and Varsity football players will collect non-perishable food in local neighborhoods for Lighthouse Emergency Services in Independence Township to build awareness of a community need, promote team unity and give back to the community that supports them.

They will collect from neighborhoods from 6-7 p.m. and at Lighthouse, 6-7:30 p.m.

The gridiron gang's goal is to collect over 4,800 pounds of food.

This event is organized by a parent volunteer committee, with support of the CHS football staff.

The committee thanks the Clarkston Athletic Boosters, Clarkston Chiefs and Kroger's on Sashabaw Road for donating supplies.

Find out what neighborhoods the players will collect from in next week's edition!

### Everest football

Everest Academy in Clarkston is looking for boys in grades 4-8 to play football this fall. Season runs from Aug. 6-Oct. 12.

Teams have a 5:1 player-to-coach ratio to provide individual attention to improve football skills and learn the game in a Christian environment.

If a registered member of a local parish and looking for a competitive football team, call Patrick Lowney at 248-770-2025 or email [plowney@everestacademy.org](mailto:plowney@everestacademy.org).

### Titanic presentation

Rochester "Historyteller" Maureen Esther will bring the Titanic story to life at 7 p.m., Aug. 21, at the Independence Township Library, 6495 Clarkston Road.

The public is invited to board the Titanic in this heartfelt presentation that covers not only the loss of life, but the loss of innocence.

The program is free and sponsored by the Clarkston Community Historical Society.

Esther's last CCHS-sponsored program was a standing-room-only presentation on President Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday.

Refreshments will be served. For more information, call 248-922-0270.



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## Polls open 7 a.m., Tuesday

Continued from page 1A  
they have cleared the church calendar to make sure there's plenty of space on Election Day, said Pastor Brown. Of the 26,599 registered voters in the township, Precinct 3 has 2,073 and Precinct 4 has 1,937.

While there may be a few church staff around while voters cast their ballots, the township is providing the equipment and election inspectors.

"We just want to be out of their way," said Pastor Brown.

From his perspective, the church becomes township space during the election. "We firmly support the separation of church and state," said Brown.

On Election Day, six inspectors are at each precinct and one chairperson will oversee the process, said Clerk Pallotta.

To ensure each vote is counted accurately, all of the inspectors have had extensive training and the equipment is proven to be reliable and accurate, Pallotta stated.

While she noted, "there's always a learning curve," Pallotta has placed volunteers at old polling stations to direct



Steve Brown is ready for voters in next week's primary. Photo by Krysten Cooper

those who show up to vote. Signs will also be posted.

Polls are open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Voters will also have an opportunity to weigh in on the Oakland County Art Institute's request for .2 mills. Citizens will also decide on a renewal of the 3.1688 millage for Fire and Emergency services and a request for a .59 mill increase for the Fire Department.

To find out if you need to cast your ballot at a new polling station, check www.twp.independence.mi.us.

## Fees waived for amendment

Continued from page 1A  
however, I want to stay here."

It wasn't only retailers who felt the sign ordinance should change.

Former Councilman Steve Wylie said, "I think it is in all of our best interests to relax this ordinance."

From his perspective, if the retailers are successful, "it makes my quality of life better as a resident."

Jennifer Detkowski of the Planning Commission noted the businesses' willingness to donate to organizations in Clarkston as part of the reason she believed the retailers should be helped.

"I do think it is our responsibility to support them a little bit more, and if we could do that financially, I think we should," she said.

Councilman Richard Bisio also supported helping the retailers.

"It is to the benefit of the city, not just the retailers, to help their businesses prosper," he said. "It increases the traffic into the city, and it increases the value of their property and the value of the rest of our property."

With few speaking against changing the ordinance, the council agreed in a unanimous vote to waive the fees for changing the ordinance. Steve Hargis was absent, and Peg Roth abstained from voting.

While they won't be paying \$2,750, the retailers must complete an application, go before the Planning Commission, and come before the City Council again before the ordinance will be amended.

The next City Council meeting will take place on Aug. 6 at 7 p.m. in the Village Hall.



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## How they voted

Independence Township officials Barbara Pallotta, Curt Carson, Neil Wallace, and David Lohmeier are running for office - here's how they voted on some key issues:

**Freeze pay for elected officials, Dec. 2, 2008**  
Treasurer Curt Carson: Yes  
Trustee Neil Wallace: Yes  
Trustee David Lohmeier: Yes  
**Videotape Township Board meetings for broadcast, Nov. 3, 2009**  
Treasurer Curt Carson: Yes  
Trustee Neil Wallace: Yes  
Trustee David Lohmeier: Yes  
**Comcast collects 2% PEG fees, Dec. 15, 2009**  
Treasurer Curt Carson: Yes  
Trustee Neil Wallace: Yes  
Trustee David Lohmeier: Yes  
**Eliminate retirement medical benefits for elected officials, Dec. 20, 2011**  
Clerk Barbara Pallotta: No  
Treasurer Curt Carson: No  
Trustee Neil Wallace: Yes  
Trustee David Lohmeier: Yes  
**Open Burn Ordinance revision, July 17, 2012**  
Clerk Barbara Pallotta: No  
Treasurer Curt Carson: No  
Trustee Neil Wallace: Yes  
Trustee David Lohmeier: No

## Past voter turnouts

**Aug. 3, 2004 Primary**  
Independence  
24,730 registered, 5,425 voters, 21.9%  
Springfield  
9,959 registered, 2,500 voters, 25.1%  
**Nov. 2, 2004 General**  
Independence  
25,050 registered, 19,276 voters, 77%  
Springfield  
10,114 registered, 7,745 voters, 77%  
**Aug. 5, 2008 Primary**  
Independence  
26,000 registered, 3,919 voters, 15.1%  
Springfield  
N/A, 31.4%  
**Nov. 4, 2008 General**  
Independence  
21,218 registered, 13,826 voters, 65.2%  
Springfield  
10,484 registered, 7,005 voters, 66.8%

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# Kids brush up on artwork at camp

BY WENDI REARDON  
Clarkston News Staff Writer

The creativity was flowing at Clarkston Junior High School as students in grades 6-12 participated in Teen Art Camp, July 16-19.

"It's different from other camps," said Roxanne Thornton. "It shows me different ways I can use my skill and express myself."

The week opened with learning about the art of graffiti.

Claudia Keglovitz, an art teacher at the junior high, added they learned about graffiti tags and looked at pictures of graffiti in Detroit. They also learned the difference between vandalism and what graffiti is allowed.

"Some come as a form of vandalism," Keglovitz said. "While other pieces of graffiti are art."

The campers then created their own graffiti tag, either in the form of their name, initials, animal or design to represent them, and put it on a large piece of drywall.

Back by popular demand was screenprinting which the campers used to put on T-shirts, hats, cards or used in other art pieces.

Some fused their screenprint designs and graffiti into one piece.

"They like to do what they can't do in class," said Keglovitz.

The artists also created with acoustic paint

and hot wax, scratchboard, charcoal and watercolor paint.

They learned about different techniques they could use while painting with watercolor such as using a blowdryer, letting rain drop onto the paint while it is on the paper and using Kosher salt for texture.

"Watercolor is used for art therapy," Keglovitz explained to the campers. "It is the most forgiving of all the different medias."

She also gave them tips such as after dipping their brush into the watercolor paint, let it slightly touch the paper and let the paint place and dry.

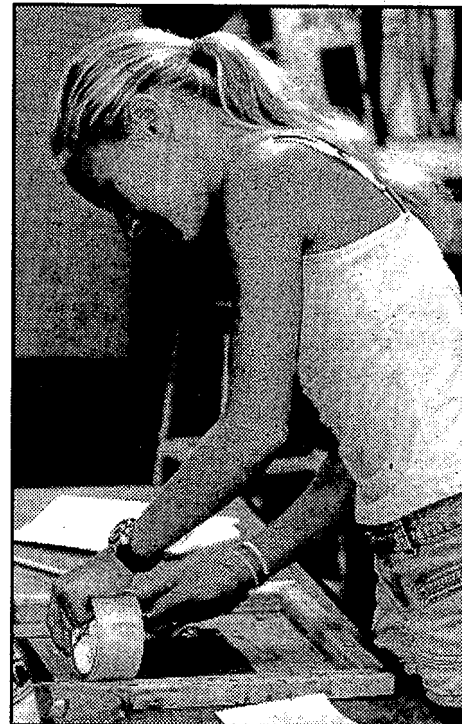
Other campers worked on pieces they started at home and asked for input from their other creative campers.

"I really like it," Alona Lysa said about the camp. "It is free range and there are lots of stuff to do. I am definitely coming again next year."

Carolyne Hughes agreed. She went to the art camp for the first time this year and enjoyed the screen printing.

The week finished with an art show displaying all the pieces they had worked on for friends and family.

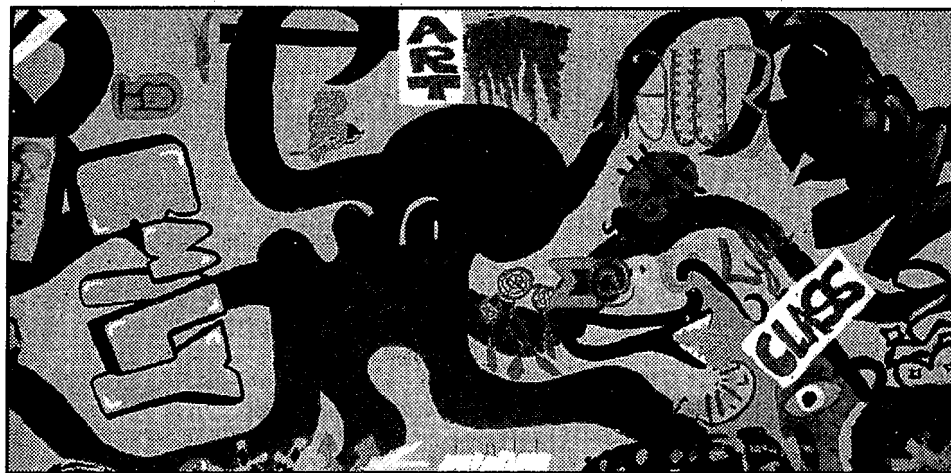
Teen Art Camp is offered by Clarkston Community Education. For more information, please visit [www.clarkston.k12.mi.us/cec](http://www.clarkston.k12.mi.us/cec) or call 248-623-4326



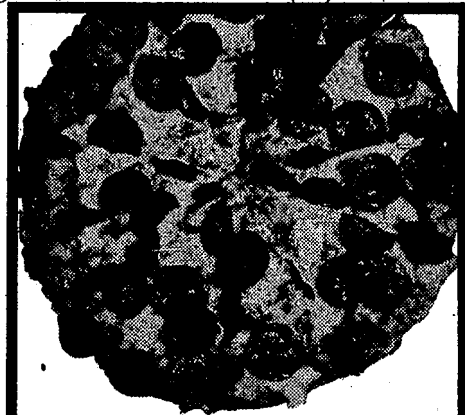
Jean Parke works on her screen print piece by adding tape before her next step.



Roxanne Thornton adds paint to her brush as she works on her graffiti piece. Photos by Wendi Reardon



The students created this mural as a group.



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- Facial Injectables/Botox

# Viewpoints

## Cooper's Comments

A column by Krysten Cooper

### Lifelong learning

This summer in addition to interning at *The Clarkston News* I am taking a couple classes.

No matter how many semesters of school I complete, it seems like there are still a few of those general education credits lurking in the background, trying to keep me from graduating on time.

This week I have an exam in one of my classes and I went about studying with the same philosophy I've applied to most of my general education classes so far.

How much of this information can I cram into my head to remember for this exam and forget as soon as it's over? Somewhere in the midst of my frustration, however, I realized this was not the best approach.

Even though I may never use the skills I'm learning in this class again, is that really a reason to forget an entire summer's worth of homework and sitting through lectures?

After careful consideration, I came to the conclusion maybe I should try harder to really learn the material. Because whether I use the material again or not, I'm still learning a skill and every bit of knowledge I take in can help shape me into a more complete and well-rounded person.

Now, everyone who has gone through any type of education probably thought about this at some point, but I think this is something I can stretch to apply to many areas of life outside of education.

For example, next time I'm sitting through a meeting where I'm completely bored, or waiting in line at the bank instead of getting frustrated, why not open my mind and take in everything around me.

People learn new things everyday, but only if they're open to them.

In essence, I'm going to take this philosophy of lifelong learning and try to use it in every situation.

If I can focus enough on that goal, I'll certainly never be bored again, and I might learn a lot of different and exciting things that I never would have without looking for them.



### Head to polls on Tuesday and vote

For Independence and Springfield townships, primary elections are key, so be sure to vote.

As in previous elections, most candidates running for seats on the Independence and Springfield township boards are Republicans.

That means most of the winners of this Tuesday's election will be uncontested in November's general election due to the lack of Democrat opponents.

There's an exception this year — three Democrats are running for Independence Township Board. Since four seats are available, all three will advance to the general

election, barring unforeseen circumstances.

So read our candidate profiles in this week's edition, check out back issues for previous elections stories and letters to the editor.

Check out candidates' ads, signs, forums on [ClarkstonTV.com](http://ClarkstonTV.com) and Independence TV, and make your choice. Also, make sure you check your polling location — Independence Township changed their's up a bit this year.

Then make your decision stick by going to the polls. Make sure to turn your ballot over as there are questions on both sides. Then vote.

### Editorial

### Thanks for festival help

Dear Editor,

Thanks to everyone for making our Veterans Celebration during the Festival of Fun on July 4th a success. Our very generous sponsors this year made our event extra special.

Our Platinum Level Sponsor was the Friends of the Independence Township Senior Adult Activity Center. Gold Level Sponsor was Committee to Elect Pat Kittle, Silver Sponsor was Friends to Elect Terry Fortuna, and our Bronze Level Sponsors were Elect Jose Aliaga, Rick Anderson and Wint & Son Funeral Home.

Our Platinum Level sponsor made it possible for us to provide lunch coupons to all of our veterans and families who attended the event. Our sponsorships also made it possible for us to book the Fifth Michigan Regiment Band (Civil War Reenactment Band) this year. They put on a very informative show with music and historical information about how bands such as theirs were used during the Civil War. Despite the hot temperatures they did an excellent job performing.

Our Veterans Planning Committee did a great job putting our second celebration together. A special thanks to Bart Clark our Master of Ceremony, John Cesarz, Gordy Cloutier, Phil Custodio, Amy Laboissonniere and John Thomas for planning this event. Our volunteers for the day from our Friends group were Carolyn Morrison and Kerri Perna. We also had wonderful baked goods to share with our veterans thanks to Lynn Brockman,

Ruth Emerick, Carroll Harris, Lois Johnson, Larry Larsen, Helen Marsh, Sharon Nijhoff, Jean Perzyk, Duane Proctor, Donna Schneider, Joanne Townsend and Gerry Townsend.

Our special guests during the Veterans Ceremony did a great job on stage including Leslie Graham who sang the National Anthem, Mark Petterson who lead the Pledge of

Allegiance, and the American Legion Chief Pontiac Post 377 Honor Guard for doing the

Gun Salute.

We really appreciated having Rick Anderson from the Great Lakes National Cemetery and Terry Schelswell who brought out his restored military vehicles. Last but not least thanks to all of the veterans who participated in the Military Museum and the Veterans Celebration on the 4th of July. It was a pleasure to honor our veterans for all they have done for our country.

Sincerely,

Barbara Rollin  
Independence Township Senior Center

### Singer's very talented

Dear Editor,

On July 13, we visited the Concert in the Park. The local talent was T.J. Craven, a 16-year-old entertainer.

He was so talented and everyone in the audience was amazed by his dancing, singing and interacting with the crowd. We hope he will be back next year. It's nice to see a young man who is so talented. T.J. will go far.

Mary Jean and Graham Baker  
Independence Township

Write a letter to the editor at [ClarkstonNews@gmail.com](mailto:ClarkstonNews@gmail.com)

## A Look Back

From *The CNews* archives

### 15 years ago - 1997

"Parke Lake yields a piece of local history" Clarkston history stories include tales of winter horse and buggy races when Parke Lake was frozen. Richard Niehammer, a White Lake diver, discovered an old buggy in the lake.

"New museum proposed for NBD building" The Clarkston Community Museum Foundation approached bank officials about donating its soon-to-be closed Main Street branch for a museum. The 1911 stone structure had a good, central location with lots of shelves inside.

"Worker killed at high school building site" Frank Blissett Jr. of Fenton, an iron worker, was killed when he fell from the gym roof. The husband and father of two was welding roof panels on the gym.

### 25 years ago - 1987

"Tot saved from a pool" 3-year old Noel Brent was saved by a nurse at the pool who started giving him life support procedures after he was on the pool bottom for 30 seconds. He was taken to the hospital and released the next day.

"Maybee extension draws criticism" Two of four property owners objected to an extension of Maybee Road west across Dixie Highway to Lingor Drive in Independence Township. Arguments included it wouldn't benefit businesses and would take property away from the owners.

"49ers sign Jokisch" Paul Jokisch, a former University of Michigan stand-out wide receiver, signed a contract to play football with the San Francisco 49ers, July 22.

"The saga continues for town clock" A family from Darlington, Wisc., ran into a familiar face when they visited Clarkston. The new town clock used to be in Darlington before it was sold to a dealer who sold it to the Independence Township Sesquicentennial Committee earlier in 1987.

### 50 years ago - 1962

"Poster Wins Award" Karen Wooley an eleventh grader of Clarkston schools won the highest honor awarded to a Michigan high school student for her poster entered in the contest put on by the Automobile Club of America.

"Two local residents in MSUO comedy" Merle Bennett and Ilene J. Reynolds of Clarkston and Mary Ann Bethune of Davisburg were set to perform in "Mrs. McThing" by Mary Chase at the Michigan State University Oakland in Rochester.

# Renewing Detroit Tiger thoughts and dreams

Oxford Parks and Recreation transported a bus load of folks to the Detroit Tigers vs. Chicago White Sox game Sunday, July 22. Friends booked me for that game.

Other than my concern for descending steps, I looked forward to going to what Hall of Fame baseball announcer Ernie Harwell called "The Old Ballpark."

Between the time of booking and going, baseball was on my mind. Soon after becoming a teenager, I started to dream of becoming the world's greatest baseball pitcher.

At that age I pitched for the Owosso High School freshman team. They were five-inning games. I won two of my three starts.

Then we moved from Class A Owosso to Class D Morrice and from a "real" coach to a science teacher looking for extra money coaching baseball. He had a "pet" picked to pitch and put me on first base. My older brother told the science teacher-coach I pitched for Owosso. The "pet" pitcher pitched.

Then came a big war and I was on a big boat. There are no ball fields on a U.S. Navy landing craft. Time passed.

With the war and a wife won, I was newspaper career bound to Gladwin. And ah, ha! Wouldn't you know it -- all the area taverns sponsored baseball

teams. Baseball dreams awakened and I tried out for one at Winegars Corners. That was May, 1951.

\* \* \* \* \*

Back to that Sunday in July. Miguel Cabrera hit two home runs, one his 300th, as the Tigers won, 6-4. From where we sat I couldn't see the baseball travel, but the cheering crowd kept me informed.

\* \* \* \* \*

While furthering my young career in Gladwin, I found another baseball nut, and we started playing catch to get our arms in shape.

I don't remember if this Winegars team was in a league. It didn't matter. By late May or early June the colleges released their hordes, including several baseball players. Reality set in and I knew my arm would never be as strong as theirs.

The baseball hero dream was further dampened when I took a job with the *Clinton County News* in St. Johns. It was time to go to work, not play.

\* \* \* \* \*

Current Tigers Quintin Berry and Bennan Boesch also homered for Detroit. Jacob Turner started on the mound for the Tigers. In two previous starts he didn't last two innings. Sunday he stayed around long enough

(barely) to get the win. Monday he was traded.

\* \* \* \* \*

My point in this *Jottings* is to show how just two events kept me from becoming the world's greatest major league baseball pitcher. My name could have ranked above Schoolboy Rowe, Dizzy Dean, Elden Auker, Tommy Bridges and this new guy, Justin Verlander.

If only that science teacher-coach had stayed out of my life, and the colleges didn't give semester breaks, I would have been in bronze at the old ballpark with Gehring, Greenberg, etc

- - - 0 - - -

When the sins of Coach Sandusky were first aired I distinctly remember Coach Joe Paterno saying he reported the incidents to the athletic director and Penn State president. Then, as you know, mouths stayed shut for quite a while. The first reports credited the coach with doing what he was supposed to.

Penn State still has the same president and the now deceased coach, his record, the school and his players are the major sufferers.

- - - 0 - - -

Notice next time you see a car commercial where the vehicle is driven through a mud puddle, when you see that car again in the same sequence, it is clean.

## Jim's Jottings



a column by Jim Sherman

# Our 'deteriorating electrical distribution system'

Last week, I surmised I may have been transmuted into some sort of electrical super-freak -- in eight days I lost two computers, a TV and a car battery. The only thing in common with these electrical devices, as far as I could tell, was they all were touched by me.

Gulp. I wondered what would happen if I got angry -- would I zap out an entire city block's power? Then I pondered what alter ego name I should go by. Aside from the various unprintable-in-a-family-newspaper words, for a new name only two suggestions came in that weren't too bad. My super power-charged name could be: *Ion Rush* or maybe *Zappo*. Not sure I like either of them. Ion Rush sounds like a head cold and Zappo makes me sound like I am a long-lost great-heir of the one Marx Brother nobody remembers or cares about.

Readers, it's your call. If you have a better idea, send 'em to me.

\* \* \*

I also received an actual, possible,

logical explanation as to why my crap puked out. While it is not nearly as fun as my genetic DNA being altered by some cosmic fluke of nature, it may help other folks out there in the real world.

## Don't Rush Me



A column by Don Rush

So, without further fanfare, I give you Dave Hetrick of LG Electric, LLC.

\* \* \*

## Don,

First may I say your article is hands down the best read in the paper.

Second, given your track record maybe I should have sent this snail mail. I am an electrical contractor based out of Clarkston. I would like you to re-search *Whole House Surge Suppression*.

The United States' deteriorating electrical distribution system has left many residents with thousands of dollars of wasted electronics.

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of your electrical panel protecting your house from dangerous electrical spikes wanting to eat your tv, furnace and well etc.

These can typically be installed for \$225. Keep up the great work, we look forward to your article every week. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Dave

\* \* \*

First lesson for readers: buttering up the writer is always encouraged.

Second lesson: always kinda research claims made by folks, be they named Dave or Barrack.

Good intentioned folks sometimes have bad intel and give it thinking it is good. And, politicians usually have all the intel, but choose to heap out only the information that makes them or their cause sound better, regardless if it is good or bad.

So-o-o-o-o... thank you, Dave for the compliment. You should know I spend all of about 1.5 minutes of brain power a week on this column, the ever-loving,

*Don't Rush Me*. And, thanks for the advice.

I did go on-line and did Google "United States deteriorating electrical distribution system."

Yikes. All I can say is we need to get the whole house surge protection, as well as some solar panels, windmills and some geothermal heat going when our systems fail by overload, old age or if a solar flare takes out the power grid.

Did you hear what happened in India this week? Let me refresh your memory.

"Power was being restored incrementally Tuesday in New Dehli, hit by a massive power grid failure that officials said affected more than 600 million people.

"Monday's power grid failure affected seven states in northern India, but Tuesday's failure was larger, affecting 12 states, as well as the capital, FirstPost India reported."

And, no. I was not in India this week, so don't blame me.

# Two votes for Independence fire millage

BY PHIL CUSTODIO  
Clarkston News Editor

To fully fund Independence Township Fire Department, residents need to cast two "yes" votes, Aug. 7.

"The community is very supportive. We're pretty confident, but we don't take them for granted," said Don Herbert, paramedic and engineer, Independence Township Fire Department.

Residents are invited to stop by the station at 6500 Citation Drive to talk about the two millage requests and take a tour – adults only, please, Herbert said.

"We want voters to know what their money goes," he said. "If someone is informed and votes 'no,' that's OK. But we don't want them to vote 'no' because they don't know how we're funded."

The first millage proposal is to renew the current fire and EMS millage, 3.1688 mills. The second asks for an additional 0.59 mills.

The funds would pay for a third firefighter paramedic, partially restore fire inspection and



Lt. Phil Williams takes out an engine.

prevention division with one full-time employee, and provide funds for replacement of equipment, trucks, and capital improvements to buildings and grounds.

The department is funded by millage, with no funding from the general fund, Herbert said.

"Without the millage, we can't operate," he said.

The last millage request, in 2000, was used on advanced life support in the township. Before 2000, the department had first responders with basic EMT training, and contracted with a private ambulance service.

"Now we do our own transport – about 2,600 a year," Herbert said.

"It's made a big difference in response time. This is our community and they're our citizens. We prefer to take care of them ourselves. That's the big thing."

With current funding, the department operates two ambulances fulltime, and a third part of the time. The department assigns at least one firefighter to each of the township's three stations at all times, no matter what, he said.

"People go to the stations expecting help – there needs to be someone there," he said.

Millage revenue, based on property value, has dropped by nearly \$1 million over past five years,

## 2012 fire millage, renewal

Taxable Property	Renewal	Additional	Combined
\$50,000	\$158	\$30	\$188
\$75,000	\$238	\$44	\$282
\$100,000	\$317	\$59	\$376
\$125,000	\$396	\$74	\$470
\$150,000	\$475	\$88	\$563
\$200,000	\$634	\$118	\$752

– Independence Township Fire Department

and the department has been unable to obtain grants to replace equipment and trucks, Herbert said.

The firefighters union and township trimmed about \$100,000 from annual health care costs. Other budget information, including presentations, projections, and historical data, and available on line at [www.twp.independence.mi.us](http://www.twp.independence.mi.us).

"We're very prudent with how money spent," Herbert said.

Paying cash for big purchases – fire engines cost \$500,000; ambulance, \$100,000; ladder truck, up to \$1.5 million – saves on finance charges, he said.

Call 248-625-1776.

## Township man killed in crash

Robbie James Siggins, a 42-year old Independence Township resident, died of injuries suffered in a motorcycle crash, July 24, on Sashabaw Road near Clarkston Road.

According to police reports, Siggins was critically injured when he hit a pickup truck, which was turning left onto west bound Bella Rose, 12:02 p.m., July 24. The truck was driven by a 58-year-old Detroit resident.

The motorcyclist was taken to McLaren-Oakland Hospital by Independence Fire. He was pronounced dead at McLaren-Oakland at approximately 11:46 p.m.

The driver of the Dodge pickup was not injured in the crash.

The motorcyclist was not wearing a helmet. The driver of the truck was wearing a seat belt. Alcohol does not appear to be a factor. This crash remains under investigation.

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I sincerely thank the following for their help and support throughout this campaign, without which, running for Treasurer would not have been possible. With deep gratitude,

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Paid for by the Curt Carson for the Community Committee, 5000 Paula Ave., Clarkston, MI, 48346



# Public Safety

Reports from Oakland County Deputies and Independence Township Fire Department

## Home burgled

Someone broke into a foreclosed home in the 10000 block of Horseshoe Circle, July 12, smashing holes in walls and taking copper and light fixtures.

## French fraud

An Independence Township resident recognized some charges on her credit card, July 13, as fraudulent because they were made in France. She hadn't been to France.

## Car fire

Independence Township firefighters extinguished a car fire off M-15 at I-75, 5:50 p.m., July 17. The driver, a Clio resident, said he noticed smoke coming from the dash and pulled off the highway at M-15.

## Breaking PPO

A 42-year-old Independence Township man was arrested and jailed for entry without permission and violation of a personal protection order after breaking into a S. River Road residence through a rear window, 7:20 p.m., July 21. He said he went there to get some belongings.

## Caught with marijuana

A deputy stopped a 21-year-old White Lake man after watching him sit at a traffic light through a green cycle, 1:30 a.m., July 21. He didn't have a valid driver's license, but did have two mason jars of marijuana. He was cited with possession of marijuana, impeding traffic, and driving without a license.

## Thefts from vehicles

Two GPS units and a camera were taken from an unlocked vehicle parked in a driveway in the 4000 block of Ennismore Drive, July 18.

A cell phone was taken from an unlocked vehicle parked in the 6000 block of Wellesley Terrace, July 19.

Someone broke into a vehicle parked in the 5000 block of Parview Drive, July 19, and took subwoofer and amplifier equipment.

Someone took a wallet from an unlocked vehicle parked in the 5000 block of Birchgrove Lane, July 22.

Someone took a GPS and baby carrier from a vehicle in the 9000 block of Wah-Lo-Hi Drive, July 23.



Firefighters respond to a fire off Dixie Highway. Photo provided

## Apartment fire caused by cooking oil

Independence Township firefighter extinguished an apartment fire at Lancaster Lake Apartments, July 28.

They found the apartment full of smoke and a fire on the stove extending to the cabinets above.

They put out the fire before it could spread, shut off electrical power, moved the stove and hood outside, and cleared the apartment of smoke with a ventilation fan.

A smoke detector alerted occupants and, after an attempt to extinguish the fire with flour was unsuccessful, they evacuated the apartment and called 911.

The fire department helped homeowners contact insurance, gather some belongings,

and find a place to stay.

Apartment maintenance was on scene almost immediately to begin clean up and restoration.

Cause of the fire was determined to be cooking oil that ignited in a pan. Independence Fire Department was on scene within five minutes of receiving the alarm, responding with seven fire trucks and 10 firefighters. No injuries were reported.

The fire department wants to remind everyone to have a fire extinguisher handy in the kitchen, in a conspicuous location, and to be familiar with the operation of it, said Don Herbert, paramedic and engineer.

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# Cancer hits close to home

BY WENDIREARDON  
Clarkston News Sports Writer

When the Wright family became involved with Clarkston's Football for a Cure in 2009, they never thought one day a football player would be wearing a jersey for one of them.

"I was diagnosed last October," said Renee Weaver-Wright, who is a member of the chain-gang during the Wolves' home games. "Unfortunately I was not having my annual mammograms the way I should have."

A friend mentioned to her someone he loved was recently diagnosed with breast cancer. When she realized it had been two years since her last mammogram he urged her to get one.

"I was thinking it was just another mammogram," she said. "It wasn't just another mammogram."

She was diagnosed with stage two breast cancer and began her chemotherapy on Halloween.

"The first thing I thought of was I had this weird feeling I wasn't going to have hair for my son's graduation, which is a really stupid thing," she laughed. "But I did have hair for Matt's graduation because it started to grow back. It said to me - your first reaction when something bad happens to you is not the way the story is going to end up."

News spread to family and close friends.

"It was shocking and overwhelming," admitted Griffin Barta, a family friend and junior at Clarkston High School. "She is such a good person. I didn't think it could happen to her because she is so nice and has done so much for the community. She means so much to me."

Renee had her last bout with chemotherapy on Valentine's Day. She had her sur-

gery and began radiation on Memorial Day.

She has five more treatments, which she receives every three weeks, and will be done around Halloween.

During the entire time she had people reaching out to her and her family. She received cards in the mail or someone would say they were bringing over something.

She had people in the community and across the world praying for her. She remembered meeting someone and saying her name.

The person responded, "I don't know you but I have been praying for you."

"Larry and I look at each other and wonder how are we going to repay all these people for what they have done for us," she said. "We are just so grateful to them and for them reaching out to the kids and the rest of our family."

After her surgery in May, they received good news everything came back clear and she is currently cancer-free. She will have another mammogram in October and doctors will keep a close watch on her for the next five years.

"I knew she would give it a fight," said Barta. "She is such a strong person. I knew she would keep overcoming it."

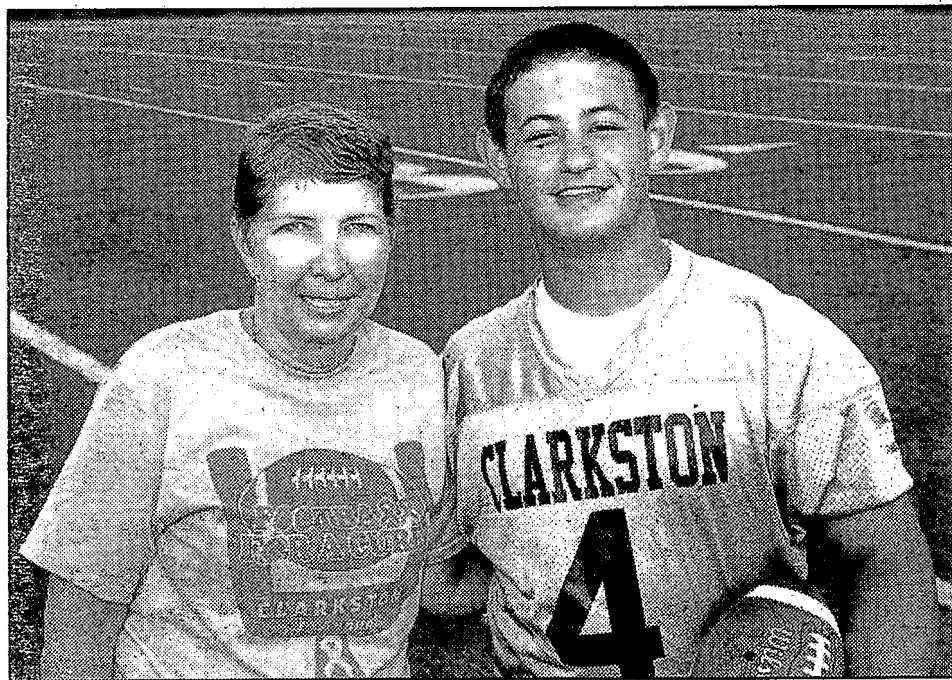
When it was time to start getting ready for his first Football for a Cure, Barta knew who he wanted to play for during the game - Renee.

"She was the first who came to mind," he said. "She is the most important person in my life who has been affected by cancer. I think it makes it more special because I know the person I am playing for."

Renee felt honored.

"I am so tickled he wanted to do it," she

*Please see Barta on page 13*



Griffin Barta, right, will play for close family friend, Renee Weaver-Wright, left, in the Fourth Annual Football for a Cure, Aug. 11. Photo by Larry Wright

## ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



From left, Chris Howe, Dylan Peck and Clarkston Varsity Boys Baseball Coach Phil Price.

## Scholarship honorees

Dylan Peck and Shauna Siwicki received the 2012 Steve Howe Scholarship Fund Award.

"It was really exciting," said Siwicki. "I wasn't expecting to get the scholarship so it was cool to get it."

The scholarship is awarded every year to a varsity baseball and a varsity softball player. It is given to honor the tradition of sportsmanship and outstanding performance in Clarkston Baseball and Softball.

The scholarship award was started by the family of Steve Howe, who passed away in a traffic accident in 2006. Howe was a Clarkston graduate and a member of the 1976 State Championship Team.

He went to the University of Michigan and then played for the Los Angeles Dodgers and New York Yankees. Howe was the National League Rookie of the Year in 1980. He helped the Dodgers win a World Series in 1981.



From left, Clarkston Varsity Girls Softball Coach Don Peters, Shauna Siwicki and Chris Howe. Photos submitted

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Creators of the Banana Boat pull in the first capsized boat of the afternoon.

## Water rush

Each member of Team RUSH surrounded one of the eight cardboard boats on Deer Lake Beach as they made last minute changes on Saturday.

By noon the boats were ready for the annual RUSH Regatta. A few boats sunk just past the start line while others stayed afloat.

The winner for 2012 race on the water was Team 5 – creators of the cardboard Viking ship.

Photos by Wendi Reardon

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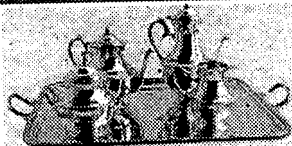
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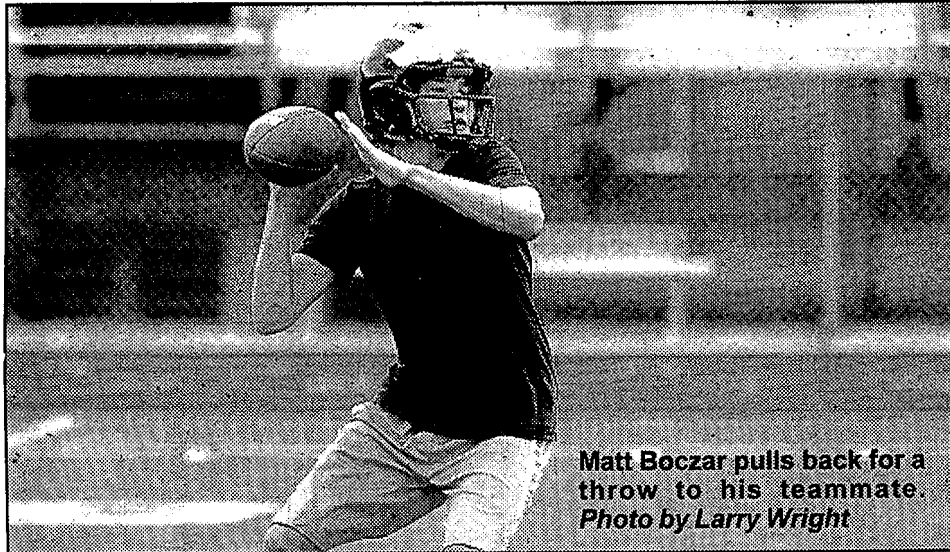
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586.486.4131

**CANTON**  
41637 Ford Rd #C  
Canton, MI 48187  
734.713.8100



**Matt Boczar pulls back for a throw to his teammate.**  
Photo by Larry Wright

## Gridiron beckons return

The countdown to the beginning of the football season is almost over.

Practice sessions start this upcoming Monday and the gridiron heroes head to Saginaw Valley State University on Sunday night.

They will wake up Monday morning ready and amped to get ready for the 2012 season.

"It's a bonding thing," explained Kurt Richardson, head coach for the Clarkston Boys Varsity Football team. "They get to room with each other and live with each other."

They are at camp until Wednesday and will have three practices a day.

Though, it is too early to tell how the season will go for the Wolves, Richardson is pumped for a new season. He admitted he was ready for the football season 3-4 months ago.

The boys return and will have a few more days of practice before they head into their Fourth Annual Football for a Cure, August 11. The players will don baby blue and light pink jerseys for their pre-scrimmage game.

On Monday, the Michigan High School Athletic Association announced rule changes for the 2012 season in football.

They are as follows:

- On passing plays, a receiver must first

contact and establish control of the ball while inbounds – regardless of the opponent's action. In other words, a catch cannot be ruled on plays where the receiver may have come down in bounds if not for the action of the defender.

- If a player's helmet comes off during a play, and did not occur as a result of a foul by the opponent, that player must leave the game for one play, unless it happens on the final play of a half or an overtime.

- Hand contact by a blocker below the waist of a defender is now considered blocking below the waist.

- The kicking team may not contact a member of receiving team on a kickoff until the ball has traveled 10 yards, or unless a member of the receiving team initiates the contact.

- Jerseys of the visiting team must be white in color, and home jerseys are restricted in the use of white for varsity competition. The rule change was made in 2007 for implementation this season.

As the Wolves are getting ready for action, so are we. We are getting the pieces together for the 2012 Gridiron Special Section, including rosters, preview to the season and photos. ~WAR

## Barta suits up for friend

Continued from page 10

added. "Our families have been friends since Alex, his older brother, and Matt were in first grade or so. Griffin is such a delightful young man."

Barta explained Football for a Cure means helping out the community for him.

"Showing our appreciation for people who have fought against cancer and those still fighting cancer," he added. "This is my first Football for a Cure. It does make it more special because I am playing for Mrs. Wright. She is someone who means a lot to me. We have known her and her family for awhile and they do so much for us and so much for the community."

Renee views it as a great extension of the support for others as she has received from not only her family, church family, and work family

The fourth annual Football for a Cure begins at 7 p.m., August 11 at Clarkston High School stadium.

"It is a great way for the community to come together to support a cause that touches everyone at some point in time in one way or another," Renee said. "It is a great opportunity to support the football team as well as they think bigger than the

picture of football and the world around them."

T-shirts are available for \$10 and bracelets are available for \$1 each during the event or online at [www.customthreadsandsports.com/clarkston](http://www.customthreadsandsports.com/clarkston).

All proceeds from the event benefit McLaren Breast Cancer and McLaren Cancer Institute - Clarkston.

For more information or to volunteer for the event, please email [ClarkstonFootballforaCure@gmail.com](mailto:ClarkstonFootballforaCure@gmail.com).

"I am looking at it as a chapter in the story of my life, not my life story," Renee said. "It hasn't been the most pleasant thing to go through but I have had so many blessings attached to it to make it wonderfully life changing."

She added when you get a diagnosis which could be scary or a bad thing to look at the positive.

"For me, I have been surrounded by so many positive people who have done so many positive thing for me," Renee said. "I just don't dare feel bad or sorry for myself. I have too many people around me who won't let me - which is a nice problem to have."

## BRANDON HAWKS

### Boys 12U

## Travel Baseball TRYOUTS



Being held Sunday August 12th

1:30 - 3:00 PM

At Brandon High School

1025 S. Ortonville Rd. (M-15)

Eligibility: Players birthdays must be prior to May 2, 2000 to be eligible to play.

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**Coach Tony Tinnin**  
**(248) 875-5943**



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**THE 7th ANNUAL**

# **iCHEWS THE BLUES**

## **TICKETS:**

\$10 pp Friday  
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\$25 pp Weekend

### **FRIDAY, AUGUST 3rd 6pm-11pm**

Nosmo King Band - 6 pm, Lesters Blues - 7:15 pm

Mark May Band - 8:30 pm, Rusty Wright Band - 9:45 pm

### **SATURDAY, AUGUST 4th 12pm-11pm**



**Free Rustic Campsites**  
(weather permitting)  
**FREE PARKING**

Silverboots-12:00pm,  
Knuckleheads-1:15pm,  
Shovelbyrds-2:30pm,  
Professor Wright and Friends-3:45pm,  
Dr. Jabs-5pm, Jonesn'-6:15pm,  
David Gerald Band-7:30pm,  
Groove Council-8:15pm, Argentucky-10:00pm

**Proceeds to Benefit**

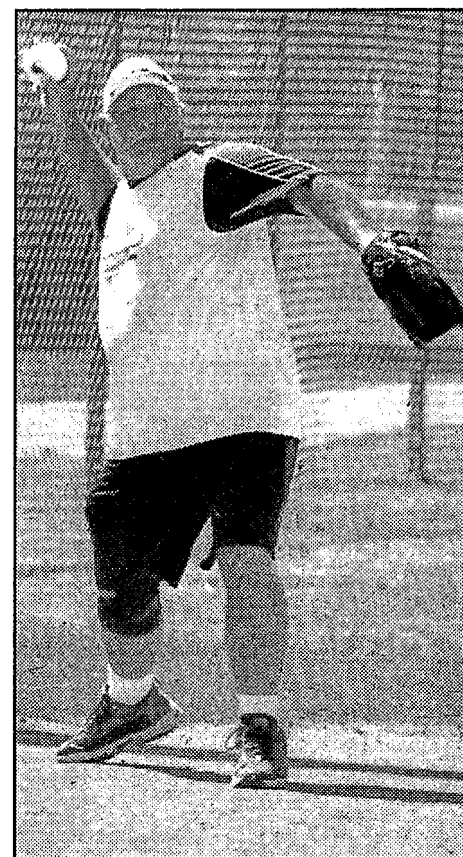
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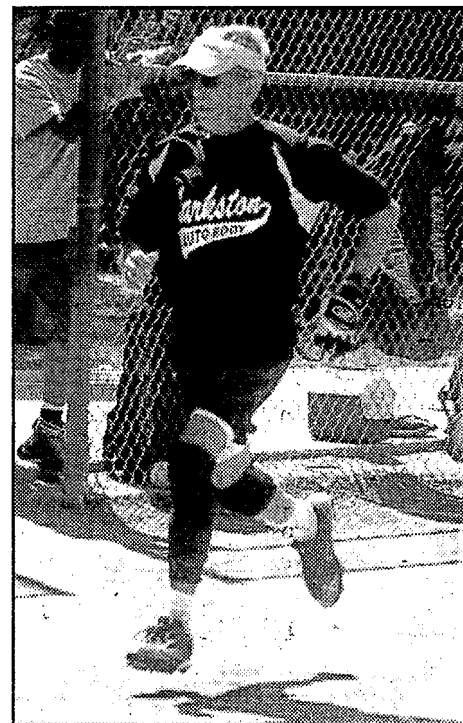
Russ Doak throws to first base.

## **Hit a home run**

The sky was clear as softball players prepared for the All-Star Senior Softball game, July 23.

Teams of players age 50 and up meet twice a week to play a fun, active game of softball.

For more information about this or other activities offered through the Independence Township Senior Center, please call 248-625-8231.



Gary Irish makes a run for home plate.  
Photos by Wendi Reardon

## Obituaries

### Raymond Bellows, 92

Raymond Henry Bellows of Waterford passed away July 28, 2012, at age 92.

He was preceded in death by his wife Madelaine. He was the father of Tim (Patricia), Renee (the late Clark) Cumming, Terry, Valerie (Myron) Laidler, Theresa, Chris, Dan, Veronica (Robert) Tenuta, John (Teresa), Tom (Joyce), Mike (Dee), Marjorie and the late Mary Elizabeth; also survived by 58 grandchildren and 37 great grandchildren.

Mr. Bellows was the last of 12 children; He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and enjoyed fishing and hunting. He was a member of the Brick Layers Union Local 1, and laid brick at age 80 at Comerica Park.

Friends may visit at the **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston, Wednesday, 3-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m., with a Rosary, Wednesday, 7 p.m. Funeral Mass, Thursday, 11 a.m., Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church, Waterford. Rite of Committal with military honors at Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly. Memorials may be made to Right to Life Organization.

Online guestbook  
www.wintfuneralhome.com.

### John D. Boyle, 82

John D. Boyle, "Jack," of Clarkston, formerly of Ferndale, passed away July 29, 2012, at age 82.

He was the husband of Joan (Gould) for 52 years; father of Cindy (Gary) Collins, Diane Boyle and Pattie Owen; grandpa of Perry and Faith; brother of Raymond (Chris), Dick (Beth), Tom (Geri) the late Jean Bondaranko



and the late Joyce Savoie; and brother in law of Jerry Savoie and Helen Drummond.

Mr. Boyle served in the U.S. Army and was a member of the American Legion Post 63. He was formerly a Ferndale fireman, currently was self-employed and enjoyed golfing.

Friends may visit at the **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston, Wednesday, 3-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Funeral, Thursday, 10 a.m., at the funeral home. Interment with military honors at Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly. Memorials may be made to American Legion Post 63. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com

Obituaries  
posted daily at  
Clarkstonnews.com

### Gerald D. Findlay, 58 Joseph N. Steele, 56

Gerald D. Findlay, "Dave," of Gould City, formerly of Holly, passed away July 26, 2012, at age 58.

He was the husband of Anita; father of Joshua (Stephanie) Findlay of Rochester Hills, Sunset (Jerry) Cook of Grayling and Stephen Findlay of Howell; preceded in death by his son David "Dink" and parents Jerry and Marie; step-father of Jeffrey Walker of Three Rivers, Samantha (Joshua) Cox of Rochester Hills and Alisha Burgess; also survived by 11 grandchildren; brother of Cynthia (Michael) Thomas and Sally Jo (Chris) Robinson.

Funeral service, Wednesday, 12:30 p.m., at the **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the family. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.

### Steven Jando, 72

Steven Jando of Goodrich, formerly of Clarkston, passed away, July 29, 2012, at age 72.

He was the husband of Margaret; special uncle of Ian Vella, Carl (Joan Daniel) and Cecil (Rita); special great uncle of Christina, Rebecca, Craig, Ryan and Ashleigh; brother of Janos, Imre, Ilusz, and Teresa; brother in law of Mary (Frank) Vella.



Mr. Jando retired from General Motors.

Funeral Mass, Wednesday, 11 a.m., at St. Daniel Catholic Church, Clarkston, where friends may visit directly at the church, 10 a.m. until time of mass. Entombment, St. Hedwig Cemetery, Dearborn. Memorials may be made to St. Daniel Catholic Church. Arrangements entrusted to the **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston.

Online guestbook  
www.wintfuneralhome.com.

### Robbie J. Siggins, 42

Robbie J. Siggins of Clarkston passed away unexpectedly, July 24, 2012, at age 42.

He was the loving father of Justin and Jacob Siggins; beloved son of, Joanne and the late Robert R. Siggins; dear brother of Robin Siggins; uncle of Krystal Rook and Eric Seay.

Mr. Siggins worked for Pontiac Coil for over 25 years.

Funeral Service was July 30 at the **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston. Interment All Saints Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Joanne Siggins. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Joseph N. Steele of Flint Township, formerly of Waterford, passed away July 25, 2012, at age 56.

He was the son of Howard (Reberta) Steele; preceded in death by his mother Betty, brother Bob (Dianne) Steele, and brother in law Bob Victor; beloved friend of Dave Reinhart; brother of Bonnie Victor, Debbie (Rick) Thomson and Don (Louise) Steele; also survived by many nieces and nephews.



Mr. Steele was a retired hairstylist, starting his career at Carlyse's and formerly owned Joseph Steele & Associates Hair Design. Missed by his dog Hannah and four cats, especially Xena. Joe wanted to thank all who loved and cared for him.

Funeral Service was July 28 at the **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**. Interment Ottawa Park Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Gift of Life or Genesee County Humane Society. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.

### Tons of Trucks coming

Trucks signed up so far for Tons of Trucks, 10 a.m., Aug. 11, include Smith's Disposal's recycle truck, Two Men And A Truck's 26 footer, Planet Kids' truck bounce house and mobile gymnastics bus, Anderson Excavating's Kenworth semi with trailer and dozer, E.P.C. Event Service's limo bus, Clarkston Union's Mac Mobile and tow truck, Oakland County Water Resource Commission's Vactor Truck, Van Horn Concrete's mixer, Genesys Credit Union's Palace Patrol, Above Board Construction, Inc.'s box truck supporting Breast Cancer Awareness, and Clarkston Auto Body and Towing's heavy duty tow truck.

All ages are welcome and adults are free. Pre-register before Aug. 10, \$3/ youth; on-site at Clintonwood Park, Aug. 11, \$5/youth. Call 248-625-8223.

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**CNews**  
**People Poll**  
August 1, 2012

**Watching the 2012 Summer Olympics?**

"Yes. We are watching gymnastics. Jordyn Weiber in particular she is from Michigan and spells her name same as my daughter."

- Wendy Coin, with Zachary and Jordyn



"Yes. Watching swim, bike races and gymnastics."

- Alvin Sexton



"Absolutely. We are watching every event we can swim, gymnastics, badminton, cycling, skeet shooting and more."

- Julie Sexton



"Yes. Grandkids are watching basketball and gymnastics. I watch the whole bike race except the end."

- Patrick McCarthy with grandkids Meredith and Patrick



By Wendt Reardon

# The Clarkston News' Millstream

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

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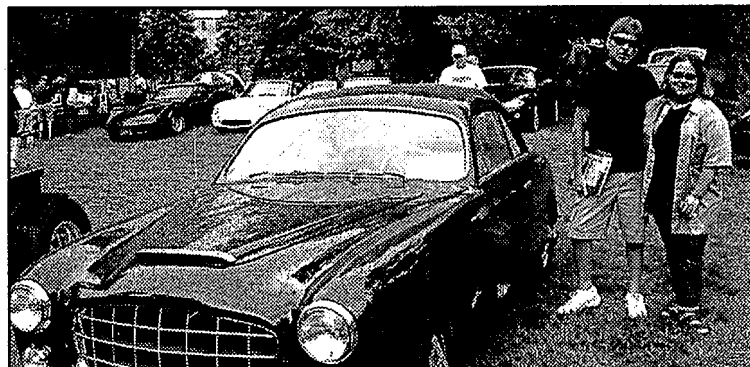
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Will Painter, with his 1966 Alfa Romeo GTV.



Buck Mook and Laura Respecki brought their 1954 Ford Monte Carlo to the show.

## SCAMP cruises through auto history

BY MARY KECK  
Clarkston News Staff Writer

The rain couldn't keep car enthusiasts away from SCAMP's Concours in the Park fund raiser on July 27.

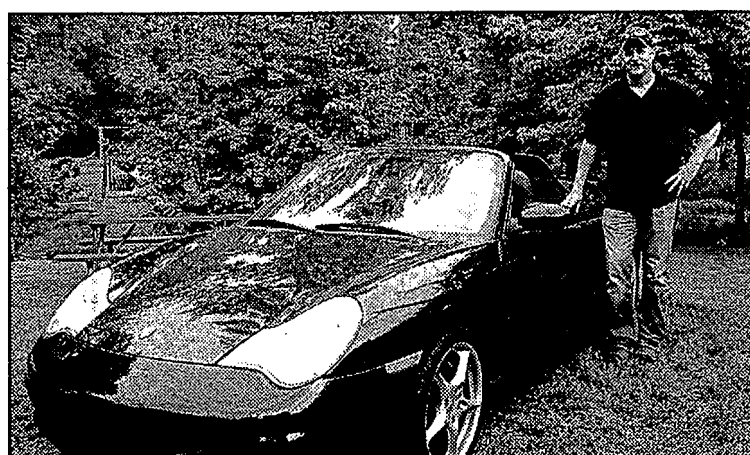
"This is the most fun you can have without a swimsuit on," said George Farley, who brought the 1926 Ford T Roadster he finished building just this year.

Laura Respecki of Waterford Hills Road Racing was enthusiastic despite the occasional sprinkles.

"Racers love it," she said.

Waterford Hills Racing helped organize the event, and volunteers from SCAMP and MRM, a digital advertising company, served up Clarkston Union Mac-n-cheese and Cook's Dairy Farm ice cream.

Please see *Classic* on page 19



Bob Schaffer displays a fine Porsche automobile.

Photos by Mary Keck



The Concours crowd braves the rain at the event.

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## Around town

**AARP Driver Safety Class**, 1:30-5:30 p.m., July 31, Aug. 2. \$12 for AARP members, \$14 for non-members, special price of \$5 for educators. Independence Township Senior Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. Register, 248-625-8231.

\*\*\*

**Blood drive**, American Red Cross, sponsored by Clarkston High School Marching Band, 1-7 p.m., Aug. 7, Clarkston Junior High, 6595 Middle Lake Road. 248-802-1396, www.redcrossblood.org, code: "clarkstonmusic."

\*\*\*

**50+ Paddleboarding Class**, 10-11 a.m., Aug. 8, Deer Lake Beach. All equipment provided. \$25/members, \$30/non-members. 248-625-8231.

\*\*\*

**Ghost Walk**, 9-11 p.m., Aug. 11, hosted by Clarkston Community Historical Society. Meet at Depot Park for guided tour through downtown to hear costumed narrators tell stories of Clarkston's paranormal activity. \$12.50, 12 and older. 248-922-0270.

\*\*\*

**55th Reunion**, Lake Orion High School Class of 1957, Aug. 11, Rochester Community House, Rochester. Golf scramble at Bald Mountain Golf Course, Lake Orion, Aug. 10. 248-693-2973.

\*\*\*

**Titanic Remembered**, presented by the Clarkston Community Historical Society with Maureen Esther, storyteller, 7 p.m., Aug. 21, Independence Township Library, 6495 Clarkston Road.

\*\*\*

**30 year reunion**, Lake Orion Class of 1982, Sept. 15, American Legion, Oxford. \$25 in advance. Dinner, live music. Other classes welcome. Call Tammy, 248-766-0183, sunshineangel39@aol.com.

## Carmichael in concert

Lend A Helping Hand hosts Concerts in the Park, starting 6:30-9 p.m., Aug. 3, with entertainment by local musicians and One Nite Stand DJ's.

On Aug. 10, 6:30-9 p.m., entertainment will be by Jessica Carmichael, a local singer and song-writer.

This is her third concert for Lend A Helping Hand.

"Jessica has played for us for the past two summer's and the audience loves to have her back," said Michelle Phaup, founder and executive director of the volunteer-run organization.

Carmichael's concert last year is currently airing on Clarkston's Public Access station.

Each concert will include concessions and 50/50 raffles. All proceeds at this



**Jessica Carmichael performs a Concert in the Park, Aug. 10.**

Phaup at 248-394-1415 or check www.lahh.info.

year's concerts will benefit a local woman who has advanced breast cancer, to help pay for uninsured medical expenses.

"We're seeking sponsors and donations for this event," Phaup said.

For more information, call

Township Parks, 248-625-8223.

\*\*\*

**Slow Flow Yoga** with Noreen Daly, Mondays, Wednesdays, 5:45 p.m. Peace Unity Holistic Center, 8080A Ortonville Road. 248-310-7878.

\*\*\*

**50+ Line Dancing**, Mondays, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road, Dance to country, salsa, cha-cha and rock and roll rhythms with Rosemary Hall to exercise your body and mind! Ongoing @ \$3.00 pp. drop in fee.

\*\*\*

**Bingo games**, Community Singles, Mondays, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Big Boy, 6440 Dixie Highway. Dinner, dessert prizes. 248-812-0604.

\*\*\*

**50+ Body Dynamics Class**, Mondays, Wednesdays through Aug. 29, 9-10 a.m., Se-

nior Center Carriage House, 6000 Clarkston Road, \$55/members, \$60/non-members. 248-625-8231.

\*\*\*

**5K training program**, Mondays, Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m., six weeks starting Aug. 20. Target: Brookside Way 5K, Sept. 30. Race registration separate. Ages 16 and up. Independence Township Parks and Rec, 248-625-8223.

### Tuesday

**50+ Pickleball**, indoor, Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m., \$4, First Congregational Church of Clarkston, 5449 Clarkston Road; outdoor, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 8:30-10:30 a.m., \$2, Clintonwood Park Tennis Courts, 6000 Clarkston Road.

\*\*\*

**Gentle Yoga** with Rev. Matthew Long, Tuesdays, Thursdays, 10 a.m. Peace Unity Holistic Center, 8080A Ortonville Road. 248-891-4365.

\*\*\*

**Breast Cancer Support Group**, second Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. May 8: Open House Reunion. 21st Century Oncology, 6770 Dixie Highway, Suite 106. 248-625-3841 or 248-798-5503.

\*\*\*

**Clarkston Area Youth Assistance**, second Tuesday, 7 p.m., Clarkston Community Education Building, 6300 Church Street on Waldon. 248-623-4313.

\*\*\*

**Zumba**, Tuesdays, Thursdays, 8-9 p.m.; Saturdays, 12-1 p.m. Clarkston Hot Yoga, 5678 Sashabaw Road. 248-620-7101.

### Wednesday

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

\*\*\*

Please see Around Town on page 23

## THANK YOU!!!!

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Camilla from Italy, 16 yrs. Enjoys dancing, playing the piano and swimming. Camilla looks forward to cooking with her American host family.



Daniel from Denmark, 17 yrs. Loves skiing, playing soccer and watching American movies. Daniel hopes to learn to play football and live as a real American.

Terri at 810-869-6347 or Amy at 1-800-677-2773 (toll free)

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ASSE International Student Exchange Program is a Public Benefit, Non-Profit Organization  
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OLDE WORLD CANTERBURY VILLAGE

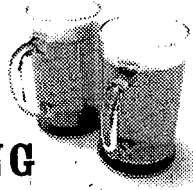
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A classic racer draws a crowd at the Concours. Photo by Mary Keck

## Classic-to-modern cars fill Depot

Continued from page 17

"Car events are close to our heart," said MRM's Deb Dworkin.

From classic to modern to work, leisure, and racing vehicles, there were a variety of motors displayed offering visitors to Concours in the Park a cruise through automotive history.

Ryleigh Linseman, a member of the SCAMP staff, favored an electric blue

Mustang, and she couldn't wait for the five-week summer camp for special needs children to begin.

"Registration was better than it's ever been," said SCAMP's Donna Clancy who was very pleased with the fundraiser.

To find out more about SCAMP go to [www.clarkstoncamp.com](http://www.clarkstoncamp.com) or get more info on Waterford Hills Racing at [www.waterfordhills.com](http://www.waterfordhills.com).

### Sam's CIGAR BOX

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Clarkston  
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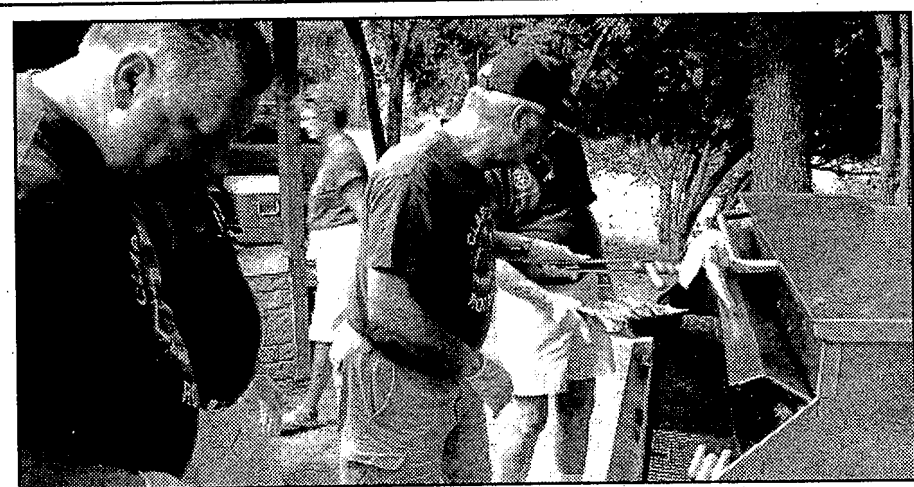
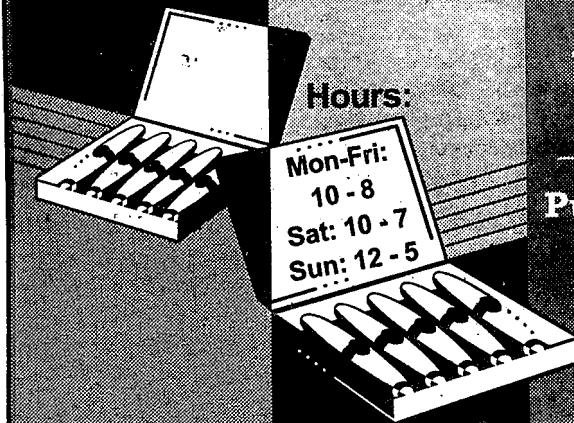
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5 cigars

Purchase 10 Cigars &

### Get 1 FREE!

Hours:

Mon-Fri:  
10 - 8  
Sat: 10 - 7  
Sun: 12 - 5



Clarkston Rotarians cook up hot dogs for their SCAMP guests. Photo provided

## Clarkston Rotary Welcomes SCAMP Families

The Clarkston Rotary Club again entertained students and their families from Clarkston SCAMP at a cookout and picnic at Independence Oaks, July 16.

The Rotarians cooked hot dogs and set out potato salad, coleslaw and watermelon, while the students and their families enjoyed the bouncing house, face painter and

Bingo the clown.

This year The Men of Grace from Pontiac's Grace Centers of Hope entertained the crowd during dinner. The SCAMP picnic is always the first Rotary activity of the Rotary year, which begins on July 1. It's a favorite for all involved.

For info, check [clarkstonrotary.org](http://clarkstonrotary.org).

## Students achieve success

**John Vanderveen** of Clarkston, junior at Hope College, was named to the 2011-2012 Academic Honor Roll of the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

Clarkston students graduating from Spring Arbor University, May 12, include **Sheila Lipe**, receiving a Master of Arts in Counseling, and **Brittany Thompson**, receiving a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. The daughter of Mark and Beverly Thompson, she graduated Magna Cum

Laude.

**Brittany Lynn Rodgers** of Clarkston received a Bachelor of Science degree in Education, Cum Laude, from Miami University during spring commencement.

Clarkston students **Jason Charles Semmes**, **Justin James Semmes**, **Tyler Alexander Smith**, and **Scarlett Maye Shader** were named to the dean's list at Miami University for second semester 2011-2012.

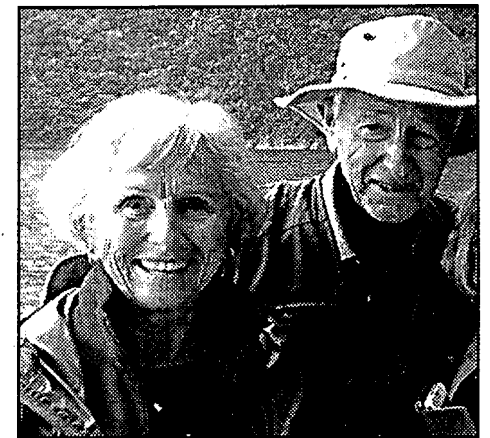
## Celebrating 60 years of marriage



Robert and Julie Johnson recently celebrated their 60th anniversary and both their 80th birthdays in July – Bob on the 25th and Julie on the 28th.

They were married on July 25, 1952. They lived in Clarkston from 1960 until retirement in 1992.

They have five children, Sandra (Ken) of Richland, Ken (Tracy) of Bend, Oregon, Virginia (deceased), Brian (Sherri) of Commerce Township and Elaipe (John) of Clarkston. They have six grandchildren, Rob, Justin, Virginia, Jarred, Sarah, and Adam and welcomed their first great grandchild, Olive, in June. To celebrate, they went to New Zealand in February. They have homes in Richland, Mich., and Bend, Oregon.



Robert and Julie Johnson, married in 1952, celebrated their 60th anniversary.

# CELEBRATE Oxford

**CELEBRATE OXFORD FRIDAY**  
August 3rd  
7pm-9pm  
McLAREN HEALTH CARE

**ARTISTS MUSICIANS ENTERTAINERS CONCERT IN THE PARK BY JULIANNE**

**CELEBRATE OXFORD SATURDAY**  
August 4th  
10am-7pm  
FAMILY, FUN & FOOD

CAR SHOW | PRES-N-C  
5KM RACE  
BEER TENTS  
KIDZ TOWN  
TEEN ZONE  
SENIORS CENTRE  
BUSINESS EXPO  
TASTE OF OXFORD  
ARTS, CRAFTS & EXHIBITS  
CIVIL WAR - RE-ENACTMENT

**GENISYS CREDIT UNION**  
The Oxford Leader

**CELEBRATE OXFORD SUNDAY**  
August 5th  
10am-5pm  
HISTORY, HORSES & PETS

PETS IN THE PARK  
HISTORICAL HOME TOURS  
EQUESTRIAN CORRIDOR

## Rupe-Wilder

Kerri Rupe is engaged to marry Michael Wilder. Both attended Clarkston High School.

Kerri graduated from Central Michigan University and is currently employed as a Service Specialist with the State of Michigan. Michael graduated from Specs Howard and is employed with DTE. The wedding will take place in September 2012.



Michael and Kerri



Christopher and Sarah

## Mason-Johnston

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Mason and Ms. Kathryn Mason announce the engagement of their daughter Sarah Louise Mason to Christopher Duane Johnston.

An August wedding is planned in Oakland.

WWW.CELEBRATEOXFORD.COM

# Get spiritual nourishment all the time

"Summertime and the livin' is easy. Fish are a jumpin' and the cotton is high." Gershwin and Heyward, from "Porgy and Bess".

We've made it through the cold and desolate winter, slogged through the muck and mire of spring; the crops are planted, the sun is shining; not much hard work to do until the harvest. Livin' is easy. We can relax and enjoy life.

And, this is the time we could be getting 'prayed up'. Most people don't think about God or Spirit until they are challenged by life events: sickness, injury, bankruptcy, divorce, etc.

They will show up at church seeking spiritual support, anxious to plug in and feel the Love of God and experience their healing. Then, once the challenge is past and living is easy again many will meander off on their merry way again forgetting the suffering they went through a short time before.

Don't misunderstand me, you are always welcome and we are here to assist you in making your way through the challenges of life. And, we are here to assist you in avoiding

or at least minimizing the darkness of the challenges that we inevitably face as part of the human condition.

When times are good and living is easy, this is the time to get 'prayed up', to get your spiritual nourishment, to nurture your relationship with a personal God. God is not a person, but God is personal to each one of us. "In him we live and move and have our being." (Acts 17:28) And, it lives and moves and has its being within each one of us. "On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you." (John 14:20.) We are one!

God is in us, Eric Butterworth tells us, not as a raisin is in a bun, "God is in you as the ocean is in a wave." Discover the Power Within You. We are Spirit expressing. God is experiencing the manifest world as the creation. "In the beginning God..." (Genesis 1:1.)

What was before the beginning? God! What did God create the heavens and the earth out of? God! The invisible source is made visible through creation. God sees, hears, speaks, smells, tastes, feels, thinks and serves through each one of us.

In Unity and New Thought we understand God as Principle, Law, the One Power, the One Presence, infinite, eternal, unlimited. So just how do you pray to a Law or Principle?

This is a trick question for we do not pray to anything, we pray in a conscious awareness of the all-sufficiency of God manifested in and through and as us and our world. In this awareness we link our minds with the God Mind bringing forth Divine ideas for expression of wisdom, love, peace, wholeness and abundance.

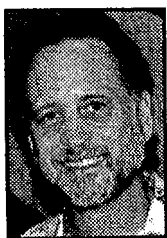
Prayer and meditation can be conscious communion with God, practicing the presence of God, developing a personal relationship with the infinite, unlimited, eternal existence that is God, within us, in this now moment.

When the living is easy, we strengthen our connection, develop our relationship, and practice the presence. Then, when challenges come, we are spiritually fit and ready to meet them with confident assurance that our connection to our Divine Source will assist us with our every needed good.

Churches are now in their summer mode, summer attire is the order of the day. You can be an integral part of assisting your spiritual community and our world in experiencing and sharing God's love. Remember to make hay and get prayed up while the sun shines.

Blessings of peace, joy & love.  
The Rev. Matthew E. Long is pastor of Peace Unity Church & Holistic Center

## Spiritual Matters



Pastor Matthew Long

## In our churches...

**Job Ministry** presentation for unemployed or to hone employability skills, third Monday, 7:30 p.m., St. Daniel's Cushing Center, 7010 Valley Park Drive. 248-625-4580.

\*\*\*

**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.

\*\*\*

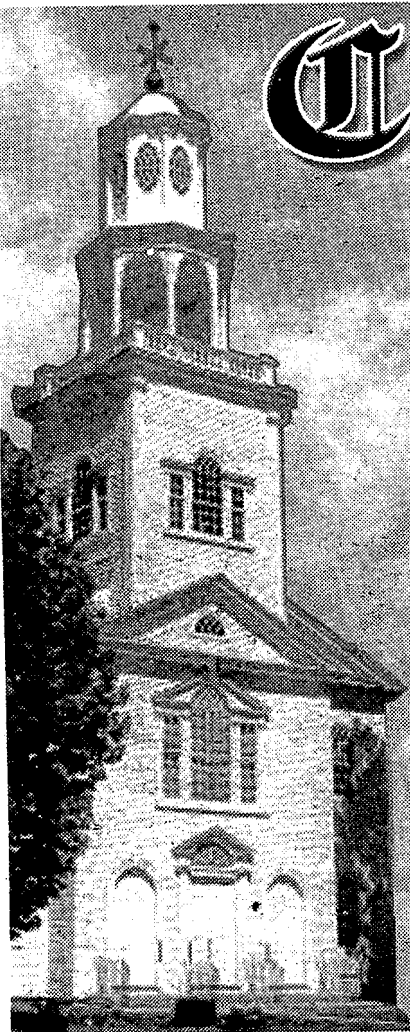
**Wednesday Evening FEAST**, 6 p.m., classes for all ages, 7:15- 8:30 p.m. Free nursery. Calvary Lutheran Church, 6805 Bluegrass Drive. 248-625-3288.

\*\*\*

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

Like to join in Spiritual Matters?  
Call us at 248-625-3370

# Church Directory



### ST. TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

"Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod"  
Pastor: Rev. Kendall Schaeffer  
7925 Sashabaw Road  
(1/4 mile N. of DTE Music Theater)  
Clarkston, MI 48348  
(248) 625-4644  
www.sainttrinitylutheran.com  
e-mail: sttrinity@comcast.net  
Broadcast Worship - Clarkston  
CIV-10/20Sun. 2:00pm, Thurs. 9:00pm  
Broadcast Worship - Waterford  
CATV-10 Tues. 2:30 pm  
Worship:  
Sunday 8:15 am & 11:00 am  
Sat. 6:00 pm  
Sunday School 9:45 am  
Preschool: 3-4 years old  
Preschool: 620-6154

### CALVARY MISSIONARY CHURCH

"A Place to Worship & Grow"  
1361 Giddings Rd., Pontiac MI 48340  
248-373-0311  
Services: Sunday - 10 am & 6 pm  
Contemporary Worship  
Children's Ministry 10:30 am  
Tues. - 10 am Morning Prayer  
Wed. - 7 pm Bible Study  
New Series - "Relentless"  
Senior Pastors: Dan & Debbie Burgess  
"Come & Grow With Us!"

### OAKLAND EPC

"God's Word, God's Power; Life Worth the Living"  
Here to help those concerned about life and curious about the God who made us.  
Currently meeting at Mt. Zion Center  
4455 Clintonville Road at Mann Rd.  
Waterford, MI 48329  
Worship Service each Sunday @ 10:30 am  
Children's Worship @ 10:30 am  
Other Opportunities:  
Call Church for times of following Meetings:  
Men's Bible Study  
Women's Bible Study  
Mid Week Bible Study  
Adult Sunday Morning Bible Studies  
Oakland EPC is an Evangelical Presbyterian Church with offices located at 7205 Clintonville Rd., Clarkston, MI 48348  
Phone (248) 858-2577

### THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

6490 Clarkston Rd., Clarkston  
Sunday 10 am  
Holy Eucharist  
Sunday School 9:55 am  
Nursery Provided  
www.clarkstonepiscopal.org  
248-625-2325

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CLARKSTON

5972 Paramus, Clarkston, MI  
(248) 625-3380  
Located 2 blks. N. of Dixie Hwy. (E. of M-15)  
Pastor: Russell Reemtsma  
Sun: 9:30 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Fellowship  
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

### ANDERSONVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

10310 Andersonville Road, Davisburg, MI  
Phone (248) 625-5831  
Pastor Bruce Darling  
Sunday School 10:00 am  
Morning Worship Service 11:00 am  
Sunday Evening Service 6:00 pm  
Wednesday Evening Prayer & Bible Study 6:00 pm  
A church where Christ is the center. Hymns and Hymnals are still used. Older congregation with traditional values that honor Christ not programs and activities. A place where the people are real and the spirit is sweet. Come and visit, see, and feel the love of Christ.

### THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

5449 Clarkston Rd., Clarkston  
(248) 394-0200  
Fax: (248) 394-2142  
Interim: Rev. William Lange  
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.  
Children's Sunday School 10:00 am  
Dream Keepers Youth Group  
Bible Study  
Wednesday 7:00 pm  
Youth Groups 6-12  
Wednesday 6:30 pm  
www.FirstCongregationalChurch.org

### DIXIE BAPTIST CHURCH

8585 Dixie Highway, Clarkston, MI  
(248) 625-2311  
website: www.dixiebaptist.org  
Home of Springfield Christian Academy & Children's Ark Preschool  
Pastor: J. Todd Vanaman  
Sun: 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.

### SASHABAW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Little Church with a BIG Heart"  
5300 Maybee Road, Clarkston  
Worship 11:00 am  
Nursery Provided  
Phone (248) 673-3101

### CLARKSTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6600 Waldon Road, Clarkston  
248-625-1611  
Website: clarkstonumc.org  
Sunday Worship: 8:30 am & 10:00 am  
6:00 pm Evening Service  
Nursery available for all services

### BRIDGEWOOD CHURCH

6765 Rattalee Lake Road  
Clarkston, 48348  
(248) 625-1344  
Services:  
Sunday 9:00am & 10:45am  
Morning Worship Service  
Exploration Station - Children's Ministry  
Wed. 6:45pm Fit For Life - Adult Life Ministry  
c.r.a.v.e. - Student Life Ministry  
Ozone - Children's Life Ministry  
Nurture Center/Wonderland available for all services  
A Church For Life  
www.bridgewoodchurch.com

### ST. DANIEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

### CALVARY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

6805 Bluegrass Drive, Clarkston  
(W. of M-15, just S. of I-75)  
248-625-3288  
Pastor Jonathan Heierman  
Sunday Worship:  
8:15 am (traditional), 9:30 & 11:00 am  
Also at both 9:30 & 11:00:  
Nursery, Children & Youth Programming  
Wednesday Evenings:  
6:00-8:30 pm  
Dinner, worship, small groups  
Nursery, Children & Youth Programming  
www.calvaryinfo.org

### CLARKSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

6300 Clarkston Road • Clarkston  
(248) 625-1323  
Home of Oakland Christian School  
Pastors: Greg Henneman, Bonita Laudeman, Kevin Kuehne, Dan Whiting, Geoff Black  
Sunday: Worship 9:15 & 11:00 am  
Nursery Care at all services  
Wednesday: Children's Ministries 6:00-8:00 pm  
Sunday: Youth Ministries 5:00-7:00 pm  
www.clarkstoncommunity.com

### CLARKSTON FREE METHODIST CHURCH

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



# Who To Call

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Some of these services require licensing. If in doubt, ask your contractor for their license or check with the State of Michigan.

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mdanhausen@paragonconcrete.net

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STATE OF MICHIGAN FILE NO:  
 PROBATE COURT 2012-344, 597-DE  
 COUNTY OF OAKLAND  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
**Decedent's Estate**

Estate of Gerald Anthony Dalton. Date of birth: 02/25/1942  
**TO ALL CREDITORS:**  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS:** The decedent, Gerald Anthony Dalton, died 05/31/2012.  
 Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Lawrence T. Dalton, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Pontiac, Michigan 48341-0449 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

7/27/12  
 Kathryn M. Caruso (P44723) Lawrence T. Dalton  
 6480 Citation Drive 3993 Malden  
 Clarkston, MI 48346 Waterford, MI 48329  
 248/625-0600 248.623.9452

STATE OF MICHIGAN FILE NO:  
 PROBATE COURT 2012-344, 686-DE  
 COUNTY OF OAKLAND  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
**Decedent's Estate**

Estate of John Michael Morawski. Date of birth: 5/8/1952.  
**TO ALL CREDITORS:**  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS:** The decedent, John Michael Morawski, died 1/9/2012.  
 Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Barbara C. Morawski, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Pontiac, Michigan 48341-0449 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

7/25/12  
 Kathryn M. Caruso (P44723) Barbara C. Morawski  
 6480 Citation Drive 600 Ranveer  
 Clarkston, MI 48346 White Lake, MI 48396  
 248/625-0600 248.698.1454

STATE OF MICHIGAN FILE NO:  
 PROBATE COURT 2012-341, 346-DE  
 COUNTY OF OAKLAND  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
**Decedent's Estate**

Estate of Marian Adeline Berlin. Date of birth: 2/18/1927  
**TO ALL CREDITORS:**  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS:** The decedent, Marian Adeline Berlin, died 1/25/2011.  
 Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Nancy Wilson, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Pontiac, Michigan 48341-0449 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

7/26/12  
 Kathryn M. Caruso (P44723) Nancy Wilson  
 6480 Citation Drive 3570 Oakview  
 Clarkston, MI 48346 Waterford, MI 48329  
 248/625-0600 248.673.9179

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 Because the People Want to Know

**LIBRARY**

**NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING**  
**CLARKSTON INDEPENDENCE**  
**DISTRICT LIBRARY**

(successor to the Independence Township Library)  
 The Clarkston Independence District Library Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed library budget for the remaining portion of the fiscal year January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012 at the Clarkston Independence District Library located at 6495 Clarkston Road, Clarkston, MI 48346, on Thursday, August 9, 2012 at 6 p.m. **The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.** A copy of the budget is available for public inspection at the Clarkston Independence District Library, 6495 Clarkston Road, Clarkston, MI, during business hours.

The Clarkston Independence District Library Board will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon 5 days notice to the Library Board. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Library by writing or calling the following: Julie Meredith, Library Director, 6495 Clarkston Road, Clarkston, MI 48346, (248) 625-2212.



Brenda Savage is executive director of Birth Choice Pregnancy Resource Center in Independence Township. Photo by Phil Custodio

# Santorun to speak for center

**BY PHIL CUSTODIO**  
 Clarkston News Editor

Birth Choice Pregnancy Resource Center of Independence Township welcomes Former U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum to its fund raiser dinner, 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 9, Palazzo Gande, 54660 Van Dyke Avenue in Shelby Township.

"We know Sen. Santorum is a very strong prolife advocate," said Brenda Savage, executive director. "We've sought him out as speaker for a long time. When he withdrew from his presidential campaign, he decided to speak for us."

The center has a new location, 5770 S. Main Street. They moved there from its Sashabaw Road location after a clinic offering abortion services, with which they shared a building, closed late last year.

The new place also charges less rent. "It's less than half of what we paid before," Savage said. "We're thriving here,

working to promote life; prevent abortion, and help build stronger families."

The center offers pre-natal education, counseling, parenting classes, referrals for insurance, physician, maternity home, and adoption, pregnancy tests, ultra sound machine, and clothing and supplies.

"We have a large Spanish-speaking population here, so we offer English classes and work with the Mexican consulate in Detroit to help with documentation," Savage said. "Making families stronger makes the community stronger."

Their goal is to help families become stable and independent, she said.

"We do a lot of great things, but it's a struggle financially," she said. "We're entirely dependent on donations."

Dinner and private reception with Santorum is \$125; Dinner only, \$75, 6:45 p.m. Call 248-620-5353 or check www.birthchoiceresource.com.

# Around Town

*Continued from page 18*

**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.

\*\*\*

**Lunches for 50+**, Thursdays, 12 p.m., made-from-scratch. \$6 donation. Independence Township Adult Activities Center, 6000 Clark-

ston Road. Make reservation by Monday before, 248-625-8231.

\*\*\*

**Young At Heart Active Adults**, Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., lunches, guest speakers, musical performances, field trips, holiday parties, movies, bingo, games. Hart Community Center in Davisburg. \$5 yearly membership, \$5 lunch. 248-846-6558.

\*\*\*

**MOPS, Mothers Of Preschoolers**, first and third Thursdays, 9-11:30 a.m., Clarkston Community Church, 6300 Clarkston Road. Call Saleena, 734-620-2844.

**Saturday**  
**Clarkston Farmers' Market**, Saturdays through Oct. 13; 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Community Education Center, 6300 Church Street.

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**Cars & Trucks Inventory (Prices)**  
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 '04 Ford Explorer 4x4 ..... \$7,988  
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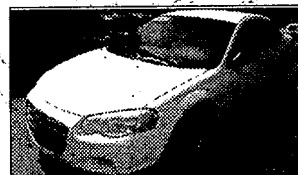
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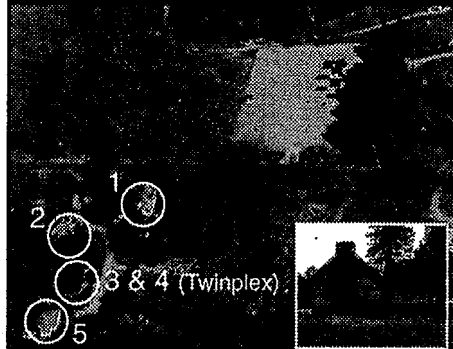
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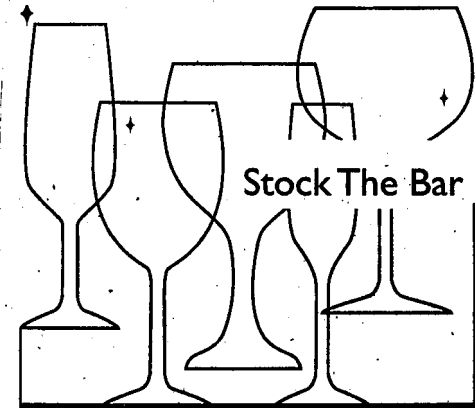
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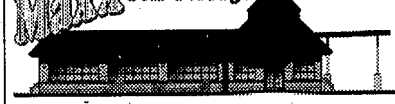
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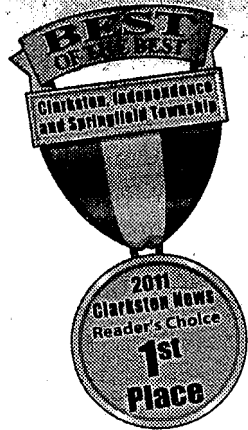
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From left, Independence Township supervisor candidates Patrick J. Kittle, Todd Waring, Neil Wallace, and Terry Fortuna share their views at the Clarkston Area Chamber of Commerce forum, July 25. Photo by Mary Keck

## Four candidates for supervisor

Candidates for Independence Township supervisor in the Aug. 7 primary, Terry Fortuna, Patrick J. Kittle, Neil Wallace, and Todd Waring, look to bring leadership to the Township Board.

**Patrick J. Kittle**, 57, in the community 13+ years, worked a 32-year career with Chrysler, last 10 years as a senior Sales and Marketing executive, and is currently retired.



Kittle

"I spent the last three-plus years serving as the president of the Oakhurst Homeowner's Association, one of the largest single family residential communities in Independence Township," Kittle said. "I support the McLaren hospital proposal and the medical and economic benefits it would bring to the community."

He would benchmark other communities and see who is doing it better, faster and cheaper than Independence, copy that model and reap the savings benefits; and identify and track assets owned by the township and begin to plan and fund for their future maintenance and improvement needs.

"The township's future is bright," he said. "We have lots of great people in a great community. We need to put the pride back in Independence Township. We need to make Independence Township a community people want to reside in and do business in."

Outbound communications, citizen input establishing priorities and financial strength are all vital components in making this happen, he said.

"I was asked by several neighbors if I would be interested in taking what I am doing as president of the Oakhurst Homeowner's Association and apply it to Independence Township," he said. "These neighbors stated that my common sense management style of communicating, balancing the budget, planning for long term capital needs and seeking resident input before money is spent would be a breath of fresh air in Independence Township. After talking with dozens of township residents, who re-affirmed what my neighbors stated, I agreed to run for supervisor."

It's the right time to give back and make a difference, he said.

"I have no family or business conflicts that would interfere with my ability to put 100 percent of my efforts into this important job," he said. "My kids are grown and I am retired from Chrysler. I also have no financial interest in any enterprise that does business in or with Independence Township. Bottom line, I enjoy working with people and getting things done. After a great 32 year career at Chrysler and three years of retirement, it's time for me to get back in the saddle."

As a senior sales and marketing executive managing through some of the most turbulent years in the industry, he managed a staff of 200 and successfully provided services to over 3,000 dealers and 150,000 of their employees with ever changing budgets and corporate priorities.

"I am used to working with big budgets, big staffs, and big logistics issues," he said. "During the past three years as the Oakhurst Homeowner's Association president, my

management style has stayed consistent."

His style is to communicate to residents on both good and bad news, seek input from residents as to spending priorities and direction, provide full financial transparency, and plan for future capital improvement needs.

"I have the skillset, the time, the right attitude and bring a common sense approach to management for the job," he said. "If you think these qualities and management style may be beneficial to the township, I would appreciate your support. I look forward to meeting every concerned resident of Independence Township and getting your input on what needs to be done for our collective future."

**Neil Wallace**, 62, has lived in the township for 36 years and is a local attorney. He has served as township trustee for a total of eight years.

"The problems that our township government can impact currently are maintaining and enhancing the quality services it provides, from fire, EMS, and police to library, seniors, parks and recreation, water and sewer, without unnecessary increases in residential taxes," said Wallace. "We can do this by cooperation with neighboring communities and further diversifying our tax base by reaching out to attract businesses that fit the character of our community."

He would execute the Capital Improvement Plan developed since tightening opera-



Wallace

Continued on page 3

August 1, 2012

2012 Primary Election

The Clarkston News

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# Candidates vow to restore leadership to board

Continued from page 1  
tional spending, he said.

"I would clear up the past administration's deferred maintenance; and I would provide quality, dependable leadership to our dedicated employees," he said.

Independence Township's future is great because of its people and their dedication to a quality residential community, he said.

"Already home values here are rebounding from the recession because this is a desirable place to live," he said. "We are working on plans to enhance infrastructure as another way to draw quality businesses to further diversify our tax base. With the same citizen participation and dedication we have enjoyed in the past, we can grow while maintaining the charm of our community."

He was first drawn to involvement in local self-government in 1981 when he was appointed to the Independence Township Planning Commission, where he served six years, five as its chair.

"The draw was working with others to define our community as a great place to live, work and raise a family," he said. "Among the many experiences that qualify me to serve as supervisor are eight years as an elected township trustee, involvement in numerous community organizations from Citizens For

Orderly Growth to the Oakland Local Development Corporation and many more. There is also my work as a business attorney and consultant and my service as an officer in the Republican Party."

Among the candidates, he is uniquely qualified, he said.

"I am the only candidate with the long history of community involvement; the only one to have served appointed and elected township offices; the only one to have served our county and state governments; and the only one who has the knowledge, experience and demonstrated leadership that citizens know and trust," he said.

Todd Waring, 46, has lived in Independence Township for 22 years. He is president of Elite Land Development Corp.

"Our current government services are not meeting this community's needs, they are and have failed to bring new business to our township, creating new revenues allowing us to grow, prosper, and live up to this township's full potential," Waring said. "Surrounding areas have grown, brought new business in and we have missed that boat with the current governments continued squabbling, personal interest, and wasting tax payers' money on not being able to make prompt, good decisions on what is best for the community,

we lack leadership big time."

His ideas on how to fund and grow are business-101 theory, he said.

"I have been a business owner for 22 years, we need regulated professional growth, which in return will bring jobs, revenue, more new homes, and protect the residents' investment in this great community," he said. "As supervisor, I will make this happen."

The future of Independence township is in the hands of the voters, he said.

"If we continue with the government that's in place, based on their track record, we will fail," he said. "We need revenues to pay for police, fire, schools, parks, and to protect our home values. With new proper leadership, this township can and will be the best place to live in the county."

He wants to get involved in local government to bring a business attitude to the table, seek new business to fulfill the 2020 Master Plan and make the township into the place residents want to see and others plant their roots.

"I have over 22 years of self employment. I sell my jobs, I perform my jobs, I hire jobs, and

I know how to make a profit," he said. "I have made it through the best and worst economy as a landscape contractor, I know how to trim waste, be productive and stand strong. I have 22 plus years of doing some of the largest, highest profile landscape projects. There are very few landscape businesses that have been in business and made it this long."

He knows how to sell a road and also how to build it on time, within a budget and, most importantly, at a profit, he said.

"Government does not worry about profit and saving for rough times, I do," he said. "I am the best candidate for the job based on my experience in business and proven track record. I do not personally believe an attorney should be the next supervisor. I do not believe a retired automotive person should be the next supervisor. I believe a businessman/owner as myself is the best candidate for this position, a proven leader with a track record."

There is no place for politics in our community, he said.

"We need a businessman that knows how to get it down and be a true leader, same reason leaders such as Mitt Romney has stepped up to lead our nation," he said.

Terry Fortuna did not respond to requests to comment.



Waring

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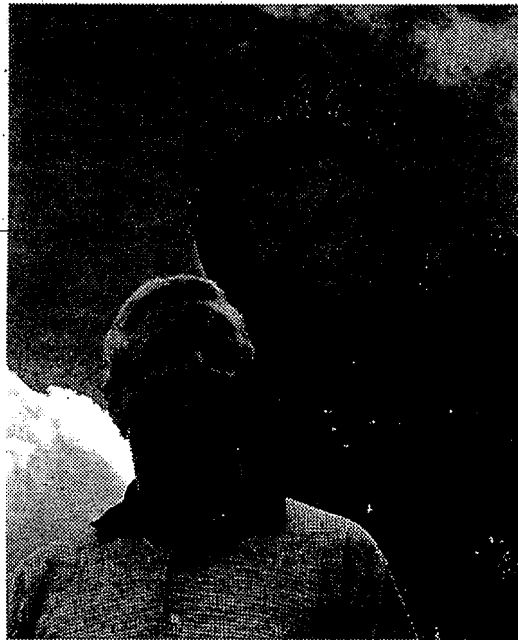


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- Only candidate with the Citizen Planner designation from Michigan State University
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## Two clerk candidates

Running for Independence Township clerk are challenger Jeff Decker and incumbent Barb Pallotta.

**Barb Pallotta**, 58, resident for 10 years, is the incumbent clerk.

The clerk's statutory duties are numerous, technical and legally essential to the proper operation of local government, Pallotta said.

"To name a few, the clerk maintains the custody of all township records for which no other provision has been made, maintains general ledger, prepares warrants for checks, records and maintains meeting minutes, maintains voter records and administers all elections," she said.

As the hub for information gathering, the clerk fills the gap between the governing body, the township staff and residents by providing accurate and timely information while at the same time fulfilling responsibilities associated with her leadership decision making role as an elected official.

The clerk must take an active role in setting priorities and policy that not only represents the views of the constituency but

safeguards the future of our community.

"Statutory and safety services in our community still exceed services offered in many other neighboring communities despite the economic downturn felt by all municipalities over the past several years," she said. "The Township Board and departments have taken leadership roles in evaluating every aspect of the budget making certain that essential services and programs remain intact by using creative ways to lessen the financial burden on the residents."

Scrutiny is given to all level of services and is evaluated by need, public participation and wherever possible, self-supported. Now, with several upcoming millage questions proposed for the August and November elections, it is the duty of the voters to participate in the decision making process to determine what level of service they support as they cast their ballot, she said.

"Overall, Independence Township's future is incrementally moving in a positive direction in terms of residential development," she said.

"It is my view that the newly elected board must make business development a priority and create an economic development plan that will not only cultivate a

*Continued on page 5*



**Pallotta**

Thank you to everyone I have had the pleasure of meeting and talking to about the upcoming election over the past several months. What a great community we live in. I am more convinced today than when I first started campaigning that the residents of Independence want a Township Supervisor that is willing to:

- Get out and talk to residents about what is going on in their community
- Continuously be looking for new ways to deliver critical Township services that are better, faster and cheaper
- Proactively seek resident input before spending or policy decisions are made.

*These are the basic principles that have guided my management style for 32 years and ones that I believe can help make a great community even better. Whether you agree with me or not, please make sure you vote on August 7 and let your voice be heard.*

*Sincerely, Pat Kittle*



**PAT  
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FOR INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP  
SUPERVISOR

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PAT KITTLE FOR TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

## Clerk candidates value communication

Continued from page 4

strong tax base, but also support and complement the township's vision of maintaining itself as a residential community."

There is no greater sense of achievement than being a part of something where you give more than you receive, she said.

"Involvement in local government is an opportunity to make a difference that can only be achieved by being actively involved," she said.

"Having worked in both the private and public sector, I have found that serving the public is far more rewarding to me personally and consequently, I made a conscious decision to continue on that career path after being a stay-at-home mom for 10 years."

A clerk's qualifications can only be measured by her credentials, experience and training, she said.

"I am the only candidate that has those qualifications," she said.

Jeff Decker, 54, has lived in the area his entire life, and in Clarkston for over 22 years.

He is a realtor, broadcaster volunteer, and teacher at Mt. Zion.

For Decker, the clerk is the township's chief financial officer, running elections and always being the voice of the people of Independence.

As treasurer, he would bring experience

handling finances, stay in touch with the people of the township, work to restore our area pride in its local board, get jobs back in the area to help restore property values, and bring new business to the area, like the new hospital proposal.

"I'm the chairman of a non-profit charity and working with local businesses, professionals and ideas and the help of all our citizens I feel confident we can find a solution," he said.

"With a board that will talk to and take the ideas of the people of the area, our future is bright. With my experience, knowledge and communication skills, I can build Independence Township to where it should be."

Being a local citizen and realtor of the area has brought him the knowledge needed to be a true representative of the area, to get us back on track, he said.

"It's time to get Independence back on track, with open communication with the people of the area and stop the distancing this current board has not only with the people of the area but even within itself. It's time for a new beginning," he said.



Decker

## Elect

# Paul A. Brown, CPA



## Independence Township Treasurer

- Certified Public Accountant
- 6 years as Chief Financial Officer at Lynn Medical Instruments Co. A Michigan based National distributor of Cardiology and Medical Supplies and Equipment. (Still working here full time while campaigning evenings and weekends)
- 4 years as Corporate Controller for Form Tech Concrete Forms, a national construction supply company headquartered in Michigan
- 5 years with the CPA firm Follmer Rudzewicz (now UHY Advisors)
- Bachelor's Degree in Accounting with honors from Oakland University

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



# Vote August 7th for Change Now and for the Future

Paid For By The Committee For Paul A Brown CPA For Treasurer.

# Vote August 7<sup>th</sup> for Barb Pallotta

Independence Township Clerk

"What a GREAT opportunity for me to have served as Clerk over this past year! I want to express my sincere gratitude to the Township staff and to the entire community for the continued support and overwhelming generosity they have shown me as I transitioned into the Clerk's position. I'd also like to recognize that it was their commitment to our community that has inspired me and is what gives me the fortitude to want to continue as Clerk."

-- B. Pallotta

Your vote for me on August 7<sup>th</sup> is my pledge to:

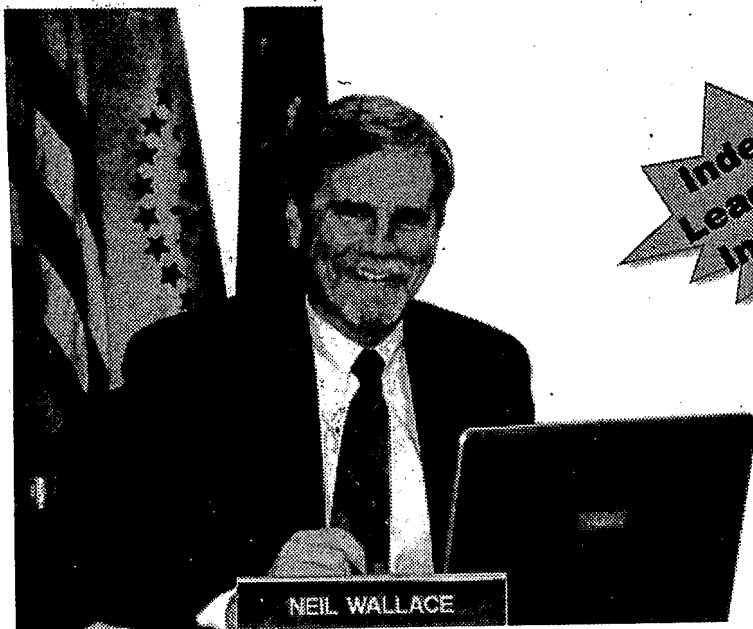
- ◆ Promote an open-door environment at Township Hall
- ◆ Develop and implement best practices
- ◆ Promote transparency in township government
- ◆ Promote citizen involvement and volunteerism
- ◆ Encourage business growth and development
- ◆ Maintain high quality and community oriented police and fire protection

### Stability and Civility

### Vote for Barbara Pallotta on August 7 for Township Clerk



Paid for by: Elect Barb Pallotta for Township Clerk



Independent  
Leadership For  
Independence  
Township

# Your Neighbors And **NEIL** For Independence



Quotes from Township citizen's letters to

"From my service with Neil Wallace on the Independence Township Board for eight years, I have witnessed first hand his dedication, leadership and hard work. This is not the time to elect a novice to the critical position of supervisor. We desperately need the experienced community dedication of Neil Wallace at this critical juncture of our township governance."

*Larry Rosso, Trustee, Independence Township - June 13, 2012*

"Neil is an outstanding, dedicated professional, a public servant who works tirelessly to benefit our community. He is fiscally responsible, able to conduct business, and equipped to address all of the challenges the Township may face in the future."

*Bev McElmeel, former Director, Independence Building, Planning and Zoning Services - July 4, 2012*

"I would urge Independence Township residents to join me in voting for Neil Wallace August 7. He is the most qualified. Neil is experienced, time tested and well suited to the task of Supervisor."

*Rob Namowicz, Independence Township - June 27, 2012*

"Neil Wallace's unquestioned integrity, comprehensive preparation for meetings and consistent goal to do what is right for the community makes him by far the best candidate for township supervisor."

*Henry Woloson, Independence Township - May 16, 2012*

"Neil Wallace has recently announced his intention to become Independence Township Supervisor and we are extremely pleased. Neil is, in our opinion, that rare combination of experience, talent, vision and character ideally suited to fill that position."

*Craig and Diana Bennett, Independence Township - May 9, 2012*

"The truth is we need the experience, integrity, vision and steady leadership of Neil Wallace as township supervisor."

*Greg Need, Independence Township - June 27, 2012*

"At this pivotal point, with all local governments being under economic stress, it is important to have a supervisor who has the background and experience to lead us forward. I urge everyone to vote for Neil Wallace for township supervisor—for Independence—for us."

*Shelagh Vanderveen, former Clerk, Independence Township - June 27, 2012*

"Neil Wallace should be our next Independence Township Supervisor. First, none of the other candidates have demonstrated the long-term, diverse and genuine involvement and selfless dedication to our community. None."

*Dennis Ferguson, Independence Township - May 30, 2012*

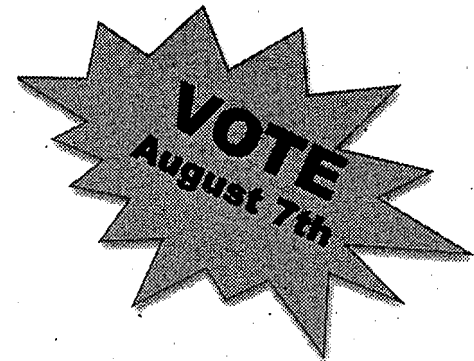
"It's time for a breath of fresh air. It's time for Neil Wallace for Independence Township Supervisor! Neil is well respected and has been active in the community for many years... I'm voting Wallace in the August 7<sup>th</sup> Primary."

*Sharon Dudzinski, Independence Township - May 16, 2012*

## VOTE WALLACE ON AUGUST 7TH

Paid for by the Committee for Neil Wallace for Independence Township Supervisor, 39 S. Main Street, Clarkston, MI 48346

# Community Leaders Support WALLACE Township Supervisor



The Clarkston News and The Oakland Press.

"With (Neil's) extensive knowledge of our township government and his years of leadership as a key trustee he is more than qualified for the position."

*Dick Auchter, Independence Township - July 4, 2012*

"Since the beginning of the year, Neil Wallace has been running the meetings smoothly as chairman. On Aug. 7 we all need to take the time to elect Neil Wallace for supervisor and re-elect David Lohmeier as trustee."

*Rick Gutowski, Independence Township - July 11, 2012*

"(Neil) has consistently shown leadership on matters that come to the Board. Equally, important, he is forward looking and has a vision for the future. Mr. Wallace is knowledgeable, capable and dedicated to our community"

*Julie Tully, Independence Township - July 4, 2012*

"Neil does his homework and always comes prepared to every meeting to focus on the challenges and needs of the Township"

*Lois Seddon, Independence Township - July 11, 2012*

"I will be voting for Neil Wallace for Independence Township supervisor. Of the candidates for supervisor, he alone has the skills, experience and determination to lead our township government."

*Craig Strickland, Independence Township - July 11, 2012*

"I have found Neil to be an intelligent, energetic and, above all, an honest man who deeply cares about the well-being of Independence Township. Without hesitation, I fully endorse him for that position and I urge everyone to vote for him August 7."

*Bart L. Clark, Superintendent, Charter Township of Independence - July 18, 2012*

"Neil Wallace seems to me the best candidate by far based on experience, township knowledge, effectiveness and leadership."

*Jim Reed, Independence Township - July 4, 2012*

"His work ethic is motivated by his desire to do the best for the citizens of our community."

*Carolyn Morrison, Independence Township - July 11, 2012*

"Neil's devotion to our community and knowledge of the issues that pertain to our local government are without parallel and I am confident that if elected to the position of supervisor he will continue to serve the township with distinction."

*Brad Stout, Independence Township - July 11, 2012*

"Because of his service both inside and outside of government, he has acquired the understanding and experience to get things done to make this an even stronger, more liveable community."

*Bob McGowan, Barbara Hamilton, Independence Township - July 18, 2012*

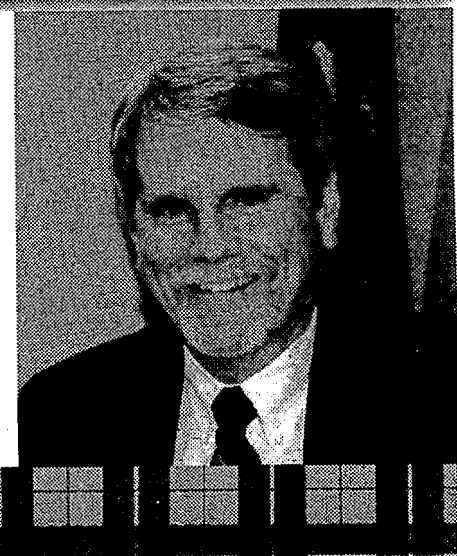
## Good Government Doesn't Just Happen.

Read Neil's blog for his views on the complex issues facing our Township. Go to:

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

Help elect Neil Wallace. Read his platform, philosophy and ideas for the future. Donations of time or money are also appreciated. Go to:

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



## INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

# Treasurer candidates want to help community thrive

Challengers Nanci Anderson-Bereznicki and Paul A. Brown are running for Independence Township treasurer against incumbent Curt Carson, Aug. 7.

**Nanci Anderson-Bereznicki**, 52, a resident of the community for 21 year, is self employed in embroidery business and engineering services.

The most critical problems for local residents have been and continue to be primarily financial and related to the downturn in the economy, she said.

"I feel everything possible must be done to find ways to continue our township services without raising taxes once again," said Anderson-Bereznicki. "Independence Township is a wonderful community with many great things on the horizon. With proper leadership, I believe that the health of our community will not only be maintained but will begin to thrive in the near future."

Throughout her career and personal life she has attained many pieces of knowledge, skills, and abilities of service to the community.

"I have a Bachelors degree in business, extensive research skills, engineering and management experience, and have years of

participation in various non-profit and volunteer organizations around the township," she said. "I have spent four years attending our township board meetings in order to understand when, where, what and how our local government operates and discovered my passion to serve the Independence Township community."

She brings a new and fresh dimension to the township government board, she said.

"I strongly believe in government transparency and accountability and want my township to be driven by leaders who listen, are compassionate, and care about and act on behalf of the people and needs of our community," she said.

**Paul A. Brown**, 50, has lived in the community for 40 years. He works as chief financial officer at Lynn Medical Instruments Co.

Critical problems facing local residents include economic uncertainty and decline in home values.

"We can improve values as a team. I recommend that residents develop a small project todo list they can work on over time. These improvements will increase the value of their homes," Brown said. "As a member of the board, I would work to increase the desirability of Independence

Township as a place to live."

When Independence Township becomes the benchmark other communities follow, more people will want to live here and that will drive up home values, he said.

Independence Township's future is very bright, he said.

"With the right team in place to guide us, the township should become the benchmark other communities aspire too," he said.

Watching board meetings and reading news articles, he realized the skills developed as a certified public accountant and corporate executive are well suited to help move the township into the future.

"Because I grew up here, I felt the responsibility to give back," he said. "I believe my credentials are unmistakably stronger than my opponents and I provide the best opportunity for long-term improvements in how we're running the treasurer's office and our township."

**Curt Carson** is running for re-election as treasurer.

"The most critical problem that I see, is the drop in net worth," said Carson.

Average annual income of employed workers has dropped by more than \$20,000, value of the dollar has dropped, and value of real property has dramatically dropped, which in most cases is the retirement nest egg.

Creating a positive atmosphere for busi-

ness growth, to create good paying jobs for our residents will help fill empty storefronts and office space, provide home buyers, raise home values, creating more demand for business and stabilizing and increasing the tax base.

"This will allow government to provide services without raising taxes and possibly lowering them," he said.

"We have made tough decisions and the township's financial position is strong. The township's future is bright. Having said that, economic conditions in the state and country as well as issues in Detroit could affect the township in the future."

"I stepped into government, because I believed that government is too intrusive in people's lives and taxes are too high," he said.

He wanted to help make sure Independence Township was not a victim of the economic quagmire, he said.

"In my first term, I have shown that I can take on the tough challenges and get things done, such as resolving the State's requirement to refinance Township Hall and collecting from distressed developers and taxpayers without litigation," he said.

"My experiences show that I am the most qualified. I want the best for the people of the township."



**Anderson-Bereznicki**



**Brown**



**Carson**

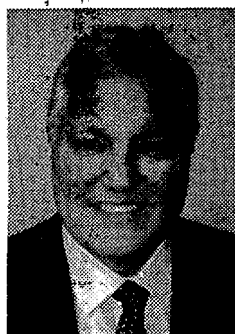
## RITCHIE 4 TRUSTEE

### Independence Township

#### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

- Current Township Planning Commissioner
- Chairman - Dixie Hwy Corridor Improvement Committee
- Member of the Township Safety Path Committee
- An Owner of Terry Machine Co. - Employed over 30 years
- Sponsored many youth baseball, softball & soccer teams

#### Supporting the Fire Department Millage, District Library and McLaren Hospital



*I am running for Independence Township Trustee because I believe I will make a difference. I have the business experience and discipline to listen to issues and make decisions based on the best interest of the community. I will treat our residents with respect and they will be given the opportunity to be involved or communicate their concerns.*

Email: [Ritchie4Trustee@gmail.com](mailto:Ritchie4Trustee@gmail.com)  
Cell: 248.821.7100

**Elect**

**Ronald A. Ritchie for Trustee**

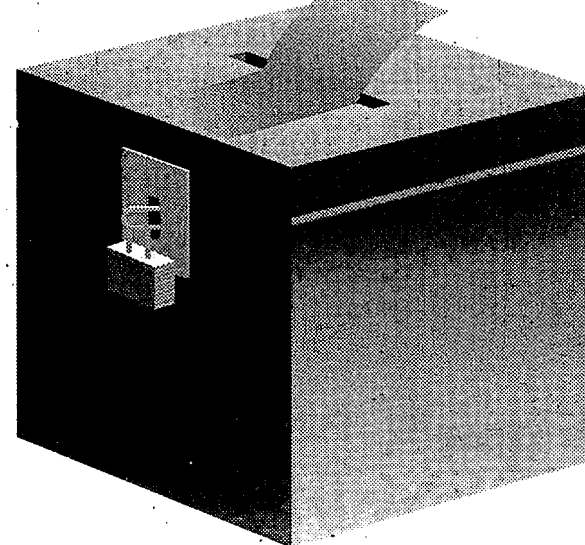
Follow me online @ [www.facebook.com/Ritchie4Trustee](http://www.facebook.com/Ritchie4Trustee)

Paid for by the Committee for Ronald A. Ritchie for Trustee



EXERCISE  
YOUR RIGHT TO

# VOTE



**CHECK THE CLARKSTON NEWS FOR  
YOUR ELECTION RESULTS!**



# Four seats open for Independence Township trustee

Running for four Republican nominations for Independence Township Board, Aug. 7, are incumbent David A. Lohmeier, and challengers Jose Aliaga, Brian Foster, Joette M. Kunse, Al Pope, Bruce Quigley, Ronald A. Ritchie, and Andrea K. Schroeder.

Three candidates are running for four Democratic nominations, Kevin Bushroe, Jeremy D. Mitchell, and Joe Wauldron.

Voters in the Aug. 7 primary must confine their votes to a single party column.

**Jose Aliaga**, 35, 12 years in the community, works as a medical concierge.

"The most critical problem facing local residents is the devaluation of their homes," Aliaga said. "I would encourage businesses like McLaren to bring jobs to Independence Township so people could buy the existing inventory of homes."

He is getting involved in local government out of a sense of civic responsibility, he said.

"This country, state and township have been good to me, and I want to give back," he said.

He served as vice chairman and executive director of the Michigan Republican National Hispanic Assembly, built relationships with other Republican Conservative leaders serving in local, county, state, and federal government, which will help Independence Township grow.

"I am the founder of the Aliaga Foundation that promotes conservative values, education, conservative economy and helping underprivileged children in Latin America," he said. "As a young Republican, I am helping other youth from local and state universities build bridges and share their values with these underprivileged children."

Residents should vote for him because he is the most qualified candidate for the position of trustee, he said.

"I believe we need a fiscal conservative, who is responsible with taxpayer money," he said. "I am a true Christian Conservative and have been involved in the Republican Party for many years."

His vision for Independence Township is a new beginning for everyone.

"More than anything else I want my campaign to restore the spirit of sense of purpose and I want to carry our message to every citizen regardless of party affiliation who is a member of this community of shared values," he said.

**Brian Foster**, 36, grew up in Oakland County and lived in Independence Township for three years. He owns Stars & Stripes Kids Activity Center.

"It is my goal for the government to remain small," said Foster. "I favor free market solutions which is often interpreted as pro business. I am a big proponent of lower taxes and

the wise use of the valuable tax dollars that our government is entrusted with."

Critical problems facing the community include the inability to attract enough small business growth into our community.

"Government managing and funding necessities and other tactics can be implemented to reduce tax dollar spending and increase community amenities," he said. "With proper administration, positive actions can be obtained to create an even brighter future."

The knowledge gained from 10 years as an Oakland County deputy sheriff and 10 years as an entrepreneur give him a unique perspective on growth strategies for the community, he said.

"I am looking forward to serving the residents of Independence Township," he said. "I believe in American conservatism in the U.S. political spectrum."

**Joette Kunse**, 66, lived in the community for 46 years and worked as a teacher, principal, and curriculum director.

Critical problem include empty storefronts, blight, lack of taxes, and jobs.

Solutions include partnering with Chamber of Commerce to enhance distinctive small businesses, and create a one stop/fast stop for business so they can get their handle interactions efficiently.

"The McLaren Hospital project should be an example of a collegial business, township, and chamber project," Kunse said.

Fiscal responsibility solutions include using wisely some of the 60 percent of fund equity accrued in the township coffers for capitol outlay, looking at paying the water department for the township hall with some of the funds, and oversight and accountability on all millages.

"Use the Internet to seek opinions and ideas from the community on particular question, i.e. burning ordinance, drilling for oil in Bay Court," she said. "Livestream board meetings and continue to add all township committees and commissions to the public access television channel."

Also, post financial documents to the township website, she said.

"I would like to see a survey online and on paper that provides the community an opportunity to share their views of needs in township government services," she said. "Our current fund balance exceeds what accounting standards note as prudent and that money should be spent wisely on capital outlay or put aside for future needs."

Her goal is to continue to create Independence Township as a great place to live for all residents.



Foster



Aliaga



Kunse

"With my background of attending township meetings since 2007, serving on two township committees as well as the township task force seeking ways to reduce the budget, I believe I know township government," she said. "I believe I have the knowledge, skillset, and passion to be a board member."

She has been an administrator for a school district with a budget more than twice the size of the township, written successful grants and worked with other governmental entities to fund services, and worked for the public for 34 years and understands that a public servant serves the citizens of the community, she said.

"I have worked in this community, contributing to the community for over 46 years to make it a great place to live for my family as well as my neighbors," she said.

**David Lohmeier**, 46, has lived in Oakland County for 43 years, 21 in Independence Township.

He serves as trustee, and is manager of Strategic Initiatives and New Business Development at OnStar

"We have had great success during my term in alleviating some of our most urgent and significant problems, the first of which was to institute good budgeting, financial control and expense management to halt a truly disastrous situation the township had been

placed into," Lohmeier said. "We also were able to reorganize several departments and bring in strong leadership that is already showing good results."

Now they can build on those successes to address less urgent, but important issues such as capital improvements, he said.

"In the past, capital improvements to amenities such as parks and recreation facilities and other township facilities had been pushed off, in favor of other spending," he said. "During my term, we have been able to add to our fund balance through our fiscal constraint and are in a position to be making those improvements."

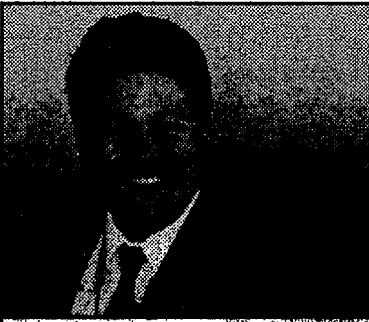
Investing in the things that make Independence Township attractive to both residents and businesses will improve our tax base and offset some of the economic impact of falling property values, he said.

"The recent improvements we have made in landscaping the Sashabaw Corridor are an example of keeping the community attractive to new investment," he said. "We also need to invest in maintaining our core emergency services."



Lohmeier

Continued on page 10



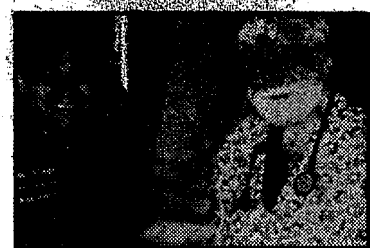
**Jose Aliaga**  
FOR INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP  
**TRUSTEE**  
Vote Tuesday, August 7th  
[www.josealiaga.com](http://www.josealiaga.com)

Please Vote For Me... I am a Republican with conservative values and a Citizen of Independence Township for 12 years, who wants to bring progress to get our Township back.

- We are in need of a hospital in our area and I will support McLaren Hospital to be built here.
- A robust economy for our Township will keep taxes down and bring employment opportunities for our citizens and the many students that graduate high school each year.
- I will support the growth of the tax base with commercial development to help keep our fire and police department, Library, Senior Center and other services.
- Commitment to maintaining the integrity of our neighborhoods.
- My vision is to bring new ideas and prosperity, with focus on the future of Independence Township.

**Endorsements**

- Dr. James O'Neill
- United States Congressmen Tim Walberg
- State Representative Eileen Kowall
- Oakland County Commissioner Tom Middleton
- George M. Romney
- Joan McCrary



Paid For By The Committee to Elect Jose Aliaga for Trustee

# Candidates call for more business development

Continued from page 9

This year the township will take delivery of three new fire engines sorely needed to keep our emergency response quality at the level our residents deserve, he said.

"I believe the future of Independence has never been brighter," he said. "Census figures show that even with the large recession of the last few years, Independence Township remained a great place to live and work. The citizens are engaged and involved and extremely caring. I wouldn't choose to live anywhere else."

He has been proud to serve his neighbors for four years, he said.

"I hope those who have watched how I have led the board through some of our toughest debates and challenges know that I always have the taxpayers' interest at heart," he said. "I believe that it is important to be good stewards of the taxpayers dollars and spend those funds with the same care you would take with your own money."

Public trust is an important, he said.

"I have been honored with the trust of my neighbors and I have not taken it lightly," he said. "I also believe and carry a strong sense of right and wrong and most citizens want to see that carried into our local decisions as well. In short, when someone says I want someone on the board that can understand the issues,

be prepared, doesn't carry a hidden agenda and know the difference between right and wrong, I hope they will think of me."

**Al Pope**, 68, 22 years in the community, is a retired government affairs executive, Chrysler Corporation, and currently co-owner of 21st Century Consulting LLC.

"I think many individuals, after retirement, want to give back to the community if what they are looking to do matches up with their experience and accomplishments. This is a very good fit for me," Pope said.

"While working in government affairs at Chrysler, I had the opportunity to work with both good and not-so-good local governments. As a member of the board, I can help develop the board into one of the good ones. I know how the process works at the local, county, and state levels and can help navigate to achieve what is best for the township and its residents."

A top concern is residents' lack of confidence in local government.

"Tax and spending problems are a direct result of a poor economy, both nationally and locally," he said. "I commit to being a good steward of tax payer dollars. There is a definite distinction between wants and needs. Dur-

ing a difficult economy, we must concentrate on needs and put the wants on the back burner."

In 2006, he retired from Chrysler Corporation as a government affairs executive.

"I have worked with local, county, and state governments from across the country," he said. "Not only do I know how the government process works, I have first hand experience. In addition to the legislative experience, I have extensive background and experience in economic development. I am highly respected by government, business, and the education communities."

He believes his experience would make him a valuable asset to the board.

"I have no hidden agenda," he said. "My votes and positions would be based on what is best for the residents and the township. I will work to earn and retain the trust and respect of the voters. I understand what the expectations are of the senior voters, first time voters, and all groups in between. It is their views which will influence my decisions and votes."

**Ronald A. Ritchie**, 58, over 15 years in Independence Township and over 42 years in the area, is a manufacturers sales representative.

"I have served on the Planning Commission that recently approved the site plan revisions and permit conditions that allows the McLaren Health Care Campus to move forward. I support this addition to our community and feel this complex will be good for the township," said Ritchie.

"I think each community must plan and budget to meet the needs of its residents and businesses. It first takes a vision to make a budget that includes the items to support the health, safety and welfare of the community and balance that with the revenue received."

This vision must protect and build on the key assets of the township, such as the Fire Department, Police Protection, Parks & Recreation facilities, Library, etc., he said.

"We need to continue to optimize the township government in size and capability to maximize its efficiency," he said. "I think that Independence Township has a bright future. Home sales and values are starting to increase; the McLaren Healthcare Campus should soon start some activity, which will create additional momentum."

With the right guidance, the township could attract a few unique businesses that would compliment the collection currently in the township, he said.

"I want to bring my business experience and knowledge to the township to help make the necessary decisions on issues that will arise," he said. "I feel these decisions can be made in a respectful and deliberate manner that will benefit the residents and businesses

of the township."

He is a current planning commissioner for the township and has been involved with the Dixie Highway Corridor Improvement Committee and the Township Safety Path Committee.

"I have been a local business owner/operator for over 30 years, with experience in business planning, budgets, cash flow, and employees, which are all applicable experiences for the trustee position," he said. "I can bring experience and leadership to the township board in an impartial and respectful manner, by making decisions based on enhancing our community and residential lifestyle."

**Andrea Schroeder**, 48, is a sales consultant who has lived in the community for 14 years.

"Many residents continue to feel the effects of the weak housing market," said Schroeder. "While the township can't create a new property tax policy, we can make decisions that create value for homeowners."

Stronger partnerships with social support organizations can help meet people's primary needs for home and family. Prioritizing public safety, preservation of our natural spaces, pursuing economic development opportunities, and maintaining the character of our community all contribute to the quality of life that attracts home buyers, she said.

"Things are finally looking up - housing prices are slowly improving and building permits have increased," she said. "With projected economic growth primarily in the higher-paying health care, financial, and professional services sectors, Independence will continue to be a premier area in which to live and work."

Learning lessons from the past few years, the township can move forward more transparently and efficiently, while still cultivating the vision we have for a prosperous community, she said.

"I believe that the privileges of citizenship carry an obligation share our time and talents in public service," she said. "I have a passion for effective public policy and good government that I want to put to use for the township, and I'm enthusiastic about what I can contribute as trustee."

As a strategic planning consultant, she understands the importance of fiscal management, policy analysis, and good communication.

"I completed a prestigious fellowship at MSU in government and public policy and I have been actively involved in several community projects to improve our quality of life," she said. "I have the skills and experience needed for the challenges of public office, and look forward to serving as your trustee."

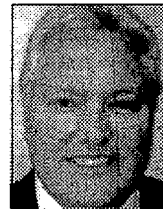
Bruce Quigley did not respond to requests for comment.



Pope



Schroeder



Ritchie



**ELECT  
JEFF DECKER  
INDEPENDENCE  
TOWNSHIP CLERK**

**Let's get Independence...  
Back on Track**

**VOTE TUESDAY, AUGUST 7**

**I would like to get to know YOU...Free Meet and Greets:**

*Mt Zion's, "The District": Tuesday, July 17 from 6:30 till 7:30pm*

*Hamlin Pub Clarkston: Tuesday, July 24, 7:30 till 8:30 pm*

*Fountains Golf Club: Tuesday, July 30, 6 till 7pm*

**Credentials:** Realtor in Clarkston over 20 years, Valuation Specialist, Graduate of Realtors Institute GRI, Accredited Buyers Representative ABR, Member of: Michigan Association of Realtors MAR, North Oakland County Board of Realtors NCOBOR Chairman & Financial Director, Media Network

**Dedicated Volunteer:** Clarkston Public Access Channel CPAC & Media Network WTV10.org: Local news, sports, political events and parade host

**Member of:** The Clarkston Eagles, Clarkston Sons of the American Legion, Master Mason & Elk/Church member and Teacher at Mt Zion

**Goals:** Create new jobs by jump-starting businesses, raise property values & lower Township expenses without raising taxes



Find me on facebook at...facebook.com/vote4JeffDecker

Paid for by elect Jeff Decker

# 11 running for Springfield Township Board

In the Aug. 7 primary, challengers Ginny Fischbach and Steve R. Kovacs III are running against incumbent Collin W. Walls for Springfield Township supervisor.

**Ginny Fischbach**, 51, has been a resident for 16 years and is an engineer.

Critical problems facing residents include balancing the budget in the face of declining revenue.

"We must find ways to reduce costs while maintaining our current level of services," Fischbach said. "Fiscal responsibility means working toward a balanced budget and setting overall priorities which coordinate the township board and township departments."

She will keep Springfield Township a safe and beautiful community where people will want to live and raise their families," she said.

"I am running for supervisor because I want to give back to my community and am in a position where that is now possible," she said. "After a career of long hours and much travel I now have the time and energy to spend guiding our township become the community its citizens deserve. I believe an ordinary citizen with the right qualifications can be a better local leader than career politicians who can be out of touch with the needs of the people."

She brings strong leadership, positive communication, and logic driven decision making skills.

"I have the experience to manage conflicting priorities and understand the processes necessary to determine appropriate tradeoffs," she said. "I will work extremely hard to help our community thrive and continue to be a place in which we are all proud to live. I will listen to both citizens and community and business leaders to learn about and be able to respond to their ideas and issues. Public safety and quality of life will continue to be a priority for me while promoting controlled growth in our business community."

**Collin W. Walls**, 69, is currently serving as Springfield Township supervisor. Total experience will be almost 33 years as supervisor in August. Prior, he was an associate broker and insurance agent in Davisburg.

Problems facing the township are decreasing revenue, increasing costs and decreasing taxable values while trying to maintain the level of services residents' desire.

"We must deal with these problems by financial planning and multiyear budgeting, by prioritizing community needs and services and with conservative pay-as-you-go philosophy," Walls said.

Springfield's future is bright on a long term basis and stable in the short term. Growth and

development will be the norm again as the economy improves but at a slower pace for a while, he said.

"As long as we continue to stress the need for a balance, make sure that services required by new development do not exceed our ability to provide them and continue concern for the environment and our preservation policies the community will continue to be a great place to live," he said.

He has stayed involved with township government because it is the most fulfilling opportunity to serve the community.

"This is my home and has been the home of my family for over 150 years. Helping and being a part of the effort to plan our future while working with and for this community is why I want to stay involved," he said.

He brings experience, understanding of all the responsibilities of the job and a proven ability to handle them, commitment and dedication.

"Springfield will always come first. They know what they will get when they vote for me," he said.

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Incumbent Springfield Township Treasurer Jamie Dubre is running against challenger Rita J. Hawes.

**Jamie L. Dubre**, 39, has been a resident for 13 years and treasurer for 10 years.

Current and future needs for fire and police services are the top issues, she said.

"Both of these services are almost completely funded through property taxes which have continued to decline steadily over the last several years," Dubre said. "We need to create an attainable plan on how to provide our fire department with the equipment it needs now and in the future along with the future building needs of our fire stations."

Police services are contracted through the Oakland County Sheriff's department and expenses have continued to exceed revenue for the past few years.

"I have worked hard to ensure we maintain the same level of service for our residents by utilizing general fund monies to cover the increasing costs," she said. "We need to continue providing money from the general fund to cover our current police expenses and we need to be proactive on the future needs of these services."

The township's current financial position with the economic climate over the last several years proves its financial future is solid.

"We have a bright future ahead of us," she said.

"As a member of the township board for the last 10 years, my experience has taught me that our residents get involved if something has impacted them or is a threat of impact on them so they can continue to enjoy the place they

call home," she said. "I have been fortunate enough to serve Springfield residents for 10 of the 13 years I have lived here and it is important to me to preserve the features and maintain the character of the community I was drawn to."

She has made every effort to reduce expenses while maintaining appropriate reserves for the township's future.

"With the difficult economic times we have seen over the last several years, I have worked hard to ensure our financial well being is solid which is essential to serving the current and future needs of our residents," she said.

**Rita J. Hawes**, 62, resident for 22 years, is retired from treasury management at Handleman Company in Troy.

Critical problems include maintaining a good level of police, fire safety, parks and recreation, senior activity, and other services.

"As is the case for most communities around us, Springfield Township continues to deal with ever increasing costs for these services," Hawes said. "Reduced revenues due to declining property values make it even more difficult. I believe we must find ways to reduce cost in certain areas of the budget in order to keep millage increases to a minimum."

Another concern is a desire for growth in the township.

"Many residents would like to see more business development," she said. "I believe Springfield Township can accomplish this without compromising our small town flair or jeopardizing our environment. If we can accomplish this type of growth, our revenue base will increase as well."

Many residents tell her they love living in Springfield Township for the wide open surroundings and country atmosphere it offers.

"I believe we all share a profound desire to see our community thrive," she said. "For this reason I am very optimistic in the financial future of Springfield Township."

After 30 years in the corporate world, she is ready for retirement.

"In my mind, retirement is another word for 'change,'" she said. "I am ready for that change. I am ready to commit to my community and give back in the best way I know how."

She brings a strong business background in corporate treasury management, leadership and communications skills to work with all departments and board members in a collaborative and productive manner.

"The incumbent treasurer has been in office for the last 12 years," she said. "It is my belief, that after many years in this position, it

*Continued on page 12*



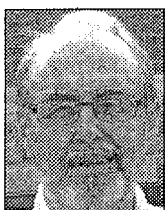
Fischbach



Hawes



Dubre



Walls



## MIKE ROGERS FOR CONGRESS

**STRONG LEADERSHIP  
FOR MICHIGAN**

- **Stopping Out of Control Washington Spending** - Mike is committed to getting a handle on our massive deficit and record debt that is stealing opportunity from future generations of Americans, and hampering our economy.
- **Reducing Job-Stopping Red Tape** - Mike is getting rid of government red tape that makes it harder for employers to create jobs, including voting to repeal ObamaCare's massive tax increases and new mandates on job creators.
- **Protecting America's National Security** - As Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, Mike is working to give our intelligence professionals the tools they need to fight terrorism.

# Vote

# Mike Rogers

**for Congress on August 7<sup>th</sup>**

rogersforcongress.com
Paid for by Rogers for Congress

## SUPPORT YOUR INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP FIREFIGHTERS AND PARAMEDICS

On Tuesday August 7, 2012 the Township of Independence will place TWO questions on the primary ballot, asking the voters to answer YES or NO to:

### 1: RENEW

the current fire and EMS millage rate of 3.1688 mills.

A YES vote for the renewal millage will:

- Maintain the current operational structure, but only allows consistent staffing of two Advanced Life Support (ALS) units.
- Lead to the elimination of the full-time fire inspection and prevention division.
- Continue to run three Firefighter Paramedics short.
- Not allow the saving of money for capital improvements.
- Allow them to operate for today, but not plan for tomorrow.

### 2: RESTORE

by allowing the levy of an additional millage of 0.59 mills.

A YES vote for the additional millage will:

- Restore three (3) Firefighter Paramedics to the operations. This, combined with the new staffing plan, will allow more consistency in staffing three ALS units without leaving a fire station uncovered.
- Partially restore the fire inspection and prevention division with one full-time employee.
- Allow the saving of money to be used to replace equipment, apparatus, ambulances as they age over time, and for capital improvements to buildings and grounds.

**Independence Fire Department is funded entirely from a millage. No money is allocated from the general tax fund.**

Taxable Property	Renewal Millage*	Additional Millage*	Combined Annual Obligation*
\$50,000	\$158	\$30	\$188
\$75,000	\$238	\$44	\$282
\$100,000	\$317	\$59	\$376
\$125,000	\$396	\$74	\$470
\$150,000	\$475	\$88	\$563
\$200,000	\$634	\$118	\$752

\*Estimated

- This is a no-debt millage vote. The citizens of Independence Township own all Fire and EMS assets.
- No millage rate increase since the Advanced Life Support (ALS) inception vote in the year 2000.
- Millage revenue to the department has dropped by nearly \$1 million over the past five years.
- A steady call volume, with fewer personnel, has led to less consistent station coverage.
- The department has been unable to obtain grants to replace aging essential equipment, such as rescue equipment, cardiac monitors and ambulances.
- The firefighter's union worked in conjunction with the Township to trim \$100,000 in annual health care cost.

View the budget and millage revenue facts here:  
[www.twp.independence.mi.us/BudgetPresentation-FireDepartment.pdf](http://www.twp.independence.mi.us/BudgetPresentation-FireDepartment.pdf)

What value should we place on the continued protection for our loved ones and our home? Help us maintain the services we've come to expect and appreciate here in Independence Township!

**!! PLEASE VOTE YES TWICE ON AUGUST 7 !!**

MAKE SURE ON AUGUST 7TH YOU FLIP YOUR BALLOT TO VOTE "YES" FOR FIRE SAFETY PROTECTION!

## Economy, environment key in Springfield

Continued from page 11

is time for a change. If I am elected, I will introduce fresh thinking, and new ideas. I am excited to serve the residents of Springfield Township."

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Five candidates are running for four Springfield Township trustee seats, incumbents Judy Hensler, Dave Hopper, and Dennis Vallad, and challengers Marc Cooper and Kevin N. Sclesky. Judy Hensler, 70, has been a resident for 10 years.

Critical problems include declining revenues present some of the most pressing issues for both the township and our individual residents.

"Everyone is learning to do with less. Springfield Township is doing a great job of dealing with these declining revenues while maintaining our current levels of service," Hensler said. "Our biggest issue currently is funding public safety. Our fire and police departments and facing funding shortages. The residents will be asked to support an additional millage at this election to maintain our present coverage."



Hensler

Springfield Township has a bright future, she said.

"Careful planning has defined areas for potential development and growth," she said. "There is a clear plan for Dixie Highway and when progress comes, we are prepared to see development that will enhance our way of life while preserving the true character of the township."

Serving on the Township Board give her the opportunity to help shape the township's future in a positive manner.

"My life has been filled with various experiences that have helped me in my role as trustee," she said. "I have lived in four different states, served on numerous boards and commissions. I have raised three children, and have always been involved in the community wherever we have lived. I believe these experiences bring added value to my place on the board."

Common sense and the ability to see all sides of an issue are two of her strongest characteristics.

"If re-elected, I would continue to work hard and respect the trust the voters have placed in me," she said.

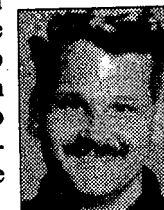
**Dave Hopper**, 54, has been living in the community for 20 years, employed by the same company for 27 years in Construction and Property Management.

"I feel the most important issue is decreasing funds for traffic safety, police, and fire," Hopper said. "I would remain committed to fiscal responsibility while managing infrastructure needs and additional services that contribute to the quality of life in Springfield Township."

His vision for Springfield Township includes balancing development with natural resource

protection.

"I know that development is going to occur but if done properly, we can maintain the rural atmosphere that Springfield Township residents' value," he said. "In addition, it is important to maintain fire and police services at a level that meets the needs of the township."



Hopper

As a township board member for 12 years, he is interested in continuing actions that maintain fiscal responsibility and maintain the level of services that make the township a special place.

"Further, I would continue to promote Dixie Highway improvements that are orderly, safe and visually appealing," he said. "I feel I should be reelected to this position because of my experience in planning, local government and community service."

His decisions as planning commissioner and township trustee have been for the entire township's benefit and not to serve any particular group or interest, he said.

"Through my past actions, I have shown that I am committed to Springfield Township and hope that those who share my vision vote for me," he said.

**Dennis (Denny) Vallad**, 60, is an automotive engineer living in the township for 32 years. Critical problems include the continuing lagging economy.

"As our residents approach retirement age and the prospects of fixed income and reduced investment values, requests for millage increases from local government (struggling with rising costs and reduced revenues) become difficult to accept," Vallad said. "It is the responsibility of the board to carefully weigh requests for additional revenues and to fully justify the requests to the residents."



Vallad

Preservation of Springfield's rich natural resources and unique rural features have been a priority.

"The basis for this preservation has been well established and should continue into the future," he said. "Growth in the township will be slowed in our economic recovery."

The township must be cautious and deliberate in advancing new projects in light of the financial situation, he said.

"I have enjoyed my work with the Township Board over the last 24 years," he said. "I wish to continue to have a voice in how the community continues to evolve and in its operation. I believe I can positively contribute in these areas."

Steve R. Kovacs III, Marc Cooper and Kevin N. Sclesky did not respond to a request for comment. Incumbent Springfield Township Clerk Laura Moreau is running unopposed.