

The Clarkston News

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Vol. 86 No. 6 Wed., December 26, 2012

1 Section, 32 pages 50 ¢

Stay safe
and have a
Happy
New Year!

Black gold in Bay Court?

BY MARY KECK

Clarkston News Staff Writer

Springfield and Waterford townships have entered into negotiations for oil and gas drilling projects; will Independence Township follow suit?

During the Board of Trustees meeting on Dec. 18, Chris Bickley from Jordan Development, an oil and gas exploration company from Traverse City, presented a plan to lease minerals under 70 acres of Independence Township. Of those 70 acres of potential oil, 40 of them are beneath Bay Court Park. The other 30 acres are located about two miles east of Bay Court, just east of Sashabaw Road.

Jordan Development's proposal included an agreement to do "no surface operation of any nature on any lands owned by the township," Bickley said. In addition, there would be no hydraulic fracturing (fracking).

"I'm glad that fracking is off the table," said Supervisor Pat Kittle.

If Jordan Development acquires leases to the mineral rights, they could place wellheads on properties owned by individuals and extract any oil or gas found under township lands through directional drilling. Jordan has already begun negotiating leases from private landowners in Independence.

The oil and gas company's intent is to bore more than 3,000 feet below the earth's surface. Using steel casings and concrete to drill the well, Bickley assured, "It's scientifically impossible for there to be any breach between [the well] and the water supplies or anything towards the surface."

"We've had a perfect record in the state of Michigan," added Bickley. "Safety is always paramount, and Michigan has by far the most stringent requirements, codes, and regulations related to how wells are put in."

Jordan Development operates over 450 wells and has acquired leases to over 100,000 acres in Michigan, according to Bickley. If the Board of Trustees accepted

Please see Township on page 3

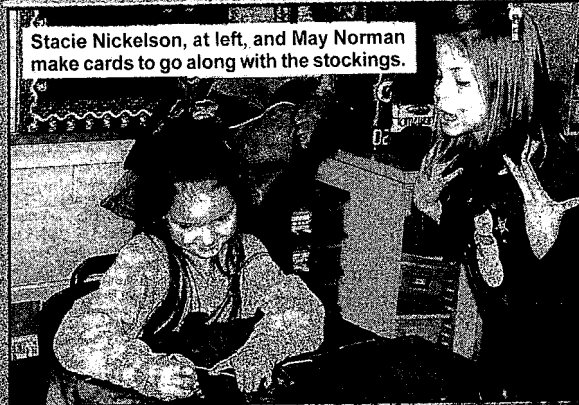


From left, Mary Beth Huttenlocher helps Ava Ohlrich and Monti Rotter pack some stockings.

Stockings stuffed by students with care

In addition to gingerbread houses, songs, games, and other Christmas fun, Independence Elementary students in Jodee Blaszkowski's second-grade class spent some of their holiday party last Thursday stuffing stockings for children in need at Lighthouse. They filled 24 stockings with candy, books, and other gifts, all donated by the students and their families.

Stacie Nickelson, at left, and May Norman make cards to go along with the stockings.



Payton O'Neil ties off a finished stocking. Photos by Phil Custodio



ENTHUSIASTIC ELVES: Fans dressed in Christmas hats and ears show some holiday cheer at the Clarkston High School basketball game against Adams.
Photo by Wendi Reardon

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ICE FOR OPTIMISTS: From left, Clarkston Optimists Mike Walkowski, Tom Middleton, and Ken Ermer set up an ice skating rink in Depot Park. They were optimistic freezing temperatures over the weekend would provide an icy surface for skating. Photo by Mary Keck

Township could face catch-22 in oil choice

Continued from page 1A

Jordan's proposal, the township would receive 1/6 of any royalties from the minerals found deep in the earth for as long as the well is producing.

Bickley suggested the township could cash in up to \$50,000 each month for as long as the well is producing. Kittle believes \$5,000 or \$6,000 each month is a more likely figure the township could anticipate.

"We need a lot of research and community involvement before the board makes any decision," said Kittle. "Oil drilling is a risky business; half of these wells turn up dry."

Jordan Development's Vice President, Ben Brower, is more optimistic about the chances of finding oil and gas, however.

"The seismic has shown that there's a possibility of it," said Brower. "Certainly, we wouldn't be out meeting with people and taking the time to have multiple meetings with the township if we didn't believe there was a chance of oil and gas."

Without drilling, Jordan Development will not be able to determine for certain if the minerals they are seeking are under Independence Township. "The only way to find out is to drill," said Brower.

What would a drilling operation entail?

"To drill a well in Michigan takes approximately 7 to 10 days," Bickley explained. During the process of drilling the well, the surrounding area would be similar to a construction site. After the well location is established and the drill rig is removed, Bickley said the well "literally has no sounds, and they have no emissions."



Bickley

Despite Jordan's insistence that there's no sound or smell from wells, Kittle is pleased they're "not putting [wells] on township land if it's approved, and that's a big if."

While the Board of Trustees may decide to refuse to lease their mineral rights, there's a chance they could be forced to give them up later through compulsory pooling.

If land owners in the area have leased their mineral rights and want a well drilled, but others choose not to sign a lease, a hearing could be held before the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Supervisor of Wells. During the hearing, the Supervisor of Wells could decide to pool

the properties.

While property owners in the pool who refused to sign a lease would not see a well on their land, the oil and gas would still be extracted. Despite their refusal to lease their rights, the landowner would receive 1/8 of the royalties from a producing well but would lose the option of receiving an upfront bonus payment from the developer.

According to Jordan Development, compulsory pooling is an option they would not shy away from.

"If we had to, we'd go that route," said Brower. "If we have to protect the other neighbors' oil and gas rights, we would do that."

Kittle notes with the possibility of compulsory pooling, the township could be caught in a catch-22.

"Are we going to manage our future or have someone else manage it for us?" he asked.

Check next week's *Clarkston News* for testimony from a property owner in Springfield who has been approached by West Bay Exploration, a partner of Jordan Development, about leasing her mineral rights. The next Board of Trustees meeting will take place on January 8 at 7 p.m. at the Township Hall.

Briefly

Zoning law updated

Independence Township's Zoning Ordinance has been revised, and the Planning Commission approved the changes at a public hearing on Dec. 13.

Township Planner Dick Carlisle and Building Department Director David Belcher will present the Zoning Ordinance to the Board of Trustees in January.

View the updated ordinance on www.twp.independence.mi.us.

City considers road, sidewalk additions

During their regular meeting on Dec. 10, Clarkston City Council discussed using grants to fund road work at the intersection of Clarkston Road and M-15 and to complete sidewalks along Buffalo, Depot Road, and Main Street.

The potential work at Clarkston Road would include the addition of a right turn lane and a new traffic signal.

The next City Council meeting will take place on Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. at the City Hall on Depot Road.

Polar Rhino ride

Flying Rhino Cycling Club presents their annual "Polar Rhino" ride through Clarkston, rain, snow, or sunshine, Tuesday, Jan. 1.

Registration opens at 10:30 a.m. at American Legion Post 63, 8047 Ortonville Road.

Riders can choose from two courses, an eight-mile ride on flat, dirt roads, and 16 miles on flat to rolling dirt roads.

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As the year comes to a close, here's a look back at 2012. The presidential election was the big story all year long, but politics was big locally too. Independence and Springfield township boards were both up for a vote, along with a \$20 million bond drive for Clarkston Community Schools.

January 4
Township preserves benefits:
 Independence Township Trustee Neil Wallace's proposal to eliminate retirement benefits for current and future full-time elected positions failed, 4-2.

Deputies called on deputy supervisor:
 Mike Clark told the Independence Township Board if they wanted to go into closed session without him, they would have to call the sheriff.

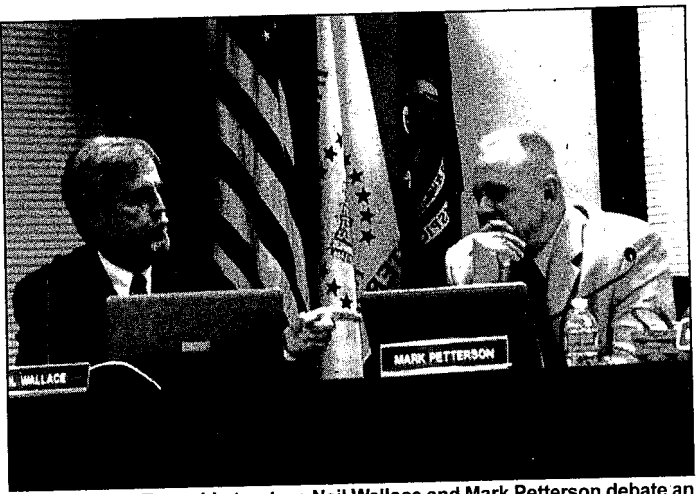
January 11
Bond vote set for May: Voters would decide in May if the Clarkston Community Schools district can borrow \$20 million, adding onto a current debt of \$138 million. The board voted 4-3 to approve the special election.

New year, new effort to dissolve Clarkston: Cory Johnston had a New Year's resolution to dissolve his hometown of Clarkston. Johnston, who called for dissolving the city back in August 2010, began his quest with circulating petitions.

Supervisor disability extended:
 Independence Township received a letter from their insurance carrier, Mutual of Omaha, on Jan. 6 stating Supervisor Dave Wagner's disability had been extended through Aug. 25.

January 18
Surprise visit from Afghanistan: Four brothers were surprised when their dad, Lt. Col. Kurt Schroeder surprised them during their classes at Orion Oaks Elementary, Clarkston Junior High School and Clarkston High School. They hadn't seen him since September when he went to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom.

Pros, cons of \$20 million bond:
 Independence Township resident Henry Woloson presented cons to the proposed



Independence Township trustees Neil Wallace and Mark Petterson debate an issue at a Township Board meeting last January. *File photo.*

\$20 million bond for the school district and superintendent Dr. Rod Rock presented pros for the bond.

Library may join district system:
 According to the Library of Michigan, of the 101 libraries in the state of Michigan, Independence Township was the only one of two remaining under the repealed law Public Act 269. Library Director Julie Meredith said becoming a district library would be the way to go.

January 25
Locals go for gold at games: When the torch was lit for the Michigan Senior Winter Olympics, Tom Decker, Debbie Elert and Margaret Whitcomb were ready. Decker was competing for his second winter in pickleball while Elert and Whitcomb were heading into the dancing competitions.

School bond blank check?: Residents were concerned the proposed non-qualified school bond would provide a blank check to Clarkston schools. Superintendent Dr. Rod Rock said it would not.

Deputies will remove uninvited:

Township officials worked out how to deal with future closed-session disruptions. Deputies will intervene if called upon by the township attorney.

February 1
Auditors find \$71,000 more in city budget: City officials were happy to see an extra \$71,508 added to the general fund, making a total of \$219,134. City Manager Dennis Ritter contributed it to no longer having a police department.

Burglars busted: A couple's arrest may have brought some relief to one area in Independence Township hit by numerous break-in burglaries.

February 8
Living history lesson: Clarkston Junior High School students spent the day learning about World War II from veterans who fought in the war and civilians who remember what life was like during the war.

Election season starts for clerk: It was standing room only at Election Inspection Training, Jan. 18 in Township Hall. Training
Please see Girl Scouts on page 5

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Girl Scouts celebrated century of service last February

Continued from page 4
for the inspectors took 90 minutes and some stayed afterward to try out the equipment and feel more comfortable with it.

Officials support cityhood: When discussing the dissolution of the City of the Village of Clarkston, City Councilman Richard Bisio and Mayor Joe Luginski stood for local control.

February 15

Talks continue on school bond: The school bond proposal is still on the table as the Clarkston School Board members discussed ballot language, specific projects and even moving the election to August or November.

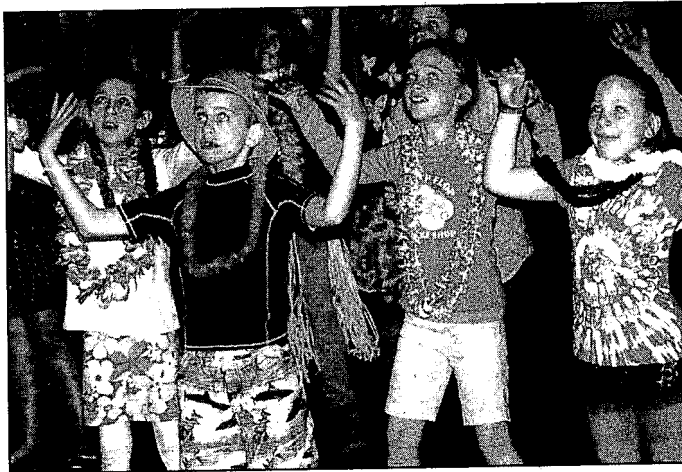
Discipline delayed for Mike Clark: Whether or not Independence Township Deputy Supervisor would be disciplined for disrupting a closed session on Dec. 20 was still up in the air.

February 22

Love endures for local couple: It was love at first sight for Jerry Olson, seeing Margaret, his future wife for the first time in 1959. They later moved to Michigan and married in 1963.

Scholars on a nation scale: Clarkston High School students Nicholas Dahl, Hannah Frame, Kyle Grubnau, Melissa Pavlik and Andrew Salada were amongst about 8,400 National Merit Finalists in the nation.

February 29



Clarkston Elementary students enjoy a late-January luau in spite of last winter's cold weather. Photo provided

One hour to feed thousands: Clarkston High School's Family, Career and Community Leaders of America club was getting ready to prove an hour was enough to make a difference in thousands of lives.

90 day suspension for Mike Clark: Independence Township Trustees voted 4-

2 to suspend Deputy Supervisor Mike Clark for 90 days, and he was directed to refrain from coming onto township property except for publicly available areas or requested by the director of human resources.

No permanent placement for public comments: Treasurer Curt Carson's motion

to move public comment to the top of the agenda permanently was denied in a 3-3 vote.

March 7

New home for teapot collector: For teapot collector Judy Ableser, the fun was in the never ending search. She had about 500 teapots in all sizes, shapes and materials displayed throughout her house.

Century of scouts: Clarkston-area Girl Scouts celebrated the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting, Feb. 28, at Springfield Oaks Activity Center in Davisburg.

More revenue found in budget amendment: In her first crack at Clarkston Schools' budget, new business director Mary Beth Rogers found the shortfall to be less than half what was expected. Federal funding, mostly for at-risk student programs, was \$335,474 more than expected. State funding was also more than expected, \$505,912.

March 14

Increases coming for water and sewer rates: Independence Township board approved a 3.6 percent increase in sewer rates and a five percent in water rates with a 4-0 vote.

Township looks into city dissolution: Independence Township Trustee Neil

Please see Local on page 19

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Phil in the Blank

A column by Phil Custodio

Wily White Elephant

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas. I had a good one, spending time with family and friends.

The Christmas party here at the newspaper was fun. Publisher Jim Sherman Jr. generously hosts the entire newspaper group for lunch in Oxford, followed by our annual White Elephant gift exchange.

I look forward to that albino pachyderm every year – it's where all the gifts are piled up and everyone gets a turn to pick one out, or you can take a gift that has already been selected. Then that person, usually in a foul mood after having been stolen from, gets another choice.

Quality of the gifts vary widely and each gift can be "stolen" up to three times, so there's always some strategy going into it. Some of us bring great gifts – I had my eye on a bottle of scotch this year. Others bring the most worthless stuff they can scrape together on the way out the door to the party.

We happily regift items, sometimes from last year's White Elephant, wrap up old books, DVDs, candles, anything else we want to get out of the house.

One year, I got an old lunchbox – an old shop type for adults, not something cool like an old Six-Million-Dollar-Man one, or something.

So it was with bitter disappointment but not surprise when it was my turn, and I found myself with a old bottle of glue, open box of old hinges, and some other worthless hardware.

I had chalked it up to another lame White Elephant gift and was looking around to see where old hardware was stashed in the office when ClarkstonTV host Jill Mitchell gave me a clue. Why don't you check it out more closely, she whispered.

Turns out, there was a little map well hidden in an open box of outdoor furniture replacement inserts with instructions to look under the desk in the shredder room. After finding out where the shredder room was, I found the real present – a strawberry liquor gift set.

That was more like it; a good White Elephant at last! And I found it too late for anyone to steal it!

It was also the publisher's gift, which was new, or at least I don't remember him participating before.

Surprisingly whimsical, too.



SMILES OF THE WEEK: Independence Township Senior Center volunteers Rosie Landry, at right, and Mary Jo Ried help out at the annual Be A Santa to a Senior Program, Dec. 12 at Waterford Parks and Recreation. Forty volunteers wrapped 654 gifts for seniors in Independence and Springfield townships and other north Oakland County communities. Photo provided

Successful year for Clarkston Lions' Kidsight program

Dear Editor,

Clarkston Area Lions recently conducted two Project Kidsight screenings, our regularly scheduled second Saturday of the month at the Independence Township Library and the annual Rotary Shoes for Kids program.

We have had a very successful year at the library, with 66 children screened. We want to thank the Independence Township Library for so graciously providing the space for our monthly screenings and promoting the events; in particular we would like to recognize the library Director Julie Meredith. We are sending out the 2013 schedule information as we continue with our second Saturday screenings every month from 10 a.m. to noon.

The shoe distribution is our biggest event of the year with 116 screenings completed last Saturday. These included 51 preschoolers, 60 children ages 6 to 17 and 5 adults.

The screenings were offered to people who had never had their eyes checked. Of the total screened there were only 15 refer-

als, or 13 percent of the total which was lower than the average 20 percent so we were very happy about that.

Our thanks go to the Clarkston Rotary, as well as the Oakland Wood Baptist Church, for having us at their annual Shoes for Kids distribution which helps over 400 children in our community receive high quality shoes, boots, hats, scarves and mittens. In particular we want to recognize the tremendous efforts of Joel Delong. We are also proud of our working relationship with the Rotary wherein they help us with White Cane Sales and we help them with the Goodfellow Paper sales that occur every December the week-end before the Shoe Distributions.

We also want to thank the following volunteers for their help with the screenings, Mike Dengate, Marsha Mercier, Mike Mercier, Viola Morris, Bob Murdock, Liz Rheume of Ortonville Lions, Kellie Shelton, Larry Truba, Dan Wung, and Rob Whitcomb.

*Ron and Chris Savage
Project Kidsight Coordinators
Clarkston Area Lions Club*

Thank you to community for Alternative gift fair success

Dear Editor,

A big thank you to the greater Clarkston community, which helped make the 2012 Clarkston United Methodist Church Alternative Christmas Gift Fair a big success!

The local, regional and global mission

agencies who participated will realize a total of \$24,602.88 for the benefit of the artisans and workers they support. We wish you and yours a blessed holiday season.

*Cheryl Kelly
Lake Orion United Methodist Church*

Write a letter to the editor at ClarkstonNews@gmail.com

A Look Back

From The CNews archives

15 years ago - 1997

"Goodfellows make Christmas warmer" Thanks to area Goodfellows and churches, 167 needy children in the Clarkston area received new shoes, boots, hats, and gloves for the holidays. The Goodfellows, comprised of Clarkston Rotary Club members and employees of Machine Engineering Inc. sold newspapers to raise money for the Rotary's "Shoes for Kids" program.

"Tornado shelter proposed in Springfield" After last summer's tornado disaster in Springfield Township, the board of trustees was hoping to take steps to ensure it wouldn't happen again. Unfortunately, the dollars just didn't make sense. Supervisor Collin Walls said that FEMA dollars will only go towards flood shelters, not shelters for wind storms such as tornadoes.

25 years ago - 1987

"This party is for believers only" Since 1965, the Creamer family has faithfully adhered to its annual tradition of hosting a Santa Party. This year, they've invited only believers – grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbor children. The believers may bring adults, if they wish. Laura and Andrew Creamer, of Fawn Valley Drive, Independence Township, expect 200 this year.

"Artist's ornament hangs on Smithsonian Tree" A penchant for art early in life developed into a full-time hobby for Gail Lee Mack and culminated with the honor of having her work displayed at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington D.C. Mack created one of the ornaments and toys on display at the 11th annual "Trees of Christmas" exhibition.

50 years ago - 1962

"Brownies visit fire hall" Independence Township firefighter John Ronk gave Brownie Troop 501 a tour of the Clarkston Fire Hall, showing them all the fire trucks and equipment.

"Clarkston Locals" Santa made an early appearance at the annual Christmas party for cub scouts of pack 49. The cubs and their parents enjoyed a movie of Donald Duck cartoons followed by a Christmas sing along led by Mrs. Tull Lasswell, during which Santa arrived to give out presents the boys had brought to exchange. Christmas cookies and treats were enjoyed by all.

Christmas songs capture season's spirit

When we broke out the Christmas decorations, also let loose were the two dozen Christmas albums, er, CDs I have.

My taste in Christmas music, is much like my taste in many things. I have friends who like to write and are always aghast at my lowly tastes.

"Of course you know and have read Thomas Lux."

"Ah, no."

"Well, he's a well known American poet."

"Oh, I don't know any poets, not even that fellow, Long."

"That's Longfellow, dear."

"Oh."

I try to explain to my tea and crumpet friends in the literary world, that I like pulp fiction, dime store novels, and Marvel Comics versus classic literature, good literature or even graphic novels.

I like to be entertained. I like good guys and bad guys; action, mystery, and adventure sprinkled with sarcastic, rogue-like characters. I don't want to ponder deep thoughts when reading or be depressed when I am finished.

While no Bolshevik, when it comes to the written word, I'm of the proletariat persuasion (though I don't begrudge those uppity bourgeoisie types). So it is with written word, 'tis the same with words which are sung.

And, of course, it follows then, my taste in Christmas music, leads me away from the complex, synthesized, high-brow Mannheim Steamroller no-words song stuff. I'm more of the Rankin/Bass kind of guy.

One of my favorite Christmas songs (not a carol) is *Put One Foot In Front of The Other* (as performed by Mickey Rooney and Keenan Wynn). Maybe it was some life-comedy, Karma-come-around-to-bite-me-in-the-buttocks thing, but since I was a kid, that song has stuck with me.

Well, here are the lyrics . . .

* * *

Put one foot in front of the other
And soon you'll be walking cross the floor

Don't Rush Me



A column by Don Rush

Put one foot in front of the other
And soon you'll be walking out the door

You never will get where you're going
If you never get up on your feet
Come on, there's a good tail wind blowing
A fast walking man is hard to beat

Put one foot in front of the other
And soon you'll be walking cross the floor

Put one foot in front of the other
And soon you'll be walking out the door

If you want to change your direction
If your time of life is at hand
Well don't be the rule be the exception
A good way to start is to stand

Put one foot in front of the other
And soon you'll be walking cross the floor

Put one foot in front of the other
And soon you'll be walking out the door

If I want to change the reflection I see
in the mirror each morn

(Oh, you do?)

You mean that it's just my election
(Just that!)

To vote for a chance to be reborn
(Hoo-hoo!)

* * *

In the TV Christmas special *Santa Claus Is Coming to Town*, Chris Kringle (Rooney) is able to melt cold-hearted Winter Warlock's (Wynn) nasty demeanor. The song I put in above, goes with that scene.

There is something redemptive about positive change and I guess for me, that cute little, do-nothing song catches that spirit. So sue me, I like it!

* * *

The time has come, and so without further eloquence, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Hug your family and friends and reach out to those who in need. Be Christ-like, change, grow, help, forgive and love.

Send your thoughts about this or other topics to Don@ShermanPublications.org

To Clarkston News Readers, Happy New Year!



Happy New Year From The Grandkids

When we first started this Jim's Jottings holiday tradition, the two grandchildren Dan and Karen Offer (inset picture) were small enough to fit on my knees. It was 1988. Dan was 3-years-old and Karen was four-months-old.

In that first picture, Karen had no hair, I had more and I still wore a suit and tie to work every day. Now they are grown and living out west and I only wear a tie if the occasion arises. They are the children of our daughter Luan and her husband, Bob Offer. The Offer children both live in Colorado.

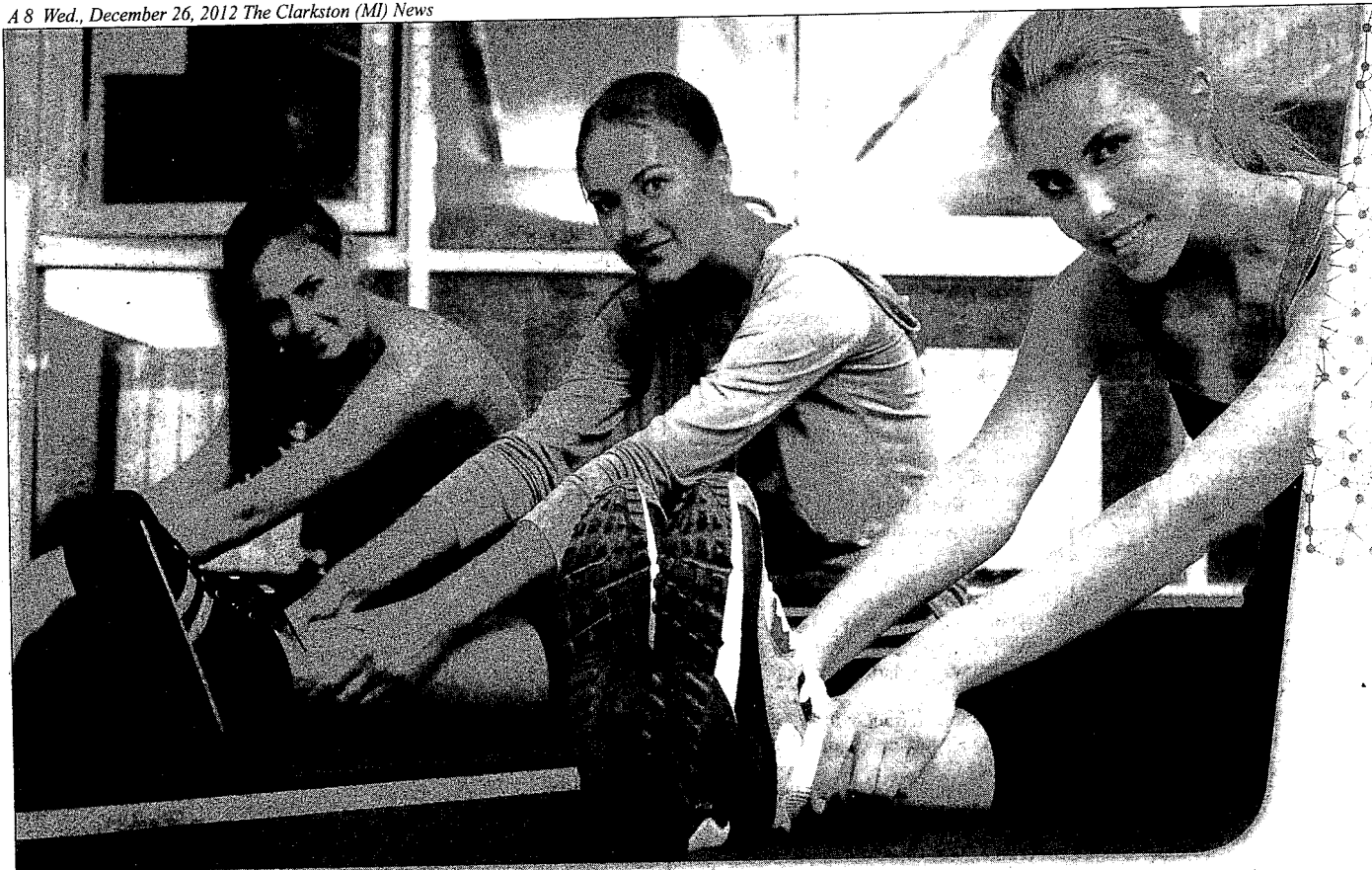
Back then, the three grandchildren standing around me, were only being dreamed of and anxiously waited for. Now, too, they are growing and becoming fine young people.

The Speed siblings seated with me, from the left are Haley and then Trevor (both 13) and Savannah, 17 Their proud parents are our daughter Susan and her husband, Tim Speed.

In 1988, I wrote, "From time to time their names appear in Jottings and I thought you might like to see who we're writing about." These days, I sometimes mention m'dog Shayna (that's her in front).

While situations, and stations have changed in the 23 years since 1988, some things do not change. We still find more joy in giving than in receiving and me and the grandkids still wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

— Jim Sherman, Sr.



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Public Safety

Reports from Oakland County Deputies and Independence Township Fire Department

Identity theft

An Independence Township resident received two credit card denial notices to department stores for about \$500 in purchases, Dec. 10-11. The resident had never applied for the cards nor placed the orders.

Garage fire

The flue on a wood burning stove caught some insulation on fire in a garage in the 10000 block of Ortonville Road, 10:06 p.m., Dec. 14. Independence Township firefighters put out the fire, which caused minor structural damage to the garage and house.

Smashed window

A driver was startled when the driver's side window was smashed as he was driving on Dixie Highway near Stonewood Drive, 6:59 p.m., Dec. 14. He didn't see what smashed the window and no one was injured.

Parking lot marijuana

A deputy on patrol stopped to check on a vehicle with five people in it parked in the 7000 block of Pine Knob Road, 8:15 p.m., Dec. 14. Inside the vehicle were the driver, a 17-year-old Independence Township boy, 16-year-old Independence Township boy, and three 14-year-old girls, two from Independence Township and the other from Metamora. The car smelled strongly of marijuana. The driver said they were just starting to smoke. The girls said they were friends there to ski when they met the two boys and decided to get into their vehicle with them, but hadn't smoked anything yet. One of the girls had a glass pipe, though - the 16-year-old had asked her to hold onto it. The driver was cited with possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. The 16-year-old boy was referred to Youth Assistance. The three girls were released to their parents.

Family trouble

A 19-year-old Independence Township man living with his mother rent free became enraged when he was awoken after a night shift, 1:45 p.m., Dec. 15. He pulled her out of the room and cussed her out. A deputy advised her on the eviction process through 52-2 District Court and spoke to her son, who said he would try to make other living arrangements.

Purse taken

A shopper left her purse in her shopping cart at a Dixie Highway grocery store, 9:20 p.m., Dec. 15. When she went back, it was gone.

Caught close to home

A deputy was blocking traffic as a tow truck pulled a vehicle out of a ditch when a car sped past and stopped, 8:20 p.m., Dec. 15, on Campfire Circle at Berwick Drive. The deputy yelled for the driver to roll down the window, and he waved, saying he would move. The deputy insisted, and the man, a 53-year-old Independence Township resident, complied. He smelled strongly of alcohol, and had an unopened can of beer in his center console. Preliminary breath test was .147. He stated repeatedly he lived just up the road, but was jailed for drunk driving.

Warrant arrest

A deputy responding to a juveniles-in-a-vacant-lot call found six people smoking cigarettes, 4:52 p.m., Dec. 16. One of them, an 18-year-old Pontiac man, had a misdemeanor warrant out of Waterford Police. The deputy took him to Waterford and instructed the others not to hang out there.

Breaking glass

An Independence Township woman called deputies to report her 19-year-old son breaking a glass table, knocking over the Christmas tree, and breaking a vase, 5:08 p.m., Dec. 17. He said when he was angry, breaking glass makes him feel better. He agreed to check himself in for evaluation at St. Joe's, and was transported by ambulance.

Unwanted orders

Two mail order SLR cameras worth more than \$2,000 were left on an Independence Township resident's porch, Dec. 18. He hadn't ordered any cameras.

Gun theft

When an Independence Township man found two of his rifles and two shotguns missing, he asked his sister and her boyfriend, who were living with him, about it. They said they didn't know where they were. The resident checked local pawn shops, and found all four guns at a Waterford shop, with the boyfriend's name on the receipt. He confronted him and said to get the guns back or he would call police. The boyfriend, a 30-year-old Florida native, said he would give him the money on Dec. 18. On Dec. 17, the homeowner found his sister and boyfriend had moved out, leaving most of their property behind. He then went to the police.

Call Crime Stoppers of Southeast Michigan at 1-800-SPEAK UP, or Oakland County Sheriff's Office CRIME TIPLINE, 888-TURN-1-IN.



Neighbor for Neighbor volunteers with stacks of toys for the Christmas Shoppe. Photo provided

Neighbors helped at Christmas Shoppe

Neighbor for Neighbor, an all-volunteer non-profit charitable organization providing food, clothing, and financial assistance to low-income families from Springfield, Independence, Holly, Groveland, Rose and White Lake townships, helped hundreds of local families have a happier holiday, Dec. 11.

The Christmas Shoppe in Davisburg

was stocked with new clothing, games, toys, bags stuffed with personal care items, books, bikes, household items, and gift cards for gas, groceries, and more.

All of the gifts distributed by Neighbor for Neighbor were generously donated by local residents, businesses and organizations. To donate, volunteer, or sign up for assistance, call 248-634-0900.

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Taking time to regroup

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

The Cagers used the second half of their first three games to come back from behind for a win - but their fourth game against Rochester Adams didn't pan out and they lost, 46-39.

"We have to regroup," Dan Fife, head coach for the Clarkston Boys Varsity Basketball said after the game. "There is nothing else to do. If we don't regroup we are going to be beat."

He added the loss helps the team find out who they are.

"It's not when you win, it's when you lose," Fife said. "We have three wins and now a loss. Who are we? We will find out."

The Wolves were first to get on the board with three free throw shots made by sophomore Merrick Canada.

Rochester Adams came back to score six consecutive points and take the lead.

Junior Nick Owens tied the game at eight points with a field goal made 3:41 left in the first quarter.

Sophomore Andrew Myers brought Clarkston into the lead two minutes later with one point from the free throw line. Owens added two more points to put more distance in the score.

The Highlanders took the lead back with baskets made by Zack Littleton and Sam Gasiorowski to end the quarter, 12-11.

"They outplayed us mentally and physically," said Fife. "When we couldn't score like we wanted to we took it to the defensive end and had some breakdowns on defense. Physically they just took it to us."

Both teams found a tough time scoring on each other in the remainder of the first half as the Wolves scored four points and

Rochester Adams scored six points.

The Wolves closed in the Highlanders with two baskets made by Myers with less than two minutes to go in the game to put the score at 40-37.

Rochester Adams came back to widen the gap with baskets made by Ben Limb and CJ Borglin.

"Sometimes it gets down to your mental toughness," said Fife. "One mistake turns into two. We have gotten away with some wins that maybe we wouldn't have won. I am not taking anything away from our wins but I think we fought back and played well in the second half in those games. We fought back against Adams but you have to play like that all the time. You can't wait."

Owens made a field goal attempt to bring Clarkston back up but it missed it's mark.

He did score with 14 seconds to go off a pass from Myers before the Highlanders closed the game with two points from the free throw line to win 46-39.

"They are an experienced team," said Fife. "They play well together. They knew what their role was. They made good decisions with the ball. They did a nice job against us."

Owens led with 19 points as Myers had eight points and Canada added six to the board.

The Wolves played last Friday at Troy, after *The Clarkston News* went to publication. For the results, visit www.clarkstonnews.com for the Wolfpack Update.

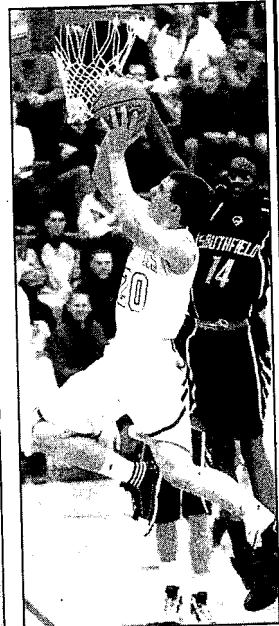
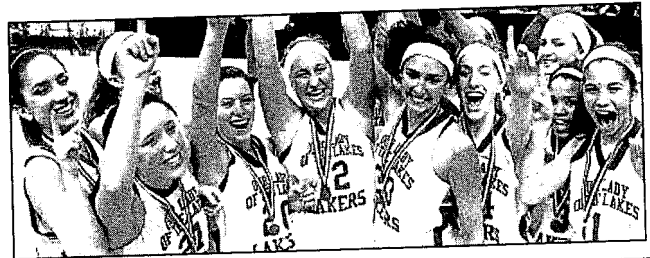
Clarkston opens the new year on Jan. 4 at Lake Orion High School, 495 E. Scripps. JV plays at 5:30 p.m., varsity follows.

See the Rochester Adams game on ClarkstonTV.com on Clarkston Sports with Dale Ryan, voice of the Wolves.



Andrew Myers brings the ball back into the Highlanders territory in the first half of the game. Photo by John Azzopardi

ATHLETES OF THE YEAR



Congrats Athletes of the Week, Jan. - June

January

Cager Erin Davenport, Cager Jordan Dasuqi, Cager Megan Hastings

February

Clarkston Boys Varsity Bowling team, Hitter Dylan Peck, Swimmer Kyle Inch, Grappler Luke Brandel, Cager Mitch Baenziger

March

Skier Lance Holsbeke, Clarkston Junior High School Cheerleaders, Clarkston Girls Varsity Basketball Seniors, Our Lady of the Lakes Girls Basketball team

April

Runner Bettina Winkler, Tennis player Gabrielle Spindler, Kicker Lindsey Adams, Lacrosser Michael VanderWeel

May

Bowler Stephanie Lively Kickers Michigan Impact U12, Hitters Madeline and Gabrielle Maday, Jumper CJ Gozdor, Hitter Sydney Hasselbach

June

Lacrosser Stephanie Dellinger, Runner Natalie Smith, Clarkston Girls Varsity Tennis team, Megan Hastings and Matt Dellinger



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Athletes mark 2012 with accomplishments

So many memories from Clarkston athletes as they posted victories. Here are a few of the highlights from January - June 2012. Great job to all of the Clarkston area athletes on a memorable first half of the year. We look forward to seeing what you can achieve in 2013!

January 11
No snow? No problem for skiers: The sunshine and a 50 degrees forecast did not deter the Clarkston Ski teams from beginning the season. The boys opened with winning their two races and the girls went 1-1 for the week.

February 1
Calvano aids in victories in tournament: Chris Calvano went undefeated in all five of his matches at the Macomb-Oakland Duals while the team went 4-1 during the tournament before they headed into their last week of the regular season.

February 15
Wolves bounce back: Guard Nick Tatu was on a shooting streak against Troy, scoring his personal best 47 points and shot 12 3-pointers during the game.

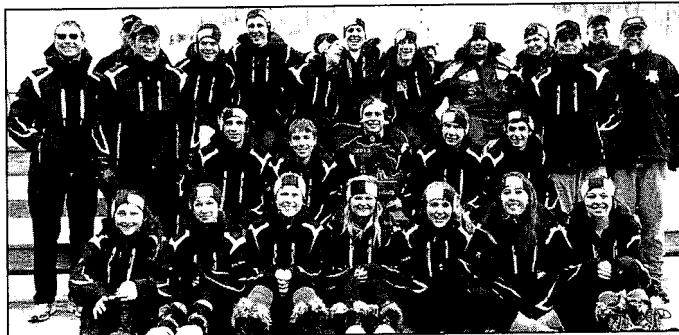
Road to state finals continues with pit stop at Regionals: The road to finals continued as the Clarkston Varsity Wrestling team moved on to the MHSAA Regionals after claiming the district title.

Victory on the lanes: The Clarkston Boys JV and Varsity Bowling teams defeated Oxford to win the OAA Red division.

February 29
Bowlers off to Battle Creek for finals: The Clarkston Boys Varsity Bowling team won the MHSAA Division 1, Region 2 Championships to head to the state finals.

March 7
Undefeated in league play: The Clarkston Boys Varsity Basketball team remained undefeated in the OAA Red league before they won the first round of MHSAA District play-offs over Grand Blanc, 72-61.

Skiing into first: Skiers rewrote the Wolves' history book by claiming the MHSAA Division 1 Boys State Championship, Feb. 27. Derek VanItallie led the team taking fourth place in the Giant Slalom and



Clarkston Ski teams celebrate ending their 2012 winter season with the boys winning the state championship. *File photo*

Slalom races as the boys scored 81 points as Marquette finished in second place with 119.

Lady Wolves conquer Tigers, Bobcats for title: The Clarkston Girls Varsity Basketball beat Grand Blanc, 48-25, to win their second consecutive district title.

Going for the gold: The Clarkston Boys Varsity Wrestling team brought home three All-State finishers after their run at the MHSAA Individual Wrestling State Finals - Scott DeVos, Chris Calvano and Nick Vandermeer.

March 14
Two league champion swimmers: Swimmers finished the OAA Red league in sixth place with two league champions Steven Nelson, 50-yard freestyle event; and Joe Zendejas in 1-meter diving.

Mountaineers make history with titles: The Everest Collegiate Academy basketball team claimed the Catholic High School League Intersectional Division title and winning their first district title.

May 16
Games for a cause: Lacrosse teams from Clarkston and surrounding areas joined together for the annual Game for a Cure raising over \$14,000 for cancer research.

May 23
2-peat tennis champions: For the second consecutive year, not only did the Clarkston

Girls Varsity Tennis team capture the MHSAA Regional title and scored 30 points out of a possible 32 points.

Moving on to state finals: CJ Gozдор, Adam Bruderick, Blake Sutherland, Ian Brennan, Mike Schwartz, Sam Tanielian, Spenser Pawlik, Natalie Smith, Jill Harris, Molly Jeffers, Erin Billette qualified at MHSAA Track & Field Regionals to move on to the state finals.

May 30
Lady Wolves lacrosse team on fire: The Clarkston Girls Varsity lacrosse team were on fire as soon as their game against Waterford United in the first round of the MHSAA Regionals. Lauren Sharkey scored in the first goal 13 seconds into the game after Stephanie Dellinger passed her the ball. The girls won the game 18-3.

Wolves win first round: The Clarkston Boys Varsity Lacrosse team went on a 14-1 run against West Bloomfield before they won the MHSAA Pre-Regional game, 19-3.

June 6
Runners up at states: For the MHSAA State Finals for girls tennis, Clarkston finished in second place.

June 13
District crown brought home: The Clarkston Girls Varsity Softball team won the MHSAA District title after a two year drought.

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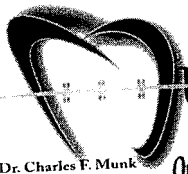
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Kaylaen Robinson
Jacob Roeser
*Payton Rohr
Kyle Roland
Isabella Roselli
Courtney Ross
*Jayce Rothrock
*Tyson Rothrock
James Rothwell
Mackenzie Rotter
*Emily Rumstato
*Megan Rusnak
*Katelyn Rusnell
*Kobi Russell
Gabriel Rutt
Alec Ryan
Garret Rygielski
*Claudia Sampson
Issa Sanchez
Danielle Sandor
Armando Sanjuan-Salvatierra
Celine Saucedo
Chase Scalf
Sydney Scarpelli
*Kelsey Schaldenbrand
Elizabeth Scheil
*Casper Schichtle, III
*Catherine Schilaff
*Kate Schleusener
*Breana Schmidt
*Grant Schreiber
*Alyssa Schroeder
*Thomas Seaman
Cassidy Segel
*Shane Senko

Zachary Senko
Emma Sheldon
Kendal Shubert
Alexander Siegfried
Drake Stegner
*Alexandra Simofi-Ilyes
*Tej Singh
*Caitlin Sivak
Samuel Skene
Madison Skinner
*Nicholas Skorupski
Anna Skvarce
*Shawn Slater
Ashley Smith
Cody Smith
Madison Smith
Neil Smothers
Rebekah Snyder
*Justin Spehar
*Mark Sprague
Madison Spring
Jackson Stallsmith
*Draw Stark
Teagan Stebbins
*Joseph Steger, Jr
Danielle Stolzenfeld
*Paige Stottlemyer
*Alyvia Steudt
Mya Strayer
*Morgan Stringer
*Alexander Stuenkel
Kaily Sullivan
Cameron Szachta
*Madison Szumanski
Elizabeth Tackabury
Briggs Tedder
Logan Templin
Jacob Thierry
*Olivia Thomas
*Chance Thuman
Celine Todd
Emelia Tombrella
Frankie Trader
*Marissa Traver
Makayla Turner
*Samuel Turner
Gabrielle Tuson
Devin Tyus
Drew Vandenberg
Jilian Vanvelzen
*Valentina Vargas
*Nicholas Veralde
Ashley Voepel

Please see page 14

Dr. Charles F. Munk & Dr. Charles W. Munk



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Middle schoolers achieve academic honors

Continued from 13

*Andrew Waite
Jenna Wakley
Brendan Walk
Julia Walker
*Evan Walsh
Timothy Washe
Sydney Weber
Christopher Wenzlick
James Wheeler
Emily White
Conner Whitt
Coléton Wiegiers
Sophia Wilhelm
Joseph Williams
Hayley Wilson
Jana Wilson
Yale Wimans
Richard Woods, Jr
*Carson Wright
*Mckenzie Wright
*Ryan Wycoff
Sierra York
William York
*Nolan Zabel
Brooklynn Zale
Maclain Zaremba
Taylor Zimmie
**Indicates All A's*

SEVENTH GRADE

Kaylee Adair
Megan Adriaens
*Chelsea Alarie
Zachary Aldrich
*Owen Alexander
*Ashleigh Allen
August Allen
Melanie Alnaraie
Matthew Altman
Gillian Anderson
*Max Anderson
Juliette Andres
Rylee Aranosian
*Elyse Arnold
Zachary Aughe
*Claire Austin
Kiana Ayotte
Brent Bachusz
Lily Baer
Sara Banks
*Ryan Barber
*Isabelle Beck
Madison Beck

*Justin Bell
Gabrielle Bitzer
*Mitchell Blaska
*Madison Boler
*Michelle Bollini
*Aria Borchardt
Jacob Bore
Jack Bose
Andrew Bradford
Emily Bragg
*Max Brennan
*Noah Bridger
Charles Brooks
Chase Brown
*Connor Brozowski
Molly Bullinger
*Heather Burrum
*Jessica Campbell
Elijah Cartagena Rodriguez
Hailey Catania
Bailey Cavender
Hannah Chadwell
Lilly Chalker
Leo Chasse
*Serena Chiappelli
Nolan Chouinard
*Jennifer Chupinsky
Hunter Clark
Melissa Comstock
Vincent Conforti
Cate Connolly
*Kyle Conroy
*Michael Conroy
*Brett Cook
Chaise Cook
Nolan Cook
Mercedes Cortez-Davila
Kelly Cousino
*Shane Craig
*Kristen Cumming
Owen Currier
*Lindsey Czopek
*Kayla Daly-Seiler
*Parker Daly-Seiler
Caroline Dargay
Joel D'Autremont
Trevor Davies
*Taylor Davis
Hannah Dehart
Tatiana Deloney
Dana Demrose
Olivia Depaul
Joseph Depillo
Joseph Deschaine

*Brady Dickens
*Caitlin Dicker
*Andrew Dimmer
*Delaney Dixon
*Chad Dolan
Christian Dominguez
Connor Donnelly
*Robert Doran
*Jessica Douglas
Bailey Dula
*Darby Durrant
Jarod Duvan
*Paula Duva-Rodriguez
Morgan Early-Davis
Finn Eblenkamp
*Cole Edwards
McKinley Edwards
*Rachael Eisenberg
Rylee Epley
Madigan Eppink
Cameron Exline
Joshua Fasczewski
*Jack Featherston
Haily Fitch
Christie Flood
Colin Flory
Joseph Franke
Aidan Fries
*Victoria Garrett
Matthew Gencay
Mason Gergar
Timothy Gerst
Timothy Giovas
Samuel Gipe
*Ashley Gozdor
*Ashley Graham
Holly Grow
*Corrin Gualtieri
Madison Guerrieri
Erin Guigar
Emily Gustafson
Isabella Haag
*Jillian Haas
*Megan Haddad
Luke Haight
Gavin Hallberg
Gretchen Hambrick
*Tori Haneckow
*Margaret Hanna
*Derek Hanson
Joseph Harker
Alexis Hawkins
Conner Heaton
Houston Hemingsen

Hudson Hennigh
*Megan Hibbard
Taylor Higgins
Garrett Hine
Peyton Hodges
*Blake Holler
*Jack Holmes
*Carter Hoogewerf
*Sara Houstina
Zachary Howard
Brendan Howells
*Sophie Hunt
Cody Hurren
Wesley Hutchison
*Chloe Jackson
Courtney Jacob
Collin Jahn
*Olivia James
*Jeremy Janik
Noah Jankowski
*Jessica Jerome
Alyssa John
Nathan Johnson
Olivia Johnson
Vanessa Johnson
Garrett Joseph
*Helen Josephson
*Spencer Junod
*Kylie Kalinowski
Natalie Kane
Yuri Karpushenkoff
*Garrison Kaul
Joshua Kelley
Samantha Kelterborn
*Reilly Kerrigan
Edmond Ketzler
Ethan King
Trevor King
*Brandon Kirk
*Jacquelyn Kister
*Vanessa Klaiber
Logan Klima
Lucille Kline
*Faith Knill
*Matthew Knill
Thaddeus Koehler
*Shaelyn Koleber
Katherine Kop
Noah Kostecki
*Grace Kraft
*Caelan Kramer
*Joel Labruzzo
Nathan Ladd
*Hannah Laing

*Stephanie Laing
Raleigh Landis
*Catherine Laube
*Brienn Lavell
*Christian Lawler
*Sabrina Layton
*Anna Lebourdais
Alexandria Lemanski
Ryan Lemke
Spencer Lenardson
*Hannah Leonard
*Taylor Leonard
Kevin Lepper
John Loch
Megan Lockwood
Keith Louden
Alexander Lowney
Foster Loyer
*Kayla Luchenbach
*Carissa Ludwig
Abigail Lundquist
*Charles Lussenhop
Chloe Ly
Stone Maguire
*Abigail Malinowski
Anthony Malinowski
Cole Manilla
Bridgid Manneback
Kelly Manssur
Kamrey Mantz
*Kristen Marani
Laura Marchese
Kylie Martens
Cameron Martin
Ethan Martin
*Madiyn Mason
*Trevor Massey
Alexandra Maynor
*Colby Mazure
*Shane McArthur
Alyssa McCowan
*Jacolyn McCowan
Tyler McDougal
Connor McEvilly
*Brianna McInally
Kyla McNeill
Ean Mills
*Hailey Minton
Katie Minton
*Caleb Miracle
Duncan Misiak
Aaron Mitosinka
*Claire Morawski
*Samantha Morehead

*Caden Morello
Carson Morris
Chad Morris
Mckenzie Morris
Angel Morrison
Chase Moscovic
Stone Moscovic
*Kelly Muse
Dillon Myatt
*Victoria Navarre
*Benjamin Neal
Sarah Neberle
Stewart Newblatt
Colton Newman
*Molly Nicholson
*Noah Nicklin
Lila Ninotti
Nathan Nye
Megan O'Jibway
Grace Olechowski
Ty O'Neil
*Nicholas O'Riley
*Justin Osborn
*Eric Owczarzak
Jackson Page
*Montserrat Palomino
Jacquelyn Pastula
Chelsea Paull
*Sarah Pawlowski
Jacob Peel
Kaylee Percival
Jessica Phaneuf
Kelsey Phillips
Tiana Phillips
*Veronica Plantus
*Lauren Polick
*Madison Porter
Arturo Portillo-Dominguez
*Daniel Prada
*Kaitlyn Price
Sophia Price
Noah PUNCHES
Zoe Puskar
*Serena Putin
*Casey Quigley
*Luke Quilliams
Evan Raddatz
*Andrew Ramos
Alexis Randall
Daniel Regan
*Jason Richards
*Joseph Rinehart
*Christopher Robinson
Sydney Rocheleau

Jermaine Roemer
*Trinity Roodbeen
Colbey Rouse
*Trey Roy
*Meagan Ruggirello
*Macrina Ruiz
Jordyn Rumbold
Kyle Rumbold
*Mariayna Russo
Drew Sagowitz
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*Bryanna Salinis
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*Isabelle Scane
*Serena Scarpelli
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*Luke Quilliams
Evan Raddatz
*Andrew Ramos
Alexis Randall
Daniel Regan
*Jason Richards
*Joseph Rinehart
*Christopher Robinson
Sydney Rocheleau

*Trey Thibeault
Noah Thomas
*Claire Thon
Michael Thornton
Julia Tobin
Donovan Tolbert
*Sarah Toll
Trevor Townsend
Daniel Tremblay
*Linda Truong
Ashley Turner
Nathan Uballe
Hunter Valenzuela
Sydney Vanbuskirk
Elizabeth Vanheulen
Skyla Victor
*Alec Vintra
Eleanor Vonnette
Benjamin Waddell
Christine Wakefield
*Makenna Walk
Annalise Walker
Chase Wasilk
Emily Watson
*Samantha Weber
*Mykala Wendt
Kaileigh Wensky
Haley West
*Robin Whistler
*Max Wiedemann
*Kiara Wilkie
Ashley Williams
Bryant Williams
Blake Wilson
*Braden Wilson
*Ian Wilson
Lindsay Wing
Jaxson Wirth
Samuel Witzke
*Emily Wood
Conor Woodward
Cleophys Wynn
*Hannah Wyrick
*Lue Yang
Dylan Young
*Lillian Young
Gabriella Zetell
David Zurek
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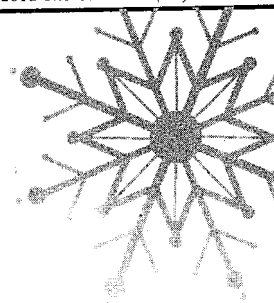
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JUMPSHOT: Nick Owens makes 3-point attempt against Rochester Adams. Photo by John Azzopardi



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² Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 12/1/2012. See branch for details.

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 November 26, 2012

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 for 2013?**



"To get all
 As for the
 year."

- Chloe Olsen-Beever



"Get as
 high grades
 as possible
 and get into
 a good
 college."

- Jon Miller



"To stay
 out of
 trouble."

- Rex Sharkey



"Stay
 healthy. Be
 nicer to my
 family. Get
 better
 grades."

- Dominique Spindler

By Wendi Reardon

The Clarkston News' Millstream

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

Teaming up to help a friend in need

BY PHIL CUSTODIO

Clarkston News Editor

Anne Maxwell, 24, of Independence Township was receiving treatment for a Ewing's Sarcoma tumor at the University of Michigan when she made a friend.

"My mom (Maggie Maxwell) is a teacher in Walled Lake and one of the secretaries that works at her school has a son that is a research coordinator for pancreatic cancer at U of M," Maxwell said. "Kenny Harthun began visiting me at my chemotherapy treatments, and we have developed a friendship over that time."

She knew Harthun was traveling to Tampa, Fla., to compete in the Tough Mudder race with six of his friends, Tim Esper, Lisa Esper, Nick Muraca, Nikki Muraca, Will Farwell, and Denny Houston.

"What I didn't know was that they were running in honor of me and to help spread awareness of Sarcoma," Maxwell said.

"On Friday, Kenny gave his mom a package to give to my mom to surprise me on Sunday morning - it was a nice surprise, a nice,

Sunday morning surprise," she said. "I was really touched."

Inside the package were cards from Harthun and his teammates explaining what they were doing and offering their prayers and support, a jersey saying "Team Anne, Cure Sarcoma," and a letter from the Sarcoma Foundation of America saying they had received a donation in her name.

"Not only had the team donated money in my name, but also the company who printed the jerseys," she said.

The Tough Mudder is a 10-12 mile, 25-obstacle race that supports the Wounded Warrior Project.

"But, they also ran for Sarcoma," she said. "Kenny explained in his card that as they were thinking of a way to represent themselves at the race, they were planning on dressing as superheroes, but when they heard about someone their age going through chemo and radiation, they decided to go a different route."

Maxwell was diagnosed with the tumor on May 29.

"I didn't know much about

Sarcoma, just that one of my friends had an Osteosarcoma while growing up, and I knew nothing about Ewing's," she said.

When she was diagnosed, she was living in Austin, Texas, and was going to MD Anderson in Houston. She had surgery there as well as her first round of chemotherapy, then moved back to Clarkston in June to be closer to family and friends.

"Annie's prognosis is very good," said Paul Maxwell, her father. "She's quite a fighter, very persistent with a great attitude."

Anne Maxwell has two more weeks of chemotherapy and will be finished on Jan. 10.

"I'm doing pretty good," she said.

She's keeping busy. They made and sold T-shirts to raise funds for Sarcoma research at UM, and she spoke at Health Quest in Clarkston about the benefits of physical therapy for cancer patients. They're also planning other fund raisers for Sarcoma awareness.

"It deserves awareness," she said. "All types of cancer deserve to have awareness spread about them."

Ewing's Sarcoma afflicts about 250 per year, mostly teens and young adults.

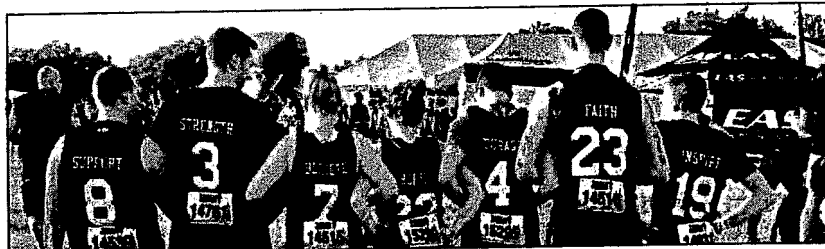
"It's a pretty rare tumor," Maxwell said.

She'll decide in March or April whether to move back to Texas or stay here.

"I'll play it by ear," she said. "I plan to relax, enjoy life, and go from there."



Anne Maxwell holds up a Team Anne T-shirt. Photo by Phil Custodio



Team Anne prepares for the Tough Mudder race. Photo provided.

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Frankie Piana wraps Carson Brock in Mrs. Mertz's fifth grad class.



Second grader Gavin Bow tries a snowman snack made out of Doritos and M&M's.



Savanna Long feels around to figure out where to put the arm on the snowman.



Holly Jolly Time

Pine Knob Elementary students kick started their vacation with their classroom holiday celebrations.

They participated in games, made crafts (which made great presents) and enjoyed a lot of yummy snacks.

Photos by Wendi Reardon



Local political campaigns shape up in spring

Continued from page 5

Wallace was concerned with a lot of chatter around town and in the media concerning the possible dissolution of the City of the Village of Clarkston.

Learning some skills: Springfield Plains Elementary students received a lesson on what they could do with curiosity skills when Terry Foster from *The Detroit News* and 97.1 FM stopped by to show how reading and writing go together.

March 21

Lawyers seek township's info: Independence Township found itself facing a Freedom of Information Act request after township attorney Stephen Joppich switched law firms and went to Johnson, Rosati, Shultz and Joppich P.C. His former law firm, Secrest Wardle, wanted all communication between the township and the firms' employees.

DIA comes to Clarkston: The City of the Village of Clarkston was one of 11 communities participating in the third annual Detroit Institute of Arts' "Inside/Out" program.

Community involvement builds new field house: Brick by brick, the Wolves are building the foundation for the Clarkston High School stadium's field house.

March 28

Kids buzzed about bond tech: Folks filled the Clarkston Schools Administration building to see what students were doing with technology.

Bond opponents question school debt impact: Members of CRISIS, Citizens for Responsible Intelligent Spending in Schools, wanted more details about Clarkston School's \$20 million bond proposal.

City looks to move out of 3 E. Church: The city wanted out of its lease agreement at 3 E. Church Street and wanted to build a new garage to store Department of Public Works equipment by fall.

April 4

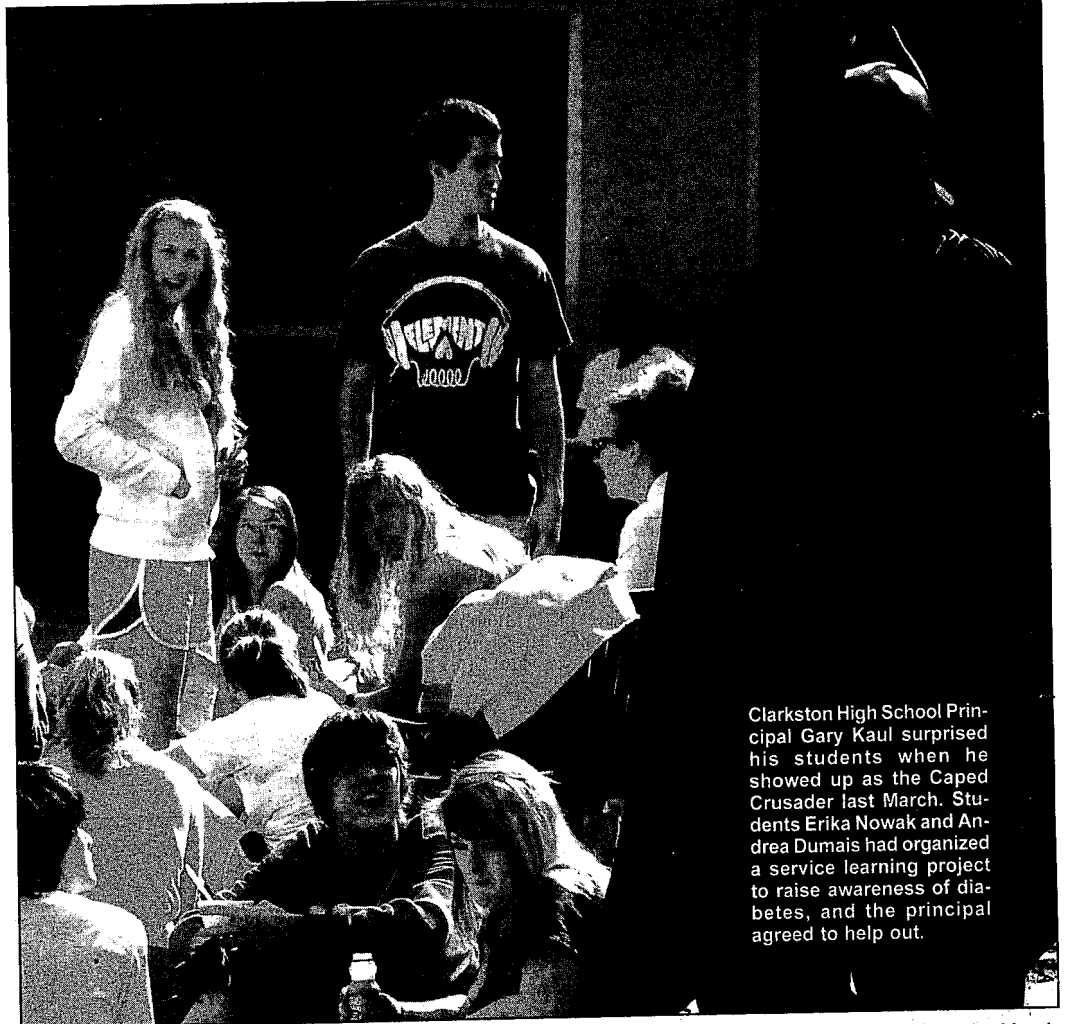
Kids serve community: Independence Elementary students spent March 22 participating in S.O.C.K.S (Servicing Our Community Kids Style) for their academic service learning project.

Trustees look to lower next supervisor's pay: David Lohmeier, Independence Township Trustee, wanted to lower the salary for the next supervisor from almost \$80,000 with benefits to \$25,000 with no benefits.

Holy awareness raising, Batman!: Erika Nowak and Andrea Dumais had a service learning project to plan for their current events class at Clarkston High School, and they were going to raise funds and awareness for the American Diabetes Association. They used their principal Gary Kaul as Batman to help get the message out.

April 11

Local fans loco for Lucca: While Clarkston graduate Tony Lucca was



Clarkston High School Principal Gary Kaul surprised his students when he showed up as the Caped Crusader last March. Students Erika Nowak and Andrea Dumais had organized a service learning project to raise awareness of diabetes, and the principal agreed to help out.

preparing for his next round in NBC's *The Voice*, his family and friends were in Depot Park raising support and hopefully votes.

Trustees keep supervisor pay decrease options open: Citizens were prepared to debate changing the supervisor's salary on April 3 but Trustee David Lohmeier took it off the table.

Retailers seek sign amendment: Members of the Clarkston Retailers Group sought to amend two City of the Village of Clarkston Zoning Ordinances. They wanted to put lighted "open" signs in their windows and sandwich boards on the sidewalks.

April 18

More for firefighters?: Firefighters need a millage increase just to stay in the game, said Chief Steve Ronk. They said they needed a renewal of the current millage rate of 3.1688 and an increase to replace personnel, restore

equipment and maintain facilities.

Group feels 'Positively Clarkston': A growing group of concerned citizens sent letters out from "Positively Clarkston" as a response to the view the city should be dissolved.

Group spreads words on school bond: For Clarkston Kids First member Aimee Baker, Mary Herzentiel, Anna Muzzy and Kelli Horst, the \$20 million bond proposal for Clarkston Community Schools was all about information.

April 25

Mayor waves off his pay: With a projected deficit of \$60,000, Clarkston Mayor Joe Luginski was cutting his own pay and encouraging other City Council members to do the same. Though even if they did it would not be enough.

Sign skirmish in bond debate: With three

weeks left in the \$20 million school bond campaign, bond opponents called out supporters for putting up signs before their time.

Library committee favors high millage: The newly formed District Library Agreement Committee was off and running and was considering a higher tax for residents.

May 2

Oil search in Bay Court: If it pans out, Independence Township could cash in on oil and natural gas underneath Bay Court Park. How much depends on the amount found, said Superintendent Bart Clark. "There's a 10-20 percent chance that you'll find oil or gas," but you have to drill a well to know for certain, said Jordan Exploration's Vice President Ben Brower. Steven Wilson,

Please see May on page 20

May brings decisive defeat of school bond

Continued from page 19

oil, gas, minerals office in the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) said changes of finding revenue-producing minerals are more like 1 in 3.

Young achievers honored: The Independence Township community took great pride in their young volunteers on April 25 during the Clarkston Area Youth Assistance (CAYA) recognition ceremony. Kids of all ages were nominated for their volunteerism, academic achievement, and citizenship.

Police millage up in the air in Springfield: Voters will head to the polls this August to decide a Springfield Township police millage request, but the amount is still up in the air. "We will not be able to maintain current level of service with the funds generated by the current millage," said Supervisor Collin Walls, who favored setting it at 0.8-0.9 mill.

May 9

'No' to school bond: Residents voted almost 2-1 against a \$20 million school bond proposal in Tuesday's special election. About 8,700 voters cast ballots: 2,945 in favor of the bond, 5,755 against, according to unofficial results posted by the county clerk. The May 8 election cost the school district \$35,000.

Helping C.A.T.S.: Bailey Lake Elementary students celebrated their annual C.A.T.S. Day - Connecting Academics Through Service, April 27. The students worked on projects for the Oakland County Animal

Shelter and learned about different organizations helping animals.

CPAC turns dial to 'Independence Television': If you see "Independence Television" on your screen, don't grab the remote; you're still watching Clarkston Public Access Center (CPAC) but under a new name. "We're trying to signal that things are changing," said Manager Joe Barnhart, who joined CPAC in February.

May 16

Retailers pay to change sign law: To brighten up the downtown, Clarkston Retailers Group may have to pay \$3,750 to amend the city's ordinance on illuminated signs. Since their talk with the City Council about amending city ordinances to allow lit signs, business owners have been weighing their options.

Chevrolet dealer John Bowman passes: Last Friday, the business of running a car dealership continued. The sun shown brightly through the walls of plate glass windows; salesman showed new cars to customers; service continued and transactions transpired, but something was different. It hung there quietly in the air. "Mr. B" wasn't there. John Elden Bowman owner and president of John Bowman Chevrolet, Inc. died with his wife Sharon at his side on the morning of May 9, 2012. He was 73 years old.

Birthday parties raise \$1,000 for SCAMP: On his ninth birthday, Andrew "Drew" Roeser decided to collect donations for SCAMP instead of opening presents. He

invited his whole third grade class from Andersonville Elementary to a party where he was able to raise \$1,000 to support his school during SCAMP's Walk and Roll event, which took place on May 6 in Depot Park.

May 23

New additions to Memorial Day ceremony: American Legion Post 63 invites the public to enjoy the annual parade in downtown Clarkston. Afterward, they can join the veterans in Lakeview Cemetery for a ceremony in honor of our deceased servicemen and women. During the ceremony, students from Clarkston Junior High School will share what they've written about what Memorial Day means, and Miss Michigan Kristina Scarcelli will perform "A Faded Coat of Blue," which will feature a Civil War reenactor.

Fire Millage up for vote: Independence Township voters will be asked two questions about the Fire Department - renewal of the current millage rate at 3.1688, and an increase of .59 mills. The board voted unanimously, May 15, in favor of the fire mill increase.

Trustees cautious about Bay Court fracking idea: Before any drilling occurs in Bay Court Park, Independence Board of Trustees wants to know its cut of the royalties. The board voted unanimously to fund a title search, which would reveal how much of the park's minerals the township owns.

May 30

Community remembers Ryan Kennedy:

Students of North Sashabaw Elementary School will join family and friends in saying goodbye to their classmate Ryan Kennedy, Friday, June 1. The 10-year-old passed away peacefully at his home Saturday afternoon after a five-year battle with cancer, which included seven surgeries, four rounds of chemotherapy, and two courses of radiation for his Ependymoma, an uncommon but virulent form of brain cancer.

Honor goes to high-tech teach: When this year's Clarkston Teacher of the Year award recipient was announced, video camera operator Jeff Peariso didn't get the reaction shot. That's because Peariso, also a math teacher at Clarkston Junior High School, was the winner.

New places to cast votes: When you vote August 7, you may be headed to a new polling place. Instead of going to an elementary school as you've probably done in the past, you'll likely cast your ballot at a church or library. Township Clerk Barb Pallotta has renumbered the precincts, a plan she's hoped to implement for some time because using elementary schools isn't quite as safe these days.

June 6

Business at the Expo: Customers, business owners, and residents mixed and mingled at the Coffee Club Expo, May 13, at Clarkston United Methodist Church. Dozens of vendors shared samples, specials, and information at the annual expo, sponsored by *The Clarkston News*.

History Trip: Independence Elementary students took in the beautiful warm weather on May 30 as they strolled downtown Clarkston. Second graders from each of the seven elementaries in Clarkston Community Schools visit downtown every year to learn about Clarkston history.

Planting Day:

Clarkston Community Garden's first planting day of the year was rainy, just the way planters like it. "We're doing our part to care for each other," said Garden Manager Jim Tesnar. "Everyone here feels that, and it draws them here to do the work." The volunteers planted their corps in the community garden off Pine Knob Road to "give back to the community," said volunteer Rich Miller.

June 13

Foundation helps out veterans group: After reading about the Poppy Sale deficit in last weeks *Clarkston News*, "Poppy drive hit by sales rules," American Legion Post 63 Commander Keith Marbutt said he has received a lot of positive support. In particular, the Harvey Rice Foundation covered the entire estimated loss of \$2,500, after volunteers were unable to collect donations for Memorial Day poppies at a local Kroger store.

Please see Farmer's on page 21



The Workman family of Clarkston, from left, Paul, Paige, Hannah, and Holly, celebrated Paul's retirement from the U.S. Army last April. Retiring as a captain, he served in active duty and reserves for 20 years, including several missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. File photo

Supervisor says thanks, notes achievements

As promised during my campaign, this is my first Independence Township column. I'm going to try to deliver quarterly newsletters with shorter notes in between as warranted.

Let's start with the "Thank Yous."

We want to start out by thanking everyone who came out to vote in the General Election. Close to 19,000 residents voiced their opinion at the polls on who they wanted in office and to address a slew of proposals that would have had a huge impact on the State of Michigan.

These 19,000 voters represent 74% of the 26,000 registered Independence voters and is a strong statement about your commitment to your community. And whether the Township Officials who were elected were your candidates of choice or not, the seven new Board Members promise to work our tails off for the residents.

As the new guys on the block, we hope to earn your respect by building on the successes of the past and taking Independence to the next level. We hope we can count on your support.

A special 'call-out' to say thank you to the prior Township Board for all their hard work and determination, trying to manage a Township with no Supervisor and through some of the toughest economic times in recent history.

Their hard work has paid off with a Township that sits in pretty good economic condition with some money in the bank, while many other municipalities are struggling to make payroll.

How about Larry Rosso with 16 years of dedicated service as Trustee, and Neil Wallace taking the reins, chairing Board meetings and coordinating countless day-to-day Township functions while running his law practice?

They did all this with virtually no pay. Thank you again.

We also want to say thank you to the Honorable Judge Kelly Kostin who took the time to preside over the swearing in ceremony for the new Board on the evening of November 19th at the Township Hall. Over 170 folks were in attendance ... the largest crowd ever for a swearing in ceremony we're told.

It really was a special moment with the seven new Board members standing in front of the Judge vowing our commitment to Independence and being able to share the

experience with family and friends.

If you're interested in seeing some of the ceremony highlights, visit the Independence Township website, click on the link under "What's New" On-Demand program viewing and then click on the November 19th Special Meeting link.

Other Board and Committee meetings are now also available on the web for your viewing convenience. Check it out.

And finally, a special thank you to Township Clerk Barbara Pallotta and her team of dedicated professionals and election workers who did a phenomenal job with the election. Not a single vote was lost or went unaccounted for.

Barb's Team spent many Saturdays and evenings working late for weeks preceding the election. Barb also helped pilot a new wireless technology that provided Oakland County with final election night results by 9:30pm ... the earliest ever.

After hearing about some of the election nightmares from around the State, you can really appreciate the hard work and countless hours Clerk Pallotta and her Team put into the election process to ensure things went smoothly for Independence.

OK ... enough of the schmoozing. So what have we done in the first month in office?

First, Independence has a great elected Team in place. Paul Brown is the new Treasurer and brings a world of financial experience as a CPA. Paul is really making things happen with his Team, Sue Hendricks from Finance and Clerk Barb Pallotta.

From initiating a new real-time checking deposit process, to creating a new money management system that will really tighten up the security of township funds, to establishing a new asset disposal process to get the highest return from old and obsolete equipment, to rebidding the CPA firm used to audit the Township books, Paul and his Team have hit the ground running.

According to Paul, the key to finding these nuggets of opportunities has been pretty simple, "ask the Township

employees where they think we could be more efficient." Potential cost savings: thousands of dollars, hundreds of man-hours and the peace of mind knowing your money is safe.

While we were visiting the warehouse facility where old Township records are stored, Clerk Barb Pallotta hit on a great idea. The question was asked if these racks of documents could be digitally scanned and stored on a server vs. having to keep hard copies of everything.

A quick check of the record retention requirements of the State revealed we could digitize many of the materials allowing the document warehouse building to be repurposed as a vehicle storage building - eliminating the need to build an additional garage for the DPW. Potential cost avoidance: \$500,000+.

Parks, Recreation and Senior Director Ken Elwert also is looking into how to turn a pile of lemons into lemonade.

Bay Court Park has a historic building on site named the Brady Lodge. Built in 1929 and used for decades by the Boy Scouts as a mess hall and gathering place for generations of kids, the building has deteriorated over time due to lack of upkeep and preventative maintenance to the point where we are just using it to store ground maintenance equipment.

The question posed to Ken was do we tear a big piece of history down and build a pole barn in its place to house the park equipment or can we cost effectively rebuild the Brady Lodge roof and supporting structures so we can have a win-win scenario ... keep the historic building and maintenance storage?

We think the right answer is to save the building. More to come.

And lastly, Craig Richardson, the AFSCME Local Union Chairperson, the AFSCME Negotiating Team and the Township Staff are coming up with some new proposals to help provide needed Parks and Rec services with more flexible work rules. This effort should make this year's AFSCME negotiations a lot more collaborative than years past.

Next week, Independence Township Supervisor Pat Kittle offers a financial recap. Contact him at pkittle@indetwp.com.



Pat Kittle

Farmer's Market settled into new site last summer

Continued from page 20

New place for market: The Clarkston Farmer's Market is getting ready for its eighth year with a new location at Renaissance High School on Waldon Road. "The new location is a step in the right direction," said Mark Angelini, a long-time market volunteer, adding there is a very supportive relationship between the market and the school.

No change to open-burn ordinance this year: When the Independence Township Board brought a revised open-burn ordinance up for first reading, June 5, residents pushed back. According to the revised version, fires can only be five feet in diameter. That's not enough for residents Mary Brower and Warren Nessbit, who live in rural areas, and said they use controlled burns to clear brush, dispose of fallen leaves, and avoid using sprays. After almost two

hours of discussion, the board voted unanimously to extend the 2011 burn permits to December 2012, and the ordinance did not receive its first reading.

June 20

Home dispute after 10 years: For the past 10 years, many have hoped 160 Holcomb Road would be a home again. That may soon happen, according to the homeowner's niece. "My goal within the next two months is to get [the house] empty and sell it," said Alita Hall, who has been in Clarkston since April.

MDOT measures M-15 traffic for future work: Notice a few extra bumps on M-15 lately? They're traffic counters placed by Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). Information gleaned by those wires wrapped in rubber will be used to design a project currently scheduled for 2019.

Twitter feud led to tire ruts: Between 11 p.m., June 9, and 8 a.m., June 10, a driver left

deep tire ruts in the sod of the front yard in the 6000 block of Foxfire Circle, causing around \$800 in damage. The homeowner believed it was a 16-year-old her son was feuding with on Twitter, and he had driven past her home before shouting things to the family as he drove by.

June 27

McLaren Hospital moves forward: Despite being stalled by the state, Independence Township is ready for a McLaren hospital, especially now that it is downsized. On June 14, the Planning Commission unanimously approved a revised site plan for the medical facility, which would be built off Sashabaw and Bow Pointe roads.

Bench work brings learning: Two geometry classes at Renaissance High School put their knowledge to work as they created eight wooden benches. It started

with Kathy Yeloushan, the school's grant writer, asking geometry teacher Sara Mastie what she would like to do. "I said I would like the students to do something hands on," said Mastie. She also wanted the activity to combine Math with a skill students could use.

City Council plans Conflict of Interest law amendment: "Everybody in the city has the right to speak their piece," said City Councilman Mike Sabol. However, as the current Conflict of Interest ordinance stands, elected officials must abstain from discussions if there is a conflict of interest, and they cannot vote. During their meeting on June 11, Sabol shared his interest in amending the ordinance to allow council members to take part in the debate even if there is a conflict of interest.

In next week's edition, we review the year 2012, July - December.

Special Events

Fund raiser to help Allie McCullough, diagnosed last May with Childhood Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, 2 p.m., Jan. 20, Cherry Hills Lanes, Dixie Highway. \$20, bowling, pizza, shoe rental, pop. 248-420-6595

Intro to Zumba, with Clarkston Community Women's Club, 7 p.m., Jan. 22, Clarkston Independence District Library, 6495 Clarkston Road. All welcome. www.ClarkstonWomensClub.org.

Monday

Exercise program for all ages, joint mobility, coordination, strength, Mondays, 12 p.m., lower level, 7590 Dixie Highway. \$7/session, \$25/four sessions. 248-627-7445.

Line Dancing, Mondays, 1-4 p.m., Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road. Country, salsa, cha-cha, rock and roll with Rosemary Hall. All welcome. \$3/drop in.

Mothers & More, non-profit dedicated to improving lives of mothers through support, education, advocacy, 6:30 p.m., third Monday, Deer Lake Back Court Restaurant, 6167 White Lake Road. Call Shelly, 248-778-8115, or Allison, 248-462-5510

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

Clarkston Rotary Club, Mondays, 6:30 p.m. Buck Shots Bar and Grill, 7048 Gateway Park Drive. 248-880-0027.

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

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

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

Fit Club Walks, Mondays, 6-7 p.m., Divine Nutrition, 7743 Sashabaw Road. Free. 248-393-08989 or 248-625-6551.

Tuesday

Wint's Healing Hearts Grief Support Group for all who recently lost a loved one, 7 p.m., Jan. 8. Topic: "Settling Into The Quiet - Solitude vs. Loneliness," led by a bereavement counselor for Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Carriage House in Clintonwood Park, 6000 Clarkston Road. Free.

Around Town



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



SHOWTIME: From left, Melvin Case, Sara Sanger, Nancy Penvose, and CJ Jones, behind sofa, rehearse a scene at Depot Theater, 4861 White Lake Road. In Clarkston Village Players' presentation of "Sinners" by Norm Foster, their characters deal with comic indiscretions, mistaken identity, and how to prove innocent in a town where nobody is. Showtimes are 8 p.m., Jan. 11-12, 18-19, and 25-26; 2 p.m. on Jan. 20; and 7:30 p.m., Jan. 24. For tickets, call 248-575-4104. Also in the cast are Jim Hoxsey and Jennifer Gentry-Saulski. Photo provided

walk-ins welcome. 248-625-5231.

50+ Pickleball, Tuesdays, Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m., First Congregational Church of Clarkston, 5449 Clarkston Road. \$3. Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m., \$4.

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

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

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

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

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

Widowed Friends, Tuesdays, 12 p.m., Collier Bowling Alley, 879 S. Lapeer Road, Oxford. \$2 per game. 248-628-5437 or 248-877-6692.

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

Town Hall Quilt Guild, third Tuesday, 7 p.m., First Congregational Church, 5449 Clarkston Road. Guest fee, \$5. 248-705-7310.

Zumba, Tuesdays, Thursdays, 8-9 p.m.; Sat-

urdays, 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.

Senior volleyball league, 9-11 a.m., Wednesdays. Trinity Lutheran Church. Previous experience desired but not required. \$40, through April, trherh7966@comcast.net. 248-625-3881.

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

CrossTowne Kids' Club, Wednesdays, 7 p.m., North Oaks Community Church, 9600 Ortonville Road. Learn about God and Bible through lessons, application, activities, for grades 1-5.

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.

Local Business Network, Clarkston/Auburn Hills Chapter, first and third Thursday, 7:30-8:45 a.m., North Oakland County Board of Realtors, 4400 W. Walton Blvd., Waterford. 248-370-8029.

Lunches for 50+, Thursdays, 12 p.m., made-from-scratch. \$6 donation. Independence Township Adult Activities Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. Make reservation by Monday before, 248-625-8231.

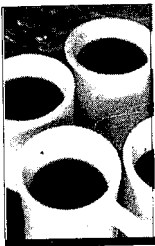
Young At Heart Active Adults, Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., lunches, guest speakers, musical performances, field trips, holiday parties, movies, bingo, games. Hart Community Center in Davisburg. \$5 yearly membership, \$5 lunch. 248-846-6558.

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

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

DivorceCare facilitated discussion, Thursdays, 6:45-8:30 p.m., Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road, room 122. 248-625-1611.

General Support Group for anyone with a cancer diagnosis, fourth Thursday, 2-3 p.m., Please see Around Town on page 24



Clarkston Coffee Club

News about and for local business folk

Networking meetings Thursdays 7:30 to 9 a.m.
at Clarkston United Methodist Church



Matt Bebout, left, and Chris Heslip merged Clarkston Plumbing and Boilers and A1 Indoor Comfort Systems Inc.

A1, Clarkston Plumbing merged

Owners Chris Heslip and Matt Bebout are proud to announce Clarkston Plumbing and Boilers has now merged with A1 Indoor Comfort Systems Inc.

"My good friend Matt and I have joined forces as the owners of A1," Heslip said. "We keep it local - 99 percent of our work is from the local area."

They provide top quality plumbing, heating, and cooling services, including well pumps and tanks, softeners, water heaters, boiler repairs and replacements, furnaces, air conditioners, humidifiers, and backflow testing.

"We have master plumbing, mechanical contractor, back flow prevention, and boiler licenses and staff," Heslip said.

A1 is a family-owned business, established by Bebout's grandfather Bernard Soffin. He bought the company from his

father, Mark Soffin.

"This is where I'm from - it's always been local to the Clarkston area," Bebout said.

"With an Angie's List top five percent award and A+ rating with Better Business Bureau, we provide clean top quality services," Heslip said.

They are an authorized Lennox dealer, with fully stocked service vans and uniformed employees offering 24 hour emergency service.

"We cover all angles of the business," he said. "We've known each other for 15, 16 years. We talked about it a couple years, and merged in May 1."

"It's going great. We're super busy," Bebout said.

Call A1 Indoor Comfort Systems, Inc., 5228 Dixie Highway, at 888-245-4328 or 248-394-9000, or check A1indoorcomfort.com.

Academy grad from township

Laura Eftink of Independence Township graduated from Oakland Police Academy, Dec. 14, on Oakland Community College's Auburn Hills campus.

Eftink has worked at the Sheriff's Office

since 2006 in the Booking Unit as well as a Corrections Training Officer. She has a Bachelor's in Sociology and recently graduated with a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Oakland University.

Year-end tax planning

As the end of the year approaches, it's time to consider strategies that can help you reduce your tax bill.

But most tax tips, suggestions, and strategies are of little practical help without a good understanding of *your* current tax situation. This is particularly true for year-end planning. You can't know where to go next if you don't know where you are now.

Pull out last year's tax return, along with your current pay stubs and account statements. Doing a few quick projections will help you estimate your present tax situation and identify any glaring issues you'll need to address while there's still time.

Timing is everything. The last few months of the year may be the time to consider delaying or accelerating income and deductions, taking into consideration the impact on both this year's taxes and next.

If you expect to be in a different tax bracket next year, doing so may help you minimize your tax liability. To delay income to the following year, you might be able to defer year-end bonuses, defer the sale of capital gain property, postpone receipt of distributions from retirement accounts

If you itemize your deductions,

consider donating money or property to charity before the end of the current tax year in order to increase the amount you can deduct on your taxes. As an aside, now is also a good time to consider making noncharitable gifts.

Raymond James



A column by
James Kruzan

In 2012, you may give up to \$13,000 (\$26,000 for a married couple) to as many individuals as you want without incurring any federal gift tax consequences. If you gift an appreciated asset, you won't have to pay tax on the gain; any tax is deferred until the recipient of your gift disposes of the property.

To reduce your taxable income this year, consider maximizing pretax contributions to an employer-sponsored retirement plan such as a 401(k). You won't be taxed on the contributions you make now, and you may be in a lower tax bracket when you do eventually withdraw the funds and report the income.

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Students' success

Sam Fioroni of Clarkston was named first-team All-NCAC for the second-straight season with Denison University, after leading the North Coast Athletic Conference in rushing for the second time.

He gained 1,225 yards on the ground and also led the team in receptions with 65. He leaves Denison as the school's career leader in all-purpose yards, 4,675, and is fourth in career rushing yards, 2,916, and seventh in career receptions, 117. His 1,225 yards rushing was the third-highest single-season total in DU history.

He is the son of Lynette and Joe Fioroni of Clarkston.

Clarkston High School students Michael Baker, Elizabeth Chaney, Kristijan Dokic, Brooke Huisman, Richard Jones, Wyatt Jones, Jack Kuczanski, Andrew Luchenbach, Trevor Luebbert, Jordan McMichael, Matthew Pasco, Kevin Peart, Michael Ray, Calvin Reilly, and Eric Wakley qualified as finalists in the Fifty-Fifth Annual Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition.

Students with the top 100 scores on the two-part test will be invited to an awards program on March 2 at Hope College in Holland, MI. The top 50 will be presented with scholarships ranging from the bronze awards of \$250 to \$2,500 for first-place gold medalist.

Around Town

Continued from page 22
McLaren Cancer Institute, 5680 Bow Pointe Drive. 248-922-6623.

Saturday
Preschool Vision Screening for children 6 months-5 years, second Saturday, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Photos taken of child's eyes to check for potential vision problems. Immediate results. Free. Independence Township Library, 6495 Clarkston Road, www.clarkstonlib.org.

Kid's Camp Yoga, Saturdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Clarkston Hot Yoga, 5678 Sashabaw Road. \$7, for ages 5-10. 248-620-7101.

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

Volunteering, Avalon Hospice, 800-664-6334; Oakland County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, 248-559-1147; McLaren Hospice, not-for-profit, companionship-type, 248-320-0106. Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Oakland County, 55+, opportunities at hospitals, cultural institutions, food pantries, schools. 248-559-1147 ext. 3435.

70 GENERAL

2001 SATURN 4-DR. L200. Excellent running condition. 2.2l engine. Almost new tires, brakes, and ball joints. Dark blue with gray interior. 109,000 miles. Well maintained. \$2,100. OBO. 586-651-5716. !1LZ5012

1988 CADILLAC ELDOARADO, triple black, with moon roof. Gold Edition. Excellent mechanical condition, runs strong. Good body, needs headliner & small seat tear repair. Senior owned. \$2,500 firm. 586-747-0668. !1LZ4812

2009 CHRYSLER SEBRING Touring 4 door. Auto, all power, silver. New brakes. 40,000 miles. \$9,800. 248-931-0855. !1LZ11

1997 SUPER CHARGED Grand Prix GTP, loaded. Excellent condition. 103,000 miles. \$4,000. 248-895-5798. !1R32

2007 SATURN AURA. 89,000 miles. V-6, 4 door, gold color, leather interior. \$9,000. 248-330-7554. !1LZ4612

1999 CAMARO, 3800-V6 automatic, power windows/locks, am/fm/cd, black with charcoal interior, new brakes, decent tires. Runs good. 114,000 miles. \$2,800. For more info call 248-628-6294 !1LZ4912

1988 BUICK STATION wagon. Excellent condition. 67,000 miles. Runs great. Some new parts. Tinted windows, all power, satellite radio. Everything original. \$2,950 obo. 248-814-8633. !1LZ312

2010 FORD FOCUS SES. 5-speed. Loaded. 78,000 miles. \$11,500. OBO. 248-736-1693. !1LZ31f

1991 CHRYSLER NEW Yorker. Southern car, Virginia. All power. Excellent condition. \$2,450. 248-931-5296. 248-628-3573. !1LZ312

CADILLAC CTS 2003. 126,000k, black, with leather interior. Excellent shape. First \$4,250 bank check takes it! Bank check must be accepted by my credit union. Brand new tires. John. 248-393-6052. !1LZ528

1995 PONTIAC GRAND AM. 45,000 actual miles. Southern vehicle, absolutely no rust, interior clean. 4 cylinder, great gas mileage. Perfect for work/school. Metallic burgundy air, everything works. \$3,500. 248-494-3201. !1LZ528

2002 SATURN SL2. 4 dr. 5-spd. Power steering, power brakes. A/C. AM/FM/CD. Alloy wheels. New tires & brakes. Nonsmoker. Southern car. Very clean in & out. 103k. 38mpg. \$2,950. Clarkston. 248-701-0088. !1LZ312

260 VANS
2000 GRAND CARAVAN. 3.8L V6, 7-passenger. Silver/gray leather interior. Privacy glass. Power everything. 184K. Original owner. A/C. Towing package. New brakes, muffler, water pump, tires. Runs excellent! \$2,400. OBO. 248-519-3638. !1LZ5012

2006 CHRYSLER TOWN & Country. Air conditioned, cruise, CD player. New tires, tie rods & struts. Trailer hitch. 145,000 maintained miles. \$5,500. 248-827-8010. !1LZ1912

1996 FORD CARGO VAN, red color, 122K miles. Power windows & locks. Everything working good. New tires. A/C & heat working good. \$1,500. 248-640-1549. !1LZ4512

270 TRUCKS/SUV

2004 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 extended cab. 4WD. Fully equipped. New brakes. \$4,000 obo. 248-736-1693. !1L5Dfh

1999 GMC JIMMY SLE. 4WD. AM/FM/CD stereo, heavy duty trailering package, 4300 V6 Vortec engine, 120,000 miles, aluminum wheels, Michelin tires, power locks/windows. Great condition. one owner. \$3,950. 248-693-0981. !1LZ4612

2002 CHEVY S-10 regular cab, 4.3. New tires, new brakes. Clean truck. \$2,000 obo. 248-877-7608. !1XZ194

2008 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER 4WD, V6. 78,000 miles in Great condition! Power doors/locks, windows, seats. A.M.F.M.C.D. Silver with gray interior. Newer brakes & tires. Runs great! \$11,500. Call 248-568-8950. !1LZ5112

1981 FORD F600 tandem Tulsa truck. V-8, gas engine, 18 foot flat bed, 15,300 miles. \$3,500. 248-625-1811. !1CZ1612

2000 FORD RANGER XLT 4x4 extended cab 4.0L, red. Complete tune up, replace cylinder heads & more at 142,500 miles, now has 150,450 miles. \$3,250. 248-628-8897. !1LZ5111

2005 GMC SIERRA 1500 4-wheel drive extended cab, 7.7l package. Silver Birch with dark pewter leather, running boards, carpet bedliner, tonneau cover, 42,000 miles. \$19,500. 248-842-0131. !1CZ188

'94 SUBURBAN. 198,000 miles, new heads, new intake manifold. 4WD, new tires. \$3,000. 810-347-0437. !1ZK2012

2010 JEEP LIBERTY SPORT 4x4. 27,500 miles. Excellent condition. 3.7l V6 engine. Bright silver with dark slate gray interior. \$18,500. 248-693-7855. !1LZ112

280 REC. VEHICLES

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TWO MATCHED 2000 Arctic Cats ZL580, EFT/ESR trail performance snowmobiles. Low miles. Excellent condition, with covered Karavan trailer. \$5,500. 248-869-0395. !1LZ3

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248-628-7714 L24

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CLARKSTON VILLAGE- 2 bedroom townhouse. Free health club. \$750 monthly. 248-625-5121. !1LZ33

LAKE ORION SCHOOLS, 1-75/ Jeslyn. 4 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, laundry, garage. \$775. 248-842-0357. !1L41

LARGE 1 BEDROOM apartment, Ortonville, no pets. \$495. monthly. 248-627-8559. !1ZK2

OXFORD HOUSE TO SHARE, no pets. \$400., plus 1/3 gas electric. 586-651-5716; 586-404-6887. !1L24

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2 BEDROOM 1-1/2 bath apartment, downtown Lapeer. \$600. monthly, plus utilities. No pets. 248-628-3433. !1L33

2 BEDROOM HOUSE, 2 car garage, Lake Orion. \$785. monthly, plus utilities. No pets. 248-628-3433. !1L33

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340 CHILD CARE

STATE LAW REQUIRES childcare facilities to be licensed and some to be registered. Call Dept. of Human Services at 1-866-685-0008, if you have any questions.
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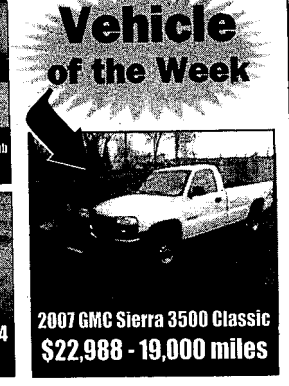
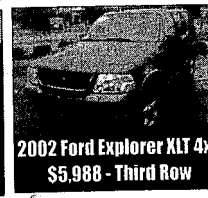
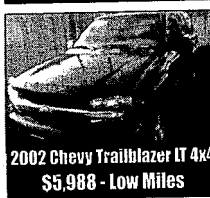
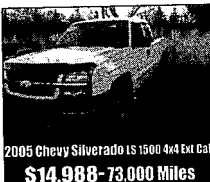
READERS NOTE: Some "WORK AT HOME" Ads or Ads offering information on jobs or government homes may require an INITIAL INVESTMENT. We urge you to investigate the company's claims or offers thoroughly before sending any money, and PROCEED AT YOUR OWN RISK. !1L8dtf

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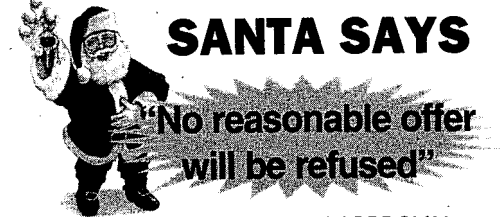
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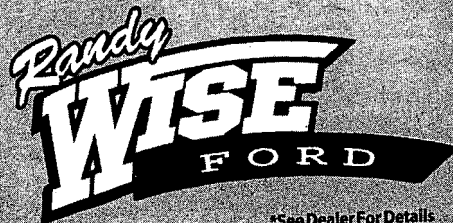
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INDEPENDENCE TWP. SYNOPSIS

TAKEN BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD
THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
DECEMBER 18, 2012

- A. A Regular General Meeting of the Charter Township of Independence Board was called to order at 7:30 PM at the Independence Township Hall.
B. The Pledge of Allegiance was given.
C. ROLL CALL: Present: Brown, Kittle, Lohmeier, Pallotta, Ritchie, Schroeder
Absent: Aliaga

There was a quorum present.

Also Present: Ken Elwert, Parks, Recreation & Seniors Director; Rick Yaeger, Budget Analyst; Barbara Rollin, Senior Coordinator; Julie Meredith, Clarkston, Independence District Library Director

- D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: As amended.
E. CLOSED SESSION: None requested
F. BOARD / PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS:
G. PUBLIC COMMENT: None
H. PUBLIC HEARING: None
I. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS:

1. Presentation: Update on Potential Oil Possibilities (Chris Bickley, Jordan Development)
2. Presentation: Update on Clarkston Independence District Library (Julie Meredith, District Library Director)

J. CARRYOVER / POSTPONED AGENDA ITEMS: None

K. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of 2013 Meeting Dates for Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals
2. Approval of Payment for Sponsorship Funding to Clarkston Area Youth Assistance
3. Approval to Carryover Balance of 2012 Architect Fees
4. Approval to Carryover Balance of 2012 Chore Program Donation
5. Approval to Carryover Unused Balance of 2012 Optimist Donation for Deer Lake Beach
6. Approval of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Budget Amendment

7. Approval of Proposed Parks, Recreation & Seniors Budget Amendment
 8. Approval of Minutes of Regular Board of Trustees Meeting of November 13, 2012
 9. Approval of Minutes of Special Board of Trustees Meeting of November 19, 2012
 10. Approval of Minutes of Regular Board of Trustees Meeting of November 27, 2012
 11. Approval of Minutes of Special Board of Trustees Meeting of November 29, 2012 as amended
 12. Approval of Minutes of Regular Board of Trustees Meeting of December 4, 2012
 13. Approval of Accounts Payable Check Run and Payroll in the Amount of \$512,053.24
- L. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA: None

M. REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Request to Waive Recapture of 2010 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
2. Approval of Budget Amendment #13
3. Approval of Request to Extend Employment Agreement for Budget Analyst
4. Approval to Authorize Board of Trustees Attendance at MTA Conference
5. Approval to Authorize Township Supervisor and Clerk as Administrators of Township Benefit Plan
6. Approval of Board and Committee Appointments to Citizens Public T.V. Access Committee and Sunset of Operations Task Force
7. Approval to Appoint Board of Trustee Liaisons to Lake Boards
8. Approval of 2013 Township Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Schedule

N. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: Board members discussed various topics

O. COMMUNICATIONS / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS / REPORTS:

1. Future Agenda Item: Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Amendment
2. Future Agenda Item: Proposed 2012-2016 Board Rules of Procedure
3. Report: Bureau of Construction Codes Summary Report
4. Report: Monthly Report of Building Department for November 2012
5. Report: November 8, 2012 Minutes of Senior Advisory Committee
6. Report: November 7, 2012 Minutes of Safety

Path Advisory Committee
7. Report: September 29, 2012 Minutes of Parks, Recreation & Seniors Advisory Committee
P. ADJOURNMENT: The Regular General Meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara A. Pallotta, CMC
Township Clerk

Published: Wednesday, December 25, 2012

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In our churches...

Christmas Cantata, "Mary Did You Know,"
6 p.m., Dec. 16, 23, Dixie Baptist Church, 8585
Dixie Highway. 248-625-9760.

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 Com-
munity Church, 6300 Clarkston Road. 248-
625-1323.

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Church Directory



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

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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

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Wednesday 7:00 pm
Youth Groups 6-12
Wednesday 6:30 pm
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Adult Life Ministry
c.r.a.y.e. - Student Life Ministry
Ozone - Children's Life Ministry
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A Church For Life
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CLARKSTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

DIXIE BAPTIST CHURCH

8585 Dixie Highway, Clarkston, MI
(248) 625-1231
website: www.dixiebaptist.org
Home of Springfield Christian
Academy & Children's
Ark Preschool
Pastor: J. Todd Vanaman
Sun: 9:45 am Worship Service
11:00 am Sunday School for all ages
6:00 pm Worship Service
Wed: 7:00 pm Children and Teen
Clubs & Adult Bible Study
Nursery available for all services.

CLARKSTON 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

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

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: 6:25-17:50
Mother's Group, RCIA,
Scripture Study, Youth Group



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

BIG FINISH 2012

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 Monday &
 Thursday
 8:30 am - 8 pm
 Tues., Wed., Fri.
 8:30 am - 6 pm
 New Saturday
 Hours:
 Sales 10 am - 3 pm &
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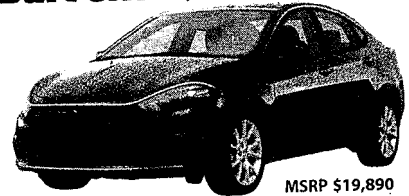
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**FREE Coach Purse,
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2013 Dodge Dart SXT

2.0L 160HP Tigershark With
 6 Speed Automatic Transmission

- 17" Alum Wheels • Air
- Power Windows / Locks
- Remote Keyless Entry
- 60/40 Split Rear Seats
- LED Stop/Turn Taillights
- 10 Air Bags



24 mo. Lease **\$99**** mo.

MSRP \$19,890

2013 Chrysler 200 Limited

Heated Leather Seats

24 mo. Lease **\$88*** mo.

MSRP \$25,340



0% for 72 Mo.

2013 Chrysler Town & Country Touring

24 mo. Lease **\$179*** mo.

*Leather and DVD
 • 29K Package

MSRP \$30,990



0% for 60 Mo.

2013 DODGE CHARGER R/T

5.7L V-8, Hemi

24 mo. Lease **\$158*** mo.

MSRP \$30,990



2013 Dodge Journey SXT

36 mo. Lease

\$159* mo.

MSRP \$24,290



2012 Dodge Durango SXT AWD

36 mo. Lease **\$276*** mo.

3rd Row seating
 MSRP \$32,095



2013 Jeep Patriot Latitude 4x4

24 mo. Lease **\$99*** mo.

*Heated Seats,
 *Remote Start

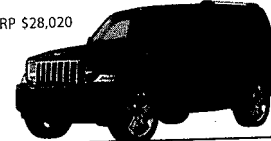
MSRP \$23,190



2012 Jeep Liberty Latitude 4x4

36 mo. Lease **\$149*** mo.

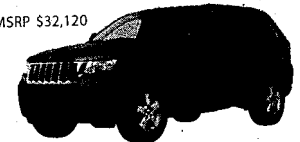
MSRP \$28,020



2013 Jeep Grand Cherokee

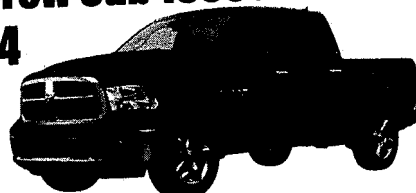
24 mo. Lease **\$189*** mo.

MSRP \$32,120



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 Big Horn 4x4**

36 mo. Lease **\$359*** mo.



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BUSINESS LINK

72 mo. Buy

MSRP \$24,465

\$269* mo.

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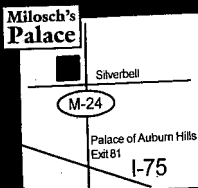
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25 MPG

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www.palacejd.com



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Now \$21,422

Save \$5,538*

2013 Cruze 2LT RS

Leather Loaded

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*Price plus tax, title and lic. and doc fee.
Must qualify for GM Employee pricing and
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NO SECURITY DEPOSIT

\$165*
mo.



2013 EQUINOX

\$0 DOWN
NO SECURITY DEPOSIT

\$185*
mo.



\$131

\$0 DOWN
NO SECURITY DEPOSIT

\$182*
mo.



2013 SILVERADO 1500 LTZ ALL FWD

\$0 DOWN
NO SECURITY DEPOSIT

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