

The Clarkston News

My Clarkston.
Buy Clarkston.

Vol. 86 No. 16 Wed., March 13, 2013

1 Section, 32 pages 50¢



READY TO SHOW: Car collector Steven Smith of Clarkston worked for two years to restore his 1970 Plymouth Road Runner, which he showed at AutoRama in Detroit. See page 14 for more. Photo by Phil Custodio

Founder's O.A.T.S. legacy to live on

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

When a new session at Offering Alternative Therapy with Smiles (O.A.T.S.) was set to start, March 11, instructors and volunteers were there, leading their horses from stables to waiting students.

Nancy L. Heussner, O.A.T.S. founder and executive director who passed away suddenly, March 4, 2013, wouldn't have been surprised.

"It's what Nancy would have expected, for us to be here on Monday at 3:30, ready for a new session," said volunteer Melissa Sturgis.

The O.A.T.S. dream goes on, said instructor Beth Pellerito.

"We have very big boots to fill," Pellerito said. "We won't be able to do that, but we'll do what Nancy taught us to do. We have a very good group of people. It took years to form such a strong team."

"She had a heart of gold — she looked beyond any disability to appreciate the person within," said Elaine Moloney, volunteer. "She never stopped looking for ways to serve other people. She did amazing things."

"She helped her students whether young or old," said Jim Moloney, Elaine's husband. "She was a tireless servant to the community."

She helped their son and hundreds of others.

Please see O.A.T.S. on page 30



Nancy L. Heussner, founder of O.A.T.S., passed away last week. Photo provided

Check out the latest Trends

in Clarkston-area business, look in next week's *CNews*

Dixie businesses ready for road work

BY MARY KECK
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Starting April 1, fewer lanes on Dixie Highway will be open, and 395 businesses along the busy thoroughfare will feel the impact.

According to Penny Shanks, Clarkston Area Chamber of Commerce executive director, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has been "extremely proactive" in working with the businesses thus far.

Shanks notes some of the resurfacing project will impact businesses like Neiman's Market, which will have their grand opening during the roadwork.

"We'll cut the ribbon anyway," she said.

MDOT intends to resurface nine miles of US-24 from just south of Telegraph Road to just north of I-75 in Oakland County. The \$19.2 million project will cause three center lane closures on Dixie Highway over a few weekends. Northbound and southbound traffic will experience right lane closures throughout the day, and overnight up to three lanes will be closed, leaving one lane open in each direction.

Preparation for the construction has already begun, and the project will be done in two phases this summer. Phase 1 is set to start on April 1 and end in mid June. It will focus on Dixie Highway from Frembes in Waterford north to M-15.

The second phase will mainly impact the Waterford area, with the final segment of Dixie Highway from M-15 to I-75. The work will begin mid June and conclude around Nov. 1.

Despite the potential challenges for local businesses caused by the Dixie Highway resurfacing, Shanks said she was appreciative of MDOT and Independence Township.

"I'm not getting a feeling that they don't care," she said.

In fact, she noted Supervisor Pat Kittle and Treasurer Paul Brown.

Please see Deadlines on page 21

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Briefly

Library parking lot

The Clarkston Independence District Library plans to repair its parking lot and is currently seeking bids for the project, but patrons will have to wait until spring before all the holes are filled. "It's just a situation where there's only so much you can do when the weather's like this," said Library Director Julie Meredith. In the meantime, Meredith said cold patching would be done.

NOHLC training

The North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy (NOHLC) intends to train volunteers to inspect properties they're considering for their conservation efforts. If you like spending time in the woods and have an interest in preserving the environment, register for the training session on March 23 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Springfield Township Civic Center. Call the NOHLC at 248-846-6547 for more information.

Teacher of year

The deadline for Teacher of the Year nominations is approaching fast.

The Clarkston Foundation is accepting applications for the 2013 Teacher of the Year for Clarkston Community Schools.

This year they are accepting nominations for outstanding elementary school teachers who teach grades Kindergarten through fifth.

Nominations may be submitted by any local citizen, including parents, current and former students, fellow teachers or administrators.

Nomination forms are available on the Clarkston Foundation website, www.clarkstonfoundation.com; the Clarkston Community Schools website, www.clarkston.mi.k12.mi; at any Clarkston school or the Board of Education Office.

Award nominations

Deadline for nominations for Clarkston Citizen of the Year, Business of the Year, and other Community Awards is March 29.

Email nominee information to info@clarkstoncommunity.com or fax to 248-625-1388. Send mail to Community Awards Nominations c/o Clarkston Community Church, 6300 Clarkston Road, Clarkston, MI 48346.

The Awards Breakfast is Thursday, May 16, 7:30-9 a.m. at Clarkston Community Church. For more information, check www.clarkstoncommunity.com or call 248-625-1323.



My Habitat Clarkston gathers with DJ and Kaleena Mefford's family at their new home, which they bought through Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County. Photos provided by Your People LLC.

Family finds home through My Habitat Clarkston work

Working with My Habitat Clarkston, the Mefford family have a home.

"The simple fact of giving somebody a chance is so important," said Kaleena Mefford, who grew up in Clarkston, at a house blessing in their new home. "We are proud to be involved."

Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County and the Clarkston community worked for months to find a Clarkston property for the family, DJ and Kaleena Mefford and their two children, Bryce, 6, and Brina, 10 months old. A Clarkston house didn't become available, but they found one in Waterford.

Calvary Lutheran Evangelical Church Pastor Jonathan Heierman and Clarkston Community Church Pastor Daniel Whiting led the house blessing, March 5.

The Clarkston community rallied around the family in an unprecedented way, said Kim Howard, Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County's manager of partnerships.

"This is the first time we've been able to pull together an entire community around a project," Howard said. "Every facet of the community came forward to make this happen."

My Habitat Clarkston includes

Calvary Lutheran Evangelical Church, Clarkston Community Church, Clarkston Area Chamber of Commerce, community groups and schools.

The committee secured a \$30,000 donation and organized a benefit concert after Taste of Clarkston last year. My Habitat Clarkston is also putting together micro-grants to help more families, Howard said.

"This is a model partnership," she said. "What started with one house in Clarkston is going to carry forward farther into the community, not only in the form of total home rebuilds but also focusing on critical home repairs to make existing residences safer."

The couple's need, income, credit, consistent bill payment and willingness to put in sweat equity qualified them to buy an at-cost, no-profit home through Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County.

Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County has built or renovated homes for 165 families since 1996. The non-profit received nearly 700 applications in 2012.

"We often don't think we have anything to give," said Habitat's Director of Partnerships Brad Irwin. "We place so much emphasis on money, but it's people that make the world go round."



Kaleena Mefford lays her hands on her family's new home at the house blessing.



Calvary Lutheran Evangelical Church Pastor Jonathan Heierman blesses their new home.

Assessor says property values are rising

BY MARY KECK
Clarkston News Staff Writer

You may have received mail in late February about changes in the assessed and taxable value of your property. *The Clarkston News* sat down with Independence Township's Director of Assessing Kristen Sieloff to find out how these values are determined.

Overall, property values are on the rise this year, which Sieloff notes is a sign of economic resurgence since the recession.

When appraising properties, the township's assessors use a mass appraisal. "Because it is mass appraisal, it is very different from a bank appraisal whereby the appraiser sales most comparable within a specified time period would be analyzed to determine the value of the subject," Sieloff explained. This technique is referred to as a fee appraisal or a single property appraisal.

"I have almost 12,000 residential parcels," Sieloff pointed out. "It is physically impossible for us to apply that same methodology for our assessments. So, we use mass appraisal, which involves grouping everybody together having similar or like characteristics."

How does a mass appraisal work? "Our assessments are based on the information contained in the assessment program or the model," Sieloff said.

Township appraisers measure each component of a property in the field and record them into their appraisal program. For instance, they note if it is a one-story living area on a basement or on a concrete slab foundation, the size of accessory structures such as garages and decks, and the number of and size of bathrooms. Costs for each component are given to the assessing department by the State of Michigan and are based primarily on the class and ground floor square footage.

While mass appraisals allow the township's assessors to value a large number of properties at a time, they also present challenges.

"First of all, it is the property owner's right to refuse entry onto the property. If there is an estimate on the property, then the information that we have may or may not be accurate," Sieloff noted.

She encourages residents to be certain assessors have the most accurate and up-to-date information. "We have to rely on the homeowner to make sure our assessments, our records, our data is accurate because we can't physically go out to inspect everything each year for every single house," she stated. "The only way for us to treat all residents uniformly and equitably is to have the most accurate data within our system."

If the assessor's records have errors, "please bring it to our attention. If it's been an estimated appraisal for years, and we come out and find you've been assessed for

something you don't have, we want to make that correction, and we will," Sieloff said.

Residents can find their records on the township's website www.twp.independence.mi.us.

In addition to the challenge of relying on homeowners for accurate records, mass appraisal "has a tendency to ignore those special characteristics that every property has," Sieloff pointed out.

"If a property hasn't been maintained at the same rate that the state has predetermined is typical, which is 1 percent depreciation (reduction in value over time) per year, then, that property that isn't being maintained at the same level, is lumped in with everybody else, and the rate of depreciation on our record may or may not be reflective of what's actually happening out there," she clarified.

Residents can ensure accuracy and consideration of their property's specific characteristics through Michigan's Board of Review process, which "allows the taxpayer to come in and appeal their assessment if they believe it is not an accurate reflection of 50 percent of its current market value," Sieloff explained.

Every year, Board of Review sessions occur during the first full week of March. The Board of Review consists of three township residents who are appointed by the Board of Trustees.

Fewer people have made appointments for Board of Review sessions than last year. This year, only 60 appointments have been made compared to the almost 370 appointments made in 2012.

"So, there is a big change from where the assessments were and the public's perception of market value last year versus this year. Quite honestly, I think people are liking that slight increase versus a decrease," said Sieloff. In addition, she feels the difference is "due to the efficiency, knowledge and skills of my very competent staff."

Not only does the Board of Review process offer residents an opportunity to talk about their assessment, but it also allows the assessors office to see where they need to focus their energy over the next year. "Every year we tweak the model," Sieloff said.

After 2012's Board of Review sessions, the assessors discovered discrepancies in the classes of houses and needed more recent appraisals. As a result, the townships assessment team "went out to every single house last year, took current pictures, and reviewed their class to make sure similar houses were being classed the same."

Classes of homes vary. For example, a class A home would be one with the finest quality, workmanship, and materials used to build it. It would be an architecturally designed home specific for use by one client. The elevations would be elaborate having many peaks, limestone accents, turned brick, varying angles, and a foundation with many cuts.

In contrast, a class C home would be those typically built in the mid to late 70s, whereby the same or very similar home would be built many times over in an area or subdivision, with little to no variation in the elevations, very little ornamentation if any, and the foundation walls would be straight and rectangular.

Reviewing the classes of houses in Independence Township was "a huge project, but it takes many months to go out and do that many field visits," said Sieloff. "This year, from the few appointments that we've received, we've already identified our next big project for next year."

The assessment team's 2013 project will involve "redefining our neighborhoods," Sieloff stated. "Mass appraisal utilizes a cost less depreciation methodology of valuation modified by economic conditions or market activity sales, and so when we actually get to the point where we are able to adjust for current market conditions, we use the neighborhood groupings that we have, analyze the sales that have occurred in those areas, and then make the appropriate adjustments to our assessment up or down according to what that sales analysis is telling us."

As the assessors tweak the model they use for mass appraisals, "if the neighborhood delineations aren't as accurate as they could be, then sometimes nonsimilar properties may or may not be grouped together, and that can pose a problem," Sieloff said. In 2013, the township's assessors intend to review the current neighborhood groupings to strengthen their model.

"Every year the cycle gets better, the process gets better, and it goes a little bit smoother," said Sieloff. "I'm very fortunate that I have such a skilled staff here; we're right on board with making the appropriate changes. We want our assessments to reflect market."

Property owners with questions about their assessments can address them with the Board of Review. "There are only a few rights that a property owner has in the ownership of property, one of which is to appeal their assessment," said Sieloff. "We are more than happy to go over it with you and make sure our records reflect an accurate representation of what's out there because that only helps us to do our job better."

The Board of Review has appointments available on March 14 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and on March 15 from 9 a.m. to 12. Call 248-625-8114 for more information.



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Eagle Ridge open space development goes forward

BY MARY KECK

Clarkston News Staff Writer

From a golf course to open space, plans to develop the area around Morgan Lake have been in limbo since the late 80s, but those sketches may soon leave the drawing board and become reality.

Plans for a residential development on the southeast border of Independence Township saw their first reading at the Board of Trustees meeting on March 5.

Eagle Ridge LLC proposes to construct 228 homes on the 265 acre property, 66 of the houses will be on 90-foot lots, 70 on 80-foot lots, and 92 on 60-foot lots. Much of the land surrounding those parcels would be dedicated open space instead of the 18-hole golf course originally drawn up and partially constructed.

At the public hearing in November, Planning Commissioners asked Eagle Ridge to reduce the number of 60-foot lots; however, the number has increased from 81 to 92.

The larger amount of 60-foot lots doesn't trouble Trustee Ron Ritchie who is also a member of the Planning Commission. From his point of view, Eagle Ridge LLC has "gone a long way" to compromise.

Ritchie points out, "the overall number of lots went down from 230 to 228, and the township has retained the right to review each proposed home individually when they obtain a building permit for conformance on each lot."

In addition to concerns about the lot sizes, residents who attended the Planning Commission's public hearing were worried about the potential

increase in traffic as drivers could cut over to Maybee road from Rohr and Morgan roads.

Eagle Ridge LLC's amended plans now show the only public entrance into the development at Maybee road; the other roads would be gated for emergency vehicle access only.

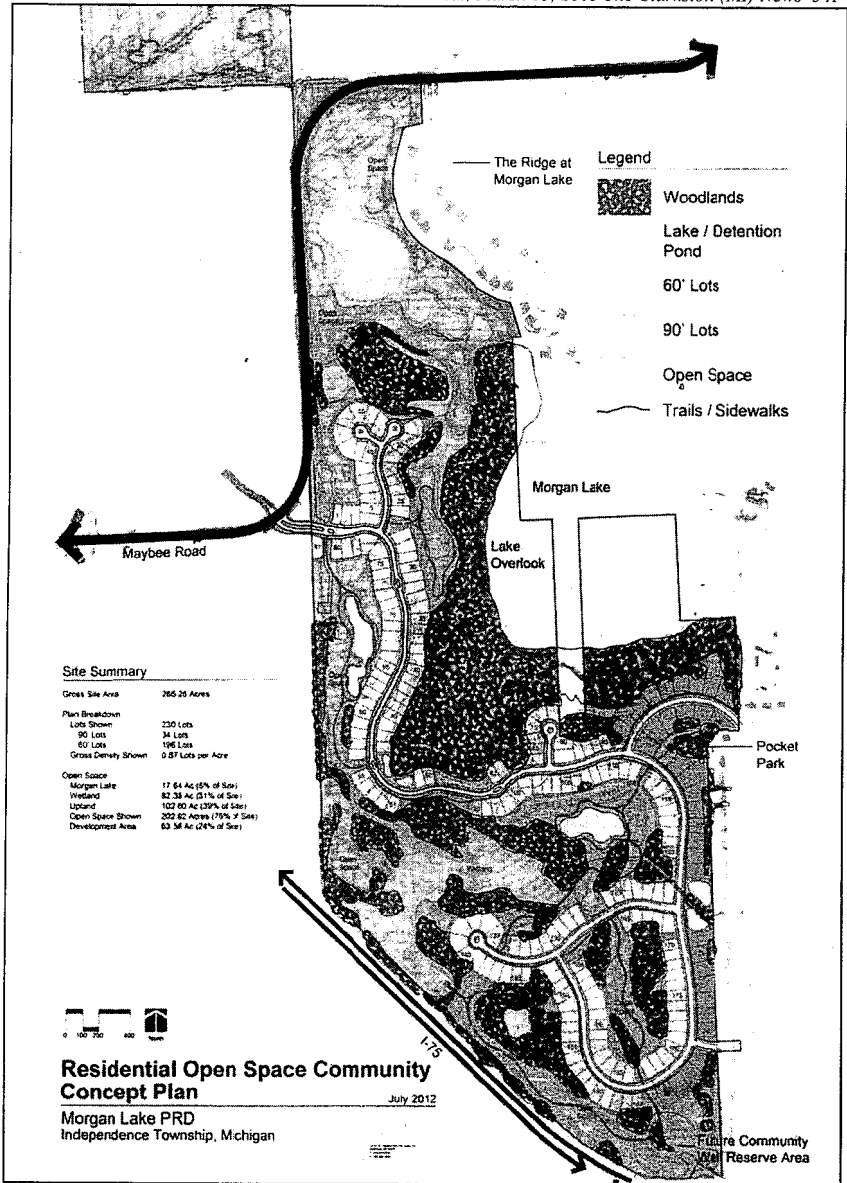
Before a second reading, Eagle Ridge must negotiate with the Homeowners Association for The Ridge at Morgan Lake. The North border of the Eagle Ridge development plan touches properties of those who live in The Ridge at Morgan Lake. They were promised a golf course when they purchased their houses.

Trustee Andrea Schroeder recused herself from the first reading on March 5 because she is president of The Ridge at Morgan Lake Homeowners Association. She spoke on behalf of her fellow property owners at the Planning Commission's public hearing in November, however.

"Some of our homeowners paid significant premiums to be on golf course frontage," Schroeder said. "We would request further discussion on the dedication of the portion of the open space to those lots that have the immediate golf course frontage."

The homeowners also wanted to engage in more discussion with the developer about how the land would be restored and to determine what entity would be responsible for the open space that would have been a golf course.

Without Schroeder, the Board of Trustees approved the amended plans for the development in a 6-0 vote.



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Wendi's Word

A column by Wendi Reardon

Counting down

I am one week away from my last bout of my nutrition program with Nuview Nutrition.

Well, the last bout before I head into a lifetime of maintenance.

A year ago seemed scary to think vegetables with no butter or covered in cheddar cheese would be alright.

A year ago I would shudder at the thought of no sugary coffee drinks, no pizza, or no chocolate treats. Basically anything unseemingly bad.

Now, it's not as scary. It seems scarier to go back to it. It's been a long journey, and I don't want to go back on the path I was on.



Eight months later, the only candy I buy is for my desk for my coworkers. Yes, I have heard the question, why buy it if you can't have it? I always bought candy to have on hand, but before I would keep it hidden in my desk - if it even made it to the office. I like buying candy.

Plus, if you are an avid reader of this column, and why wouldn't you be? (Don't answer...) You might recall when I discussed relying on smells to get me by.

I still rely on smells. A whiff of chocolate gets me through. I don't need the taste of it. I relied on my other senses. Actually I have gotten to the point I don't need the smell of it.

Sure, I find myself a little weak when I smell popcorn and found myself wanting it for my last, bad weekend. But now the longing is passing which is funny because for weeks I was looking forward to a huge bag (now thinking medium, possibly small) of popcorn while enjoying a show at the movie theater.

Maybe I spent eight months working in a movie theater when I was a teenager living off popcorn. Or possibly all the fatty goodness thoughts have worn off. I don't want it anymore.

How can this be? I get one more weekend then no more. I get two more days. I had a countdown to a minty Shamrock Shake with whip cream. Or my favorite pasta dish from a local restaurant, which I know for sure is loaded with fat.

Well, I have five more days until I get to be bad one last time. I need to get back into the mood because once Camp NaNoWriMo (writing another 50,000 word novel in April and July) begins I will long for those bad days. Or just coffee with cream.

Opinion Pages

Letters, columns & Editorials

Sixth grader calls for less coffee for kids

Dear Editor,

I am in sixth grade in middle school. Some people in my school talk about drinking coffee and energy drinks. I think kids our age should not drink things like that. It will only cause problems for everyone.

After some research, I found out there can be many problems for kids who drink coffee. The caffeine in coffee can cause problems in getting enough sleep at night. Then they end up feeling tired and not doing well in school the next day. Sometimes they even fall asleep during class. This causes distractions for other students, and makes it harder for the class to complete all of our lessons.

There are other side effects from drinking coffee. The website aupair.org had a very informative article about it. They said caffeine consumption can cause high blood pressure, heart burn, stomach problems and headaches.

Also kids tend to like coffee with sweeteners. That means they are adding things like sugar and whipped cream. Those things can cause problems in addition to the ones caffeine causes, such as obesity and diabetes. If kids become hyperactive, they

cause problems for other students. They make it hard for the rest of us to stay focused on our work.

Finally, every parent knows how kids can be. If you let them have a sip of coffee, the next thing you know they'll be negotiating coffee breaks every 15 minutes each time they do their chores! They will just drink more and more and spiral out of control.

In all, I think it is a bad thing for kids younger than 13 to start drinking coffee. That is also true about other energy drinks. They might think it makes them look cool, but there are too many problems to be worth the trouble that it can cause for them and for other people.

My solution is for parents and schools to keep drinks with caffeine away from students and off of school grounds. Student council could make posters showing the bad effects of these drinks, and maybe if some kids started to understand, then it could become the popular choice and everybody wins.

Thank you.

Aiden Miller
Sixth grader at
Sashabaw Middle School

Reader predicts 400 ft burn policy trouble

Dear Editor,

In response to "A call to respect neighbors when open burning," Feb. 27, Tammie Heazlit should do herself and her neighbors a favor and report the neighbor who is burning from "7 a.m. till after dark, up to 16 hours straight." Your neighbor is clearly violating township burn policies.

FYI, March 8 thru Nov. 1, summer hours, are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., 12 hours. Winter hours, Nov. 2 thru March 7, are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., 10 hours. Burning is allowed only on designated days.

As for the 400-foot policy, I can foresee big problems enforcing a policy taking away one's burning privileges based solely upon who lives next door.

I've followed the open burning policy for 28 years. I certainly would respect a neighbor's illness and coordinate my burn-

ing accordingly.

I think the 400-foot rule is a bad policy that pits neighbor against neighbor and won't accomplish a thing. We both know that it's foolish to believe that a 400-foot rule is going to stop the wind from carrying smoke to someone's house.

The proper solution should have been a designated ONE Saturday per month, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. open burn policy, with strict fines for violating this policy.

This type of policy would be easy to enforce and respects the wishes of both non-burners and burners. Both parties should be making concessions, not just the burners. The new board needs to re-examine this policy and make it fair for all, or it will never hear the end of it!

Michael Powell
Independence Township

A Look Back

From The CNews archives

15 years ago - 1998

"Township ponders ordinance for sidewalk liability" Following a Michigan Supreme Court ruling on imposing liability on townships for injuries and damages resulting from the failure to maintain and repair sidewalks, Independence Township attorney Gerry Fisher told board members an ordinance should be created. It would not cover acts of nature like snow and ice but only the physical condition of the sidewalks.

"Rain, rain go away" Almond Lakes residents bordering a wetland area and the new Clarkston High School were worried about overflow from two retention ponds. Independence Township DPW was on hand with pumps and sandbags just in case. School officials said excessive rain was the problem.

25 years ago - 1988

"Awards pour in for schoolteacher" Greg Clevenger, an Independence Township resident, earned the Outstanding Contribution to the Commemoration of the Bicentennials of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights from the Council for Advancement of Citizenship for his unique teaching techniques he used in his Rochester Adams High School's social studies class.

"I-75 shouldn't be bad" Planners of an I-75 widening project hoped construction wouldn't make traffic too bad for commuters. Planners hoped to keep two lanes open in each direction during work days, longer on weekends. Plans called for widening the highway from two to three lanes between M-15 and M-24.

"Junior highs begin transition to middle schools" Clarkston and Sashabaw junior high schools were in the midst of a transition to the middle school concept. Planners worked on new programs designed to help in the growing-up process.

50 years ago - 1963

"Cookies anyone?" Clarkston was filled with eager Girl Scouts as they took orders for their annual cookie sale. They offered five kinds of cookies - mint, peanut butter patties, shortbread, chocolate and vanilla sandwich cremes and a new peanut butter sandwich cookie.

"Local news" Scott Cameron, 3 months and son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Cameron was home following a bout with pneumonia in St. Joseph Mercy Hospital.

The voice of a free people

For consideration for each Wednesday's edition, the deadline is noon the Monday before (earlier is better!). Submission does not guarantee publication.

You can drop them off or mail them to 5 S.

Main Street, Clarkston, MI 48346; fax them at 248-625-0706; or e-mail ClarkstonNews@gmail.com.

Any questions, call The Clarkston News at 248-625-3370.

Keep local, state government transparent, accountable

Welcome to Sunshine Week, and no, I am not talking about the fickle weather in the state. I am talking about the public's right and responsibility to keep an eye on what our government at the local, state and federal level are up to— from our legislators to our bureaucrats, school boards, state universities, teachers, mayors, managers, department heads, council members, cops and others.

Guest viewpoint



By Jane Briggs-Bunting

Sunshine Week, a national initiative to encourage discussion on the importance of open government and freedom of information, is celebrated annually in mid-March to coincide with James Madison's March 16 birthday.

Sunshine Week is also the official launch of the Michigan Coalition for Open Government (MiCOG). Michigan was one of just two states nationally (the other is Alaska) without an open government group. MiCOG's purpose is three-fold:

1. To promote and protect transparency and accountability in state and local governments;

2. To recommend significant freedom of information, open meetings and public access legal cases to the National Freedom of Information Coalition (NFOIC) for financial support;

3. And to create educational programs and information.

And MiCOG invites you to join its efforts.

Why? Citizens and journalists are having greater difficulty obtaining public documents from government agencies. They are deterred by long delays in responses and high fees. Most individuals and smaller news organizations do not have the resources to mount legal challenges in FOIA and OMA cases.

But MiCOG can help with that. MiCOG makes citizens and news media in our state eligible to access some of the \$2M the Knight Foundation gave to NFOIC to fund worthwhile open access litigation. If the plaintiff prevails and recovers attorney fees and court costs (as required under Michigan's FOI and OMA), that money

goes back to the national group for future lawsuits around the nation. The NFOIC relies on state open government groups to recommend cases that could tap into the Knight funds. The national committee decides whether to back a case financially. One key role of MiCOG's board is to make certain that only cases with good sets of facts go to court to make good law.

This type of support is necessary now more than ever. A 2010 survey by the NFOIC and the Knight Foundation concluded that the economic crisis plus declining revenues for print and broadcast media resulted in a sharp decline in FOI requests and litigation nationwide. In the past five years, the number of open government lawsuits filed by the news media in 23 states fell "dramatically."

Another eight states also reported declines. Nearly 80 percent of state FOI coalitions reported drops. Ominously, 85 percent said they expected FOI litigation to drop in the next three years. Neither Michigan nor Alaska participated since both lacked open government groups, a deficiency MiCOG corrects.

Effective use of the FOIA is critical to

keep tabs on public officials around the state.

The situation is critical for Michigan where ethics and anti-corruption laws barely exist. In 2012 Michigan earned a failing grade, ranking 44th of 50 states (www.stateintegrity.org/michigan) in a State Integrity Investigation (www.stateintegrity.org/) jointly done by the Center for Public Integrity, Global Integrity and Public Radio International. Michigan had a dismal showing for key transparency checkpoints: public access to information (D), ethics enforcement agencies (F); judicial, executive and legislative accountability (all F) and political financing/lobbying disclosure (both F).

Local governments from schools and universities to municipalities and police are usually just as non-responsive, as well.

If you want to help, visit the MiCOG website, www.miopengov.org. Join the effort to keep governments of the people, by the people and for the people transparent and accountable to all of us.

Jane Briggs-Bunting, Michigan Coalition for Open Government. Public Notices this week are on Page 30.

Saving America from Itself and Facebook

Okay, call me kookie, but I have been flirting with the idea of ditching my very own, personal Facebook page. I know, I know. Younger folk will think this is totally un-American -- but I have to admit, the thought has been bouncing around inside my cranium since January.

It's nothing against Facebook, the company, and more about Facebook, the *idea*.

If you talk to folks who know me (including family members) and ask them how forthcoming I am about my personal life, they might answer something like this: "Donald. Hmm. He's male, middle aged and works for a newspaper, I think."

I don't like sharing intimate details. Personal stuff, by definition, is personal stuff -- not public stuff.

Feelings = personal

Finances = personal

Life when not working = personal

I don't like talking about that stuff in real life, so I really see no need to cyber share about what I think during moments of "social networking." Because of my reluctance to "share" I was slow to swim the murky waters of Facebook. My very own sisters hog-tied and beat me with a rubber hose until I submitted to their demands.

Since I was so closed-mouth in person, I think they figured they could communicate easier with their big brother via Facebook. What has happened since is I communicate just as good on Facebook as I do in person. I have missed family outings and probably whizzed them

off big time. Sorry, little sisters.

I know, I suck.

I am much better "sharing" in print. In a newspaper there isn't much opinion, so mine stands out. Maybe I'm just a shallow, shallow man. On Facebook, everybody's got an opinion and they all share it, freely, frequently. Since everybody is shouting what they think, the highly trained and honed opinions of yours truly are drowned out. I don't like the competition. Like I said, I am a small, shallow man.

Facebook is taking over folks' lives. They share everything -- and I mean everything -- with the world. Love-life things, religious views, political rants, to when their first born has a good bowl movement.

I think I should be the leader in *Saving America from Itself and Facebook*. Right here and now, I propose we have a Facebook-off, one day without posting ANYTHING on Facebook (yes, and that includes those oh-so-cute moments when Lil' Jimmy plays in the toilet or spits up a crayon). This I say: *April 1st -- no fooling, no Facebook*.

So written, so let it be done.

* * *

I am starting to scare myself. I think micro-satellite technology is eroding my manhood. The old, rough and tumble, ruggedly individualistic and self-reliant Don has

been replaced by some namby-pamby scare-die-cat Don. And, I don't like it!

This revelation hit me hard the other day whilst I was driving to work. I felt funny. Insecure. Unsafe. I got about five miles from home before I realized I didn't have my cell phone with me. Despite being the cheapest guy in town, I turned around and drove back home lest I be without the danged cell phone, wasted gas be damned!

What did we do before mobile, cell phones? How did we survive? I drove all over this great country of ours as a younger man. I drove to places I had never been and where they didn't even speak English -- places way up in Canada where they spoke French and places way down in the Appalachian Mountains where they spoke -- I don't even know what it is they spoke, t'warn't English is all I know.

I did all this with no fear and no cell phone.

What happened to me?

That stupid cell phone is with me, or near me nearly 24 hours a day. It's my alarm clock in the morning, flashlight at night -- my buddy all the time. Thing is, I can't escape my new pal, Cell Phone.

I think I need to go into the woods and find myself. Time for me to be one with nature. No electronics. Crap! I am really starting to scare myself. Is this how Ted Kaczynski started?

Comments for the anti-Don can be emailed to: Don@ShermanPublications.org



A column by Don Rush



HAT PARTY: Independence Township Senior Adult Activity Center hosted a Mad Hatter Tea Party, March 5, with tea, exotic food and games of Crazy Eights Bingo. "Everyone who attended had a great time," said Mary Melega, senior center programmer. *Photo provided*

Public Safety

For Clarkston and Independence Township

Drunk driving with kids

A deputy noticed the license plate tab on a car on Andersonville Road didn't look right so he stopped it, 3:26 p.m., March 1. The driver, a 46-year-old Waterford woman, smelled of alcohol and had a preliminary breath test of .121. She was arrested and jailed for drunk driving and child endangerment, for having her 12-year-old daughter and a friend in the car with her. Her husband, a 46-year-old Waterford man who was also in the vehicle, said he made the license plate tab. Investigation continues.

No fault nor license

A 44-year-old Brandon Township woman wasn't at fault in a traffic accident at Sashabaw and Meadows Drive, 7:44 p.m., March 1, but was cited for driving with an expired driver's license.

Drunk speeder

A 33-year-old Waterford Township man was stopped for going 65 mph in a 45 mph zone on Sashabaw Road near Pelton Road, 1:57 a.m., March 2. Smelling of beer, he said he was heading home from work after having a couple drinks in Auburn Hills. Preliminary breath test was .146, and he was jailed for drunk driving and cited for speeding.

Broken tail light

A 57-year-old Independence Township woman was stopped for a broken tail light on Maybee Road and Pine Knob Lane, 8:13 p.m., March 2. She was cited for driving with an expired license and defective equipment.

Expired license

A deputy on patrol stopped a 31-year-old Texas man for turning on a red light at Main and Washington streets, 4:10 p.m., March 2. He was cited for driving with an expired license, no proof of insurance, and running the light.

Domestic assault

A 19-year-old Independence Township woman was arrested for domestic assault, 10:58 p.m., March 3. The woman reportedly attacked her live-in boyfriend with a knife, then locked herself in his apartment along with his two young children. He was treated for minor injuries. The children were unharmed.

Behavior problems

A 14-year-old Independence Township boy was upset when his mother took away his X-box for behavior problems, which led to his expulsion from school, so he kicked a hole in the wall of their home, 11:36 a.m., March 3. The mother locked herself in her bedroom and he kicked open the door, yelled at her, and took the X-box. She took his sister to a friend's house, found when she returned he had locked her out, and called police. Deputies spoke to the boy, who is under a counselor's care and on medication - he remained angry and defiant.

Call Crime Stoppers of Southeast Michigan at 1-800-SPEAK UP, or Oakland County Sheriff's Office CRIME TIPLINE, 888-TURN-1-IN OR 1-888-887-6146.



SWAN IN THE STREET: An Oakland County Sheriff's deputy checks on a swan on Davisburg Road near Dixie Highway, March 6. The bird was in the roadway and seemed injured, so Arlene Badgley of Independence Township and other passing motorists stopped to check on it, call police, and take some pictures. *Photo provided*

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Clarkston's Sporting News

Spring Sports

A new season has begun and we are preparing for our *Spring Sports Preview*. Call 248-625-3370 to sponsor a team

Cagers' heartbreaker

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

The Wolves held onto the lead with 1:09 left in the MHSAA District Semifinals against Romeo last Wednesday with a 48-45 score.

The Bulldogs turned it around within the small amount of time to score seven points, winning the game 52-48 and ending Clarkston's season.

"I am disappointed for the kids. I thought going into it we had a chance to win it," said Dan Fife, Clarkston Boys Varsity Basketball head coach.

"We played a lot of tough teams in the state especially during the summer. Every game we were finding ways and new ways on how to win. Yet there were times all of us seemed to get into a mental state of confusion. I give credit to Romeo, they came in and played us well and controlled the tempo of the game. They did everything they had to do to win."

Junior Nick Owens led the team with 19 points, with five field goals. Seniors Jordan Dasuqi scored ten with two 3-pointers and Dylan Hancock added seven in the game.

The season ended for the Wolves with an overall record 18-4 and captured the OAA Red league title with a 11-1 record.

"All and all we had a pretty good year considering everything that went on," Fife said. "I was happy with 18-4 but just winning the league against some of the teams we

played against was quite an accomplishment."

The season began with four athletes not able to play - Nathan Yeloushan had surgery, Hancock had a foot injury, Dasuqi was out for the first two months and Chance Huth was out for four months.

The Wolves won their first three games of the season but fell to Rochester Adams and Troy before going on holiday break.

"After that we kept finding a way to win and beating teams which I thought at the time had more physical talent than us," said Fife. "Our kids stayed with it. I really thought we had a chance to sneak up on people and have a good run in the state tournament."

The team graduates five seniors in June - Blake Sutherland, Dasuqi, Hancock, Huth and Yeloushan. They have 11 returners coming back next season to hold onto their league title and go for the district title again.

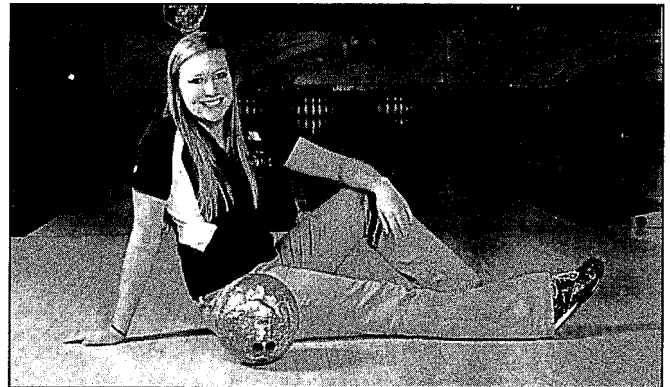
"You find out what's going to happen as soon as the season is over," Fife said about the off-season.

"Individual kids are made out of the season and teams are made during the season," he added. "What they do out of the season to make themselves better that will help them contribute will depend on them. It's not just shooting, it's weightlifting and ball handling. It's the same for anybody - you have to work hard and work on your weaknesses."



Jordan Dasuqi jumps past Romeo guards to score in the MHSAA District Semifinals. Photo by Larry Wright

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Bowler Hopkins ready for college

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

For senior Danielle Hopkins, her last season with the Clarkston Girls Varsity Bowling team was filled with memories and close bonds with her teammates.

"Our team had a lot of good chemistry," she said. "It was nice to see everyone transition and grow because we had a lot of new people who started this year. We stayed close as a team and we had a lot of fun this year."

Hopkins was the only senior on the team with two other returners from last year. The three were joined by five new bowlers.

"She was truly a leader," added Coach Eleanor Hallman. "She was willing to help others when needed and had a positive attitude. She is a hard worker and will go far with her talents in the future. She will be missed next year."

Hopkins added she helped the new bowlers with tournaments, how to move and when they need to and which bowling ball to use.

"Just knowing how it works helps a little more because it keeps everyone in the same line and in the same spot," she said.

Hopkins added her experience stems

from all the years she has participated in the sport. She began bowling when she could walk.

"My dad is a big bowler and had me in it for awhile," she said.

She joined the bowling team in her sophomore year after being on the cheer team in her freshman year. She added she made more connections with her teammates and coaches after the switch.

Hopkins will attend Western Michigan University in the fall where she will major in occupational therapy.

She explained she became interested in the field because her cousin is an occupational therapist. She added after graduating with her degree there are a lot of job options she could pursue.

Besides bowling in Saturday morning leagues and during the summer, she enjoys watching the Detroit Red Wings and outdoor activities, particularly camping and fishing.

Her advice for aspiring bowlers is to keep going.

"There are going to be struggles," she said. "Usually you can get past them if you play as a team and play with a passion."


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Lady Wolves edged out in overtime

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Senior Delaney Kenny passed the basketball to sophomore Erika Davenport with 17 seconds left to go in the MHSAA Girls Basketball Regional finals last Thursday.

Davenport shot the ball through the hoop and tied the score against Birmingham Marian, 37-37, receiving loud cheers from Clarkston fans.

She attempted one more basket with 5.5 seconds left to break the tie but missed sending the game into overtime.

Within 50 seconds of the new period, Marian's Kara Holinski scored on a 3-pointer, putting the score 40-37.

The Lady Wolves played to get control of the scoreboard again but time ran out.

"We had some opportunities and we just didn't convert or make the plays we needed to make," said Clarkston Girls Varsity Basketball Coach Tim Wasilk. "They hit a three and we just couldn't find a way to get it in the basket in overtime. Credit to their defense. They were well-coached and very disciplined. We knew that's how it was going to be."

It was a back and forth battle during the first quarter of the game until Davenport and Kacy Robinson scored a pair of baskets near the end, capturing the lead 10-7.

They built off of it, scoring 11 points in before the half closed, putting the score 21-16 at halftime.

Marian closed in on the score during the third quarter and took control of the game

with four completed free throw attempts in the last 45 seconds in the quarter, 29-27.

"They had good length and good depth," Wasilk said. "We knew it was going to be a challenge. Credit to our kids with the way they battled tonight."

Davenport led the team with 17 points and Kenny added nine points.

The Lady Wolves finished the season with a 22-2 overall record and were undefeated in the OAA Red. They won 20 consecutive games before losing to Marian.

"It was a great season," said Wasilk. "Our girls far exceeded expectation I had for them and they probably had for themselves. The team chemistry was great. It was a great team to coach. I couldn't be happier for these kids."

The ending may have been heartbreaking but being in the final round of regionals will help boost next year's team, Wasilk noted.

"When you get to a game and situation like this it gives you confidence," he added. "You have been here before and you belong here. It's not new to them. It gives them more comfort."

The team has nine returners coming back next year as they said goodbye to their three seniors - Kenny, Erin Davenport and Patrice Matthews.

"Our seniors did a heck of a job," Wasilk added. "What those girls have meant to our program is beyond words. We wouldn't be even in this game if we didn't have those three on the floor and in the program. They are great kids. I am excited for their future."



Kacy Robinson battles Marian for a clear shot. Photo by Larry Wright



From left, Mitch McLouth, Landon Hallaway, Eric Misteravich, James Nelson, Dalton Pokley and Joey Zendejas. Not pictured David Keer. Photo submitted

Wolves make a splash in state finals

Swimmers brought home medals after their trip to the MHSAA Division 1 State Championship last week.

The Clarkston Boys Swim team qualified for eight events during the season and finished in the top 16 in four events.

The team of Landon Hallaway, Dalton Pokley, James Nelson and Eric Misteravich

finished in 15th place in the finals in the 200-yard medley relay at 1:20.22. They qualified during the preliminaries, finishing in 14th place at 1:40.17.

Pokley also won medals in the 50-yard freestyle event, finishing in 13th place at 22.09; and 14th place in the 100-yard butterfly, 53.50. He qualified taking 16th place in

the prelims and made it by .46 seconds at 53.49.

Joey Zendejas finished in 15th place in the 1-meter diving event with a total scored of 346.30.

The swim team finished the season as OAA White league champions and seventh place at the Oakland County meet.

Winter sports are history

But we're always looking for the next Athlete of the Week!

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Bowlers finish in finals

Bowlers finished their winter season but not before the boys varsity team made one more stop at the state finals, March 2.

The Wolves started out strong with four baker games of 201, 191, 193 and 235 and were in first place with 820 pins.

"The next baker games we ran into trouble," said Coach Alan Pittman. "We missed a lot of spares bowling a 116 and a 142 for a baker set of 258. We regrouped and finished the baker games strong with 181 and 22 for a pin count of 1,485."

The boys were in fifth place after the eight baker games when they went into the first team game. Jacob Kersten bowled a 214, Eric Wagner had a 212 and Tim Cuthrell scored a 195 for a team game of 946 moving them to fourth place.

Cuthrell and Kersten led in the last game, Cuthrell had a 229 game and Kersten had a 193. They ended with a team game of 882 for a grand total of 3313 for ninth place. They missed the cut to advance to match play by six pins.

"We missed way too many spares and had some errors that eventually cost us," said Pittman. "We still had a great year, won a tournament, won our division, won the regional qualifier and ended up ninth in the state. They should still be proud of this years accomplishments."

Kersten competed in the singles portion - scoring 205, 219, 225, 137, 203 and 259 for a series total of 1248. His last game at 259 put him at fifth place.

He moved on to match play, taking on the #12 seed, Kody Wojewski from Wayne Memorial. Kersten won the match 362 to 295 af-

ter two games.

He moved on to the elite eight taking on #13 seed, Jeff Pietryka from Clinton Township Chippewa Valley. He lost the match 331 to 404.

"I am very proud of Jake, not only for his first time bowling in the state finals as a freshman but also how he conducted himself on and off the lanes," Pittman added. "He truly showed class even during his defeat. As a coach, this is what we aim to teach to all of our bowlers. I would like to thank Jacob for his achievements and for representing his school with true dignity. I couldn't be more proud of him."

The boys qualified for states after taking first place in the MHSAA Regionals.

Brock Novak led the way with 182, 212 and a 235 for a series of 629, the second highest for individual scoring. Kersten was second leading in the score with games of 208, 195 and 179 for a series of 582, which was eighth in individual scoring. Anthony Hernandez with a 198 game. Wagner had a 206 game and Kyle Kirby had a 242.

Kersten took eighth place in the singles tournament to qualify for states with a 1118 game.

The girls finished eighth out of 14 teams for the team competition at regionals. They scored 3137 after six baker games and three games.

Danielle Hopkins finished in 18th place, scoring a total of 1030 with a high game of 201. Vicki Wolfgang finished in 22nd place with a total of 995 and a high score of 219. Sophie Hubble finished 23rd with a total score of 990 with a high game score of 182.



The Clarkston Boys Varsity Bowling team celebrates winning MHSAA Regionals. Photo provided



Jacob LaPorte grabs control of the puck and heads out of the defensive zone. Photo by Larry Wright

Wolves bow out early

BY WENDI REARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer

Icers finished their season to Lake Orion in the MHSAA Pre-Regionals, Feb. 26, 5-3.

The Wolves opened the game with the lead off a power play goal by junior Jacob LaPorte off an assist from junior Garrett Polish and senior Adam Johns.

"We played a good first period," said Clarkston Varsity Hockey Head Coach Bryan Krygier. "Then, the second period we got into penalty trouble again. It was a little bit recurrence from previous trouble in the season."

The Dragons tied the game at the beginning of the second period. The lead was short lived as junior Eric Matynowski pulled the Wolves back into the lead off a power play goal from Polish's second assist for the night at 14:29 left in the period.

Less than two minutes later, Lake Orion scored on a power play goal and added three more goals before the period finished.

"We dug ourselves a hole by that point and couldn't get ourselves out of it," said Krygier. "In the second period we lost. Orion had two power play goals, then they picked up a few other goals that were soft on our defensive zone. There was no reason some of those goals went in. We didn't

clear the pucks out of the zone. We didn't give our goalie Jack Viazanko any help. It was mental breakdown and our positional play wasn't there when it should have been."

Johns ended the game with a power play goal with 1:35 to go in the third period, with an assist from Matynowski.

The boys finished the season with a 12-12-2 overall record.

They have 16 players returning next season with 11 becoming seniors next year.

"They should have the message on what they need to do," said Krygier. "They should also have the experience of what not to do again. I think it should be a lot better season next year based on the experience of the players we have. They will understand the systems better. They will understand the concepts better. They will understand the process of what we go through on the ice to make things work better."

The team loses five seniors to graduation - newcomers this year John Foust, A.J. Kowal, Matt Denny and Joe Smith and four-year veteran Johns.

"He helped out us tremendously in senior leadership," Krygier added.



Students in their characters, from left, Ella Chick as Natalie Coughlin, Carson Funck as Taylor Lautner, camera person Morgan Hunter, TV anchorperson Owen Meyer, Grace Spencer as Princess Diana, Mason Randolph as Elvis Presley, and Jordynn Haden as Taylor Swift. Photo provided

Imagineers heading to state finals

Students from around Clarkston competed in the Destination Imagination regional tournament on March 2 at Waterford Kettering High School.

The Imagineers, a team of seven students from North Sashabaw, chose the Real to Reel challenge for which they selected a community service need, recorded a video, and pre-

pared a skit about their work in our community. For their project, they visited a local assisted living facility and entertained the residents. They read to the residents, played games, performed a violin solo, and brought therapy dogs to the center.

At the competition in an 8-minute presentation, the students showed their video, re-

viewed the project, and conducted a press conference. Their efforts earned them third place and an invitation to the state finals in Mt. Pleasant at Central Michigan University on April 20. Destination Imagination is an extra-curricular activity in which students work in teams to develop creative solutions to complex challenges.

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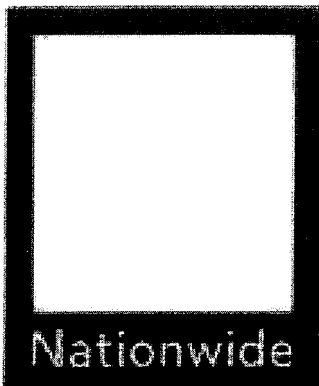
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Congratulations Pat Toohey!

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We wish Pat and his family years of health and happiness in retirement.

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More to come on leaf burning

BY MARY KECK
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Since adopting a new burn policy last fall, the Independence Township Trustees have heard mixed reviews, but they aren't finished tweaking the Open Burning Ordinance just yet.

At their first meeting in March, Supervisor Pat Kittle and Treasurer Paul Brown clarified burning restrictions and exceptions to Open Burning.

They noted the Open Burning Ordinance allows locals to burn on their property without a permit as long as the fire is restricted to a container such as a fireplace, chiminea, firepot, charcoal cooker, or barbecue grill.

The Burn Policy adopted in October bans burn permits for anyone living within 400 feet of a neighbor with a medical condition exacerbated by smoke, but such a medically based ban would not apply to a fire as long as it is contained.

On the other hand, residents living in an area where a neighbor has secured a medical restriction on burning cannot get a permit allowing leaf and twig burning, and they cannot have bonfires and campfires.

During previous board meetings on

banning leaf burning, numerous citizens expressed concern about their inability to eliminate yard waste without the option of having a fire on their property.

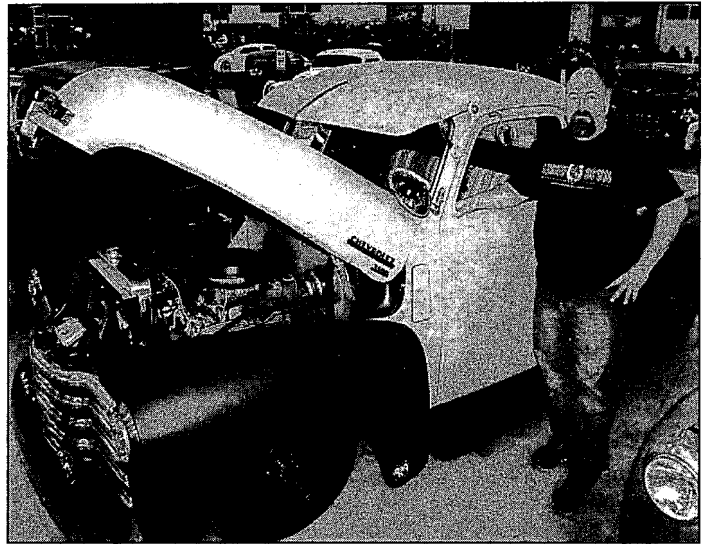
When it comes to leaf burning, Clerk Barb Pallotta said the township is trying to "figure out a way to help our residents dispose of them without it being a financial burden."

"We are working on that, and we'll keep you posted," Pallotta said.

"I hate burning leaves, but I cannot go forward with any kind of proposal until we have some method to dispose of them in some cost efficient manner," said Kittle. "When we find that, I wouldn't mind going forward with a motion to ban burning period, as far as brush and leaves."

Currently, leaf and brush burning is restricted to individuals with burn permits, and it can only be done on the following days for properties less than three acres: March 16, 17, 19, and 21.

Check the fire department's calendar on www.independencetwp.org for more burn dates. View the township's Burn Ordinance on www.twp.independence.mi.us. The board next meeting will be on March 19 at 7 p.m. at Township Hall on Waldon Road.



Erik Standford of Clarkston, with his 1949 Chevrolet 3100 on display at AutoRama. Photos provided

Cars at show

Detroit AutoRama last week at Cobo Center was a chance for gearheads to show folks the results of their hard work.

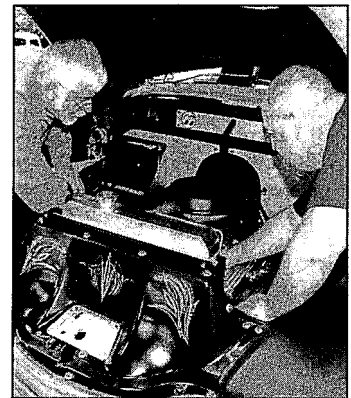
Clarkston residents Erik Standford and Steven Smith were there. Standford displayed his 1949 Chevrolet 3100 truck, which he built with his dad, Don Standford of Ortonville.

Smith brought his violet 1970 Plymouth Road Runner, which he has been restoring for the last two years.

"All new rear sheet metal, quarter panels, and floor, everything rebuilt mechanically to like-new with a Hemi four speed transmission, six-barrel motor, AM, 8-track radio, Hurst pistol grip shifter - I love it," Smith said. "It's great to drive, with a lot of power and a lot of style."

He has been collecting and restoring cars for 20 years, including two Dodge Challengers and a 1972 El Camino.

Detroit AutoRama, which was March 8-10 at Cobo Center, is the largest and oldest show of customized cars, trucks, vans,



Don Standford, at left, and his son Erik Standford check the 350 engine on Erik's 1949 Chevrolet 3100.

motorcycles and hot rods in North America.

"It's a great experience," Smith said. "People are very polite. They ask a lot of questions and I love to answer them."

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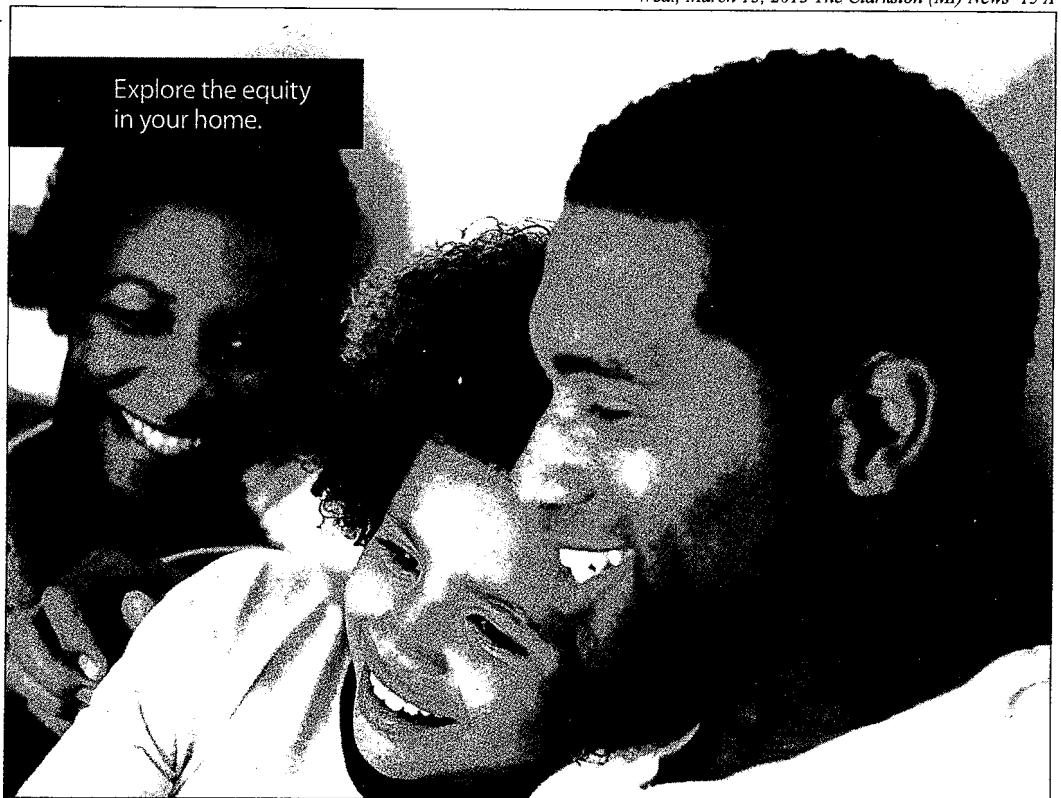
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Erin Grindling, M.D., Sam Bahat, M.D., Patricia Scamman, M.D.



NEW MARINES: Ty Vandesteene, at left, and Ryan Butterfield are both 2012 Clarkston High School graduates, and both graduated from Platoon 2020, Company E, Marine Corps bootcamp, March 1. The newly minted Marines are heading to Camp Geiger in North Carolina for combat training, then on to advanced training at Pensacola, Fla. — Butterfield in aviation electronics and Vandesteene in aviation mechanics. *Photo provided*



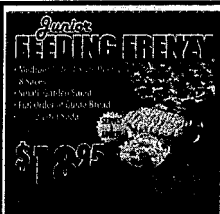
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Sherry Regiani, as Kelly Ann Starbright, with Bob and Anna Short,...



...Charlie Barnett and Myrna Hirn...



...from left, Pat and Pat Mueller, and Roger Diederich...



...her mom Helen Hutnik, who, at 97 years of age, is the oldest Optimist in Michigan, and Elaine Middlekauff...



...Carrie and John Clark...



... from left, Laura Blicher, Jan Merz, and Connie Smolek...



...Dan Regiani and her daughter, Angie Cavazos, and...

Mystery Optimists

As one of the "official photographers" for movie star Kelly Ann Starbright, AKA Sherry Regiani, at the Clarkston Optimist Club mystery dinner *Murder Takes a Cruise*, this reporter got many pictures of her as she graced fellow passengers with her presence. He did manage to get a picture of this year's culprit, however.

The club raised about \$10,410 for its youth programs at the annual fund raiser, March 16, at Paint Creek Golf Club in Lake Orion.

— Phil Custodio

Andrea Schroeder and Todd Richard nab the perpetrator at this year's murder mystery, fellow actor Jim Evans. His character, Dr. Jimmy Sparrow, was dressed like a pirate, which had to be some kind of clue.



...from left, Linda Walker, Bill Cox, Gerry Schmidt, and Sue Ring.

CNews People Poll March 13, 2013

What's the most exotic food you've eaten?



"Chicken's feet - it was horrible!"

- Ashley Vaughn



"Alligator bites. They were really, really good."

- Lauren Fisher



"Squid. It was very good."

- Brendan Kelly



"Cow Tongue. It was weird, but it tasted good."

- Nick Waclawski



"Octopus. It tasted salty and had a weird texture."

- Nicole Foster



"Kangaroo. It was gamey."

- Emma Frye

By Mary Keck

The Clarkston News' Millstream

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

Feeding the hungry around the world

BY WENDI REARDON

Clarkston News Staff Writer

The community fed 166,128 children around the world in one hour last year.

Clarkston High School students in Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) club would like to see more fed this year during the second annual Kids Against Hunger event, March 23.

"It was an eye opener," said Caelah Clark. "It was something to involve so many different age groups. It was so universal because we were helping so many places."

"It was really powerful and exciting to be there and know you are making a difference even in a small amount of time," Jenna Gordinier added. "It was a good experience to have."

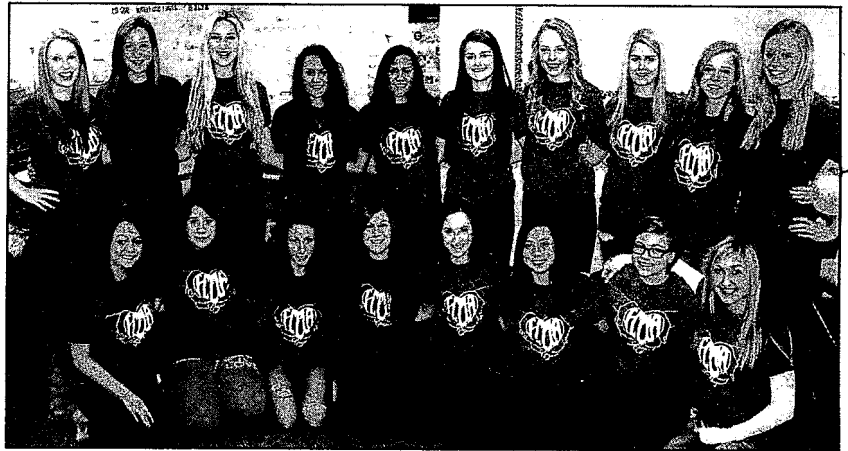
The event helps local organizations as well as national and international organizations. A third of the donations will go to a local food shelter.

Members of the club added one dollar can feed 42 children.

"You never knew you could make that much of an impact on an event so small," added Morgan Dellowe. "Once you are there, you don't even know how big of an impact it has on people who don't have food or who don't have places to eat or sleep. It is literally life changing."

During the one hour, volunteers package a cup of soy, cup of rice, tablespoon of dried vegetables and tablespoon of chicken seasoning into each bag. Each bag feeds six adults or 12 children.

The food is formulated to meet



Students in Clarkston High School's Family, Career and Community Leaders of America club prepare for Kids Against Hunger. Photo by Wendi Reardon

nutritional needs of a person suffering from malnutrition or starvation.

Registration fee to participate in the event is \$10 per individual or \$25 per family, which goes to the cost of the food.

If interested in participating or donating, contact Lisa Donley at ldonley@clarkston.k12. Registration forms are located at the high school main office.

The event is in the high school's cafeteria and begins at 10 a.m., with registration at 9:30 a.m.

"It feels really good to know the community can come together to help," Gordinier said. "It brings the community together and makes everyone feel good about themselves."



Volunteers in an assembly line package food for the hungry.

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Events

St. Patty's Party, 7 p.m., March 16, St. Daniel's Cushing Center, 7010 Valley Park Boulevard. Irish style dinner, entertainment by Tom Farrell and Larry McLeod. \$15/each, \$25/couple. 248-394-1034, 248-933-9179.

Landscaping for Wildlife with Vern Stephens, Wild Ones, North Oakland Chapter, 7:30-9 p.m., March 16, St. Daniel Church Cushing Center, 7010 Valley Park Drive. Free. Register, annebushroe@hotmail.com.

Mind Body Green Expo, 3-7 p.m., March 20, Deer Lake Athletic Club. Presentations, classes, speakers, exhibitors on healthy living, wellness, fitness, etc. Clarkston Area Chamber of Commerce, 1248-625-8055.

Easter Egg Hunt, 3 p.m., March 23, Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road. Easter Bunny, crafts, snacks. 248-625-1611.

Carrick House Concert, 7 p.m., March 23, with Wayward Roots, acoustic bluegrass, along with The Hackwells and special guest Olivia Millerschin. \$15 donation. 248-394-0113.

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.

Around Town



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



Divorced couple Hannah Warren, played by Wendy Hedstrom, and Billy Warren, performed by Dan Cook, in the Clarkston Village Player's production of Niel Simon's California Suite. Photo by M.Keck

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.

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.

Look Good Feel Better, American Cancer Society, free makeover for all women in cancer treatment, third Mondays, March 18, May 20, July 15, Sept. 16, Nov. 18, 1-3 p.m., McLaren Clarkston, 5680 Bow Pointe. 800-395-LOOK.

Tuesday

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.

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.

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.; Saturdays, 12-1 p.m. Clarkston Hot Yoga, 5678 Sashabaw Road. 248-620-7101.

Clarkston Community Women's Club, 7 p.m., March 19, Clarkston Independence District Library, 6495 Clarkston Road. All welcome, www.ClarkstonWomensClub.org.

Wednesday

Independents for Responsible Government, Please see Around Town on page 30

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Actors James Hoxey and Cynthia Haaseth perform as Marvin and Millie Michaels who travel to California for a Bar Mitzvah, but their trip takes a hilarious turn when a prostitute overstays her welcome. Photo by Mary Keck

Laughs about life in *California Suite*

BY MARY KECK

Clarkston News Staff Writer

Travel offers a lot more than a change of scenery for the characters in the Clarkston Village Player's latest comedy, Neil Simon's *California Suite*. The production is made up of four playlets, each one packed with laugh-out-loud hilarity.

From beginning to end, *California Suite* presents "a lot of humor with a lot of humanity," said Director Jan Cable. That's because the play is not only just funny, but it is also about life, Cable pointed out.

In one playlet, divorced couple Hannah Warren played by Wendy Hedstrom and William (Billy) Warren performed by Dan Cook are reunited after many years of separation. Between their bouts of witty banter, the Warrens must negotiate for custody of their teenage daughter who prefers Beverly Hills to New York City.

Another sidesplitting playlet features actor James Hoxey playing Marvin Michaels and actor Cynthia Haaseth who performs as Millie Michaels. Once Millie arrives at the hotel to meet her husband, her trip to catch an in-jaw's Bar Mitzvah takes a hilarious turn

when a prostitute, overstays her welcome.

California Suite's four story lines reveal the funny in true-to-life scenarios and take audiences on a hilarious and relatable trip. According to Cable, this lifelike comedy is typical of Neil Simon's work. "He knew human behavior," she explained.

"We like to do one show that is seasoned, that is a classic and by an author who is well known, and *California Suite* is one of Neil Simon's very popular shows," she said.

From Cable's point of view, the Clarkston Village Player's latest production isn't only one the audience will enjoy, but the actors are delighted with it too. "They're having a good time up there. I think the audience will see that," she said.

Find out why Neil Simon's play *California Suite* has succeeded at drawing audiences since 1976 by stopping by the Depot Theater at 4861 White Lake Road on March 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, or 23.

Purchase tickets on www.clarkstonvillageplayers.org or call the ticket line at 248-575-4104. Watch an extended interview with Director Jan Cable on ClarkstonTV.com.

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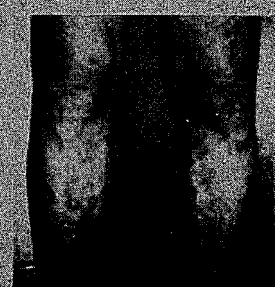
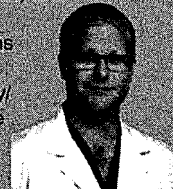
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Religion

Events Preaching

Start 'Holy Habits' in Spring

This past weekend with warm temperatures and sunshine, the birds singing in the trees and the snow melting, I sensed springtime in the air.

It is always such a relief when it seems that we have once again made it through another winter. I begin to plan the garden and even can't wait to get outside to do yard work.

I love to watch everything come back to life. Even though I know winter will try to return again in the next few weeks, I also know that spring and life will win the day.

In our lives of faith a similar struggle takes place during this season of preparation for Easter that we call Lent.

In fact the word Lent comes from an old Anglo-Saxon word for "springtime." That seems to fit well, as Lent can be a spring-like renewal of faith. However just as winter never seems to give up without a fight, so too our lives of faith can be a struggle.

Our desire and good intentions to grow, soon collide with the realities of a too-busy world or our deep anxiety about the future or our regrets about the past.

Lent, which began on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 13 this year) and culminates at Easter, covers a period of 40 days. It originated centuries ago as a time of intense preparation for Baptism at Easter.

For all of us today Lent can be a time of repentance (turning to God), and renewed spiritual devotion. Some people fast, or "give something up" for Lent, such as a favorite food or TV, as a way of focusing attention on God.

The idea is that every time we crave the item given up, we are reminded of our dependence upon God's grace and love. Other spiritual disciplines practiced during Lent include renewed devotion to Bible study and prayer, generous giving to those in need, and my personal favorite, deciding to commit at least one random act of kindness each day.

All of these things can draw us closer to God, but they don't make God love us any more than he already does. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16 TNIV)

This Lent at Calvary Lutheran we have been reading a small devotional booklet called "Holy Habits for the Season of Lent" by Rich Bimler.

I particularly like this book because it lifts up many common everyday things as spiritual practices to help us grow. Such "holy habits" include smiling more, laughter, getting enough rest, really listening, playing, or amazement at common everyday things. Sure he also includes things you might expect like confession and serving.

But his point is clear, sometimes we think the only spiritual disciplines that count are the really big ones like reading the whole Bible or fasting. Good as these things are, we can also grow by making a simple commitment each day to practice being more childlike, or saying thank you, or sharing some enthusiasm for life and faith.

So even if you have not made any commitments this Lent or have forsaken those you did make, there is nothing to stop you today, right now, from taking up some "holy habits" in your everyday life.

Each and every day we have a fresh start - a new opportunity to receive and live in God's grace and to develop some "holy habits."

God never gives up on us. And the really cool thing is that when we do spend some real time with God, we do grow to become more the way God intends us to be.

My favorite description of God's desire for the character of our lives is from Galatians 5 where Paul writes, "...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." That's the way God made us and wills for our lives to look no matter what is happening around us.

The Rev. Jonathan Heierman is pastor of Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church

Spiritual Matters



Pastor Jonathan Heierman

Call 248-625-3370 to take part in Spiritual matters

Deadlines set

Continued from page 1

made a commitment to go to each business and talk with them about MDOT's plans.

Brown said, "He and I are going to be hitting the ground and just saying hello to the different businesses along Dixie just to reassure them that we are concerned about this process and that we want to be on top of it to make sure [MDOT] meets the deadlines that are in place."

From Brown's point of view, if MDOT meets their deadlines, "business owners can manage to it."

On top of getting a visit from the township's treasurer and supervisor, Kittle notes, "every business will be contacted by MDOT" too. MDOT has set up an email account and twitter feed to help businesses track the resurfacing and find out when their operation will feel the most impact, Shanks said.

As the work to resurface Dixie Highway starts to pick up in April, Kittle added that while there shouldn't be any road closures, "it wouldn't be a bad idea to find an alternate route."

Find out about the Dixie Highway project by visiting www.michigan.gov/drive. Get Twitter updates at www.twitter.com/mdot_metrodet or call 248-451-0001.

College money workshop

A free workshop showing parents and guardians how to save money on college is March 18 at Clarkston Community Education Center, 6:30 p.m.

The workshop, held by College Financial Advisors, LLC, shows parents the best-kept secrets of how to send their child to the college of their choice without spending your life's savings or going broke.

Also, find out about college funding and financial assistance programs providing the right knowledge when filling out the applications. For details or to reserve a spot, please call 1-888-542-6009.

In our churches...

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

Wednesday Evening Feast, 6 p.m., dinner; classes for all ages, 7-8 p.m. Free nursery. Calvary Lutheran Church, 6805 Bluegrass Drive. 248-625-3288. www.calvaryinfo.org

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

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.

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The Clarkston News Coffee Club

Thursdays 7:30am-9am
 Clarkston United Methodist Church

Networking is a must for small business owners, but let's be honest, who has the time these days to go out networking door-to-door? By establishing mutually-beneficial relationships with other small business owners and entrepreneurs, you can exchange information, ideas and support, and potentially gain new clients.

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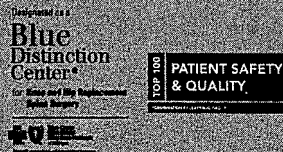
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Death notices & Obituaries

James W. Fraser, 72

James W. Fraser of Clarkston passed away March 7, 2013, at age 72.

He was the husband of Susan; father of Mark (Lisa) Fraser and Alison (Mark) Wiecek; grandpa of Andrew; brother in law of Larry (Lupe) Roy; preceded in death by his grandson Ian James and brothers John, Fred, and Robert.

Mr. Fraser served in the U.S. Army and retired from JPT. Funeral service was March 12 at the **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston. Interment All Saints Cemetery. Memorials may be made to American Lung Association or Michigan Humane Society. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.



Parkinson Disease and is survived by his dedicated wife Sandra (Anable) French and two children, daughter Nanette (French) Noonan (Jay) and granddaughter Gillian of Ortonville, Mich., and son Craig French and granddaughter Rebecca of Fort Myers, Fla.; special friend Duane Widley of Grand Blanc, Mich., and many others who offered much love, friendship, and support over the years.

Service will be at Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church at 6805 Bluegrass Drive, Clarkston, Wednesday, March 20, 2013. Family will receive friends at the church from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. with memorial funeral at noon. Lunch to follow. Interment at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly.

Jeffrey Lamphere, 52

Jeffrey N. Lamphere of Waterford passed away peacefully March 7, 2013, at age 52.

He was the father of Samantha (fiancé Josh Antoine) and Danielle; son of Betty (the late Gene) Lamphere; brother of Shelly (Mark) Thornton; uncle of Christopher and Elizabeth Thornton.

Visitation was March 11 at the **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston. Funeral Service was March 12 at the Clarkston United Methodist Church. Interment Ottawa Park Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Michigan Humane Society. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.



Geraldine Hicks, 94

Geraldine Lillian Hicks of Ortonville died Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013, at age 94.

Geraldine was born Oct. 19, 1918 in Fisk, Mo., to the late Elmer Jasper and Mary Ida (nee: Hubert) Workman. She married the late Hubert L. Hicks on June 6, 1936, in Ohio. She is survived by two sons, Hubert "Sonny" (Sharon) Hicks and Stephen (Jane) Hicks; two daughters, Marlene (Gary) Waltz and Sheryl "Dawn" Rizzi; 11 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by four brothers and two sisters. Geraldine attended Oakwood Community Church.

Graveside service was March 4 at Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly. Arrangements were entrusted to **Coats Village Funeral Home**, Ortonville. To send a condolence to the family, go to www.CoatsFuneralHome.com/Obituaries.



Ryan P. Matoska, 23

Ryan P. Matoska of Trenton, formerly of Clarkston, life was cut short unexpectedly March 8, 2013, at age 23.

He was the son of Mark (Nancy) Matoska and Pamela Matoska; brother of Brandon Matoska, Rachael Matoska and Jason Wright; grandson of Anna and the late Joseph Matoska and David and Joy Timmons; also survived by many aunts, uncles, cousins, extended family and friends. Ryan enjoyed spending time at the lake with his family and friends and things that went vroom!

Friends may visit at the **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston, Wednesday, 4-8 p.m. Funeral Mass, Thursday, 10 a.m., at St. Daniel Catholic Church, Clarkston. Interment Lakeview Cemetery. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.



William French, 74

William Doan French, 74, passed away March 10, 2013.

William (Bill) was born Jan. 1, 1939, in Pontiac, Mich., son of Russell and Alta French. He graduated from Pontiac High School January of 1957 and served in the U.S. Marine Corp. for four years.

He married Sandra (Anable) May 7, 1960. He retired from General Motors 1991 and spent the next 21 years basking in the sunshine of Cape Coral, Fla.

Bill lost his 14 year struggle with

Ross W. Kelley, 94

Ross W. Kelley of Davisburg passed away March 9, 2013, at age 94.

He was preceded in death by his wife Marian. He was the father of Kay (Keith) Flood, Linda Kelley & Pat (Ron) Kugler; grandpa of Tammi (Todd) Bridger, Tracy (Vicki) Flood, and Matthew Killeen; great grandpa of Brittani, Cody, Robin, and Christie; brother of Phyllis Brown and the late Dale (Norma) Kelley.

Mr. Kelley served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He retired from American Motors, attended The River Church and was a loyal Tigers fan.

His family would like to express their gratitude to Autumn Ridge for their loving care.

Funeral service, Wednesday, 10:30 a.m., at Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Spring Interment at Novesta Township Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Odyssey Hospice. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Obituaries posted daily at Clarkstonnews.com

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L151

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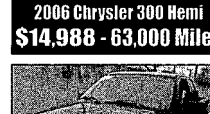


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LCBT is an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex or national origin. Applications may be completed at Lapeer County Bank & Trust Co., located at 83 W. Neppessing St., Lapeer, Michigan. No phone calls or resumes please. **L151**

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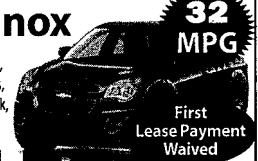


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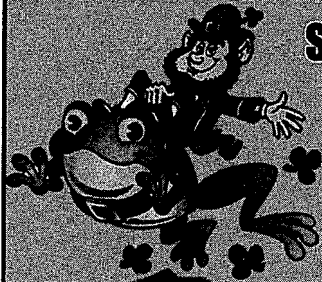
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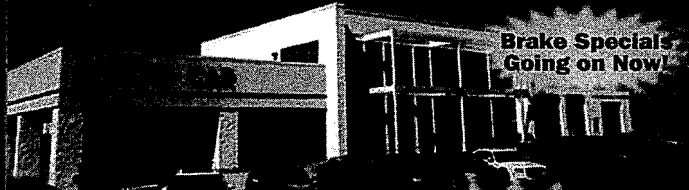
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2004 GMC Envoy.....\$27 per week
2003 GMC Envoy.....\$35 per week
2008 Ford Escape.....\$38 per week
2004 Dodge Laramie....\$40 per week
2006 Jeep Wrangler "Sport"....\$48 per week
2007 Chevy Silverado Z71...\$52 per week
2006 GMC Sierra.....\$56 per week
2011 Ford Escape.....\$57 per week

Cars & Vans Inventory
2003 Dodge Neon.....\$12 per week
2002 Ford Windstar.....\$16 per week
2005 Dodge Magnum.....\$29 per week
2007 Saturn Aura.....\$35 per week
2007 Ford Fusion.....\$35 per week
2008 Chevy Impala.....\$35 per week
2006 Pontiac Montana.....\$38 per week
2007 Nissan Altima.....\$40 per week
2008 Dodge Caliber.....\$40 per week

* With Tax, Tag, License, %15 Down, W.A.C.

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STATE OF MICHIGAN FILE NO:
 PROBATE COURT 2013-348, 640-DE
 COUNTY OF OAKLAND

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 Decedent's Estate**

Estate of FRANCES K. TABER, DECEASED. Date of birth: 12/6/1920
 TO ALL CREDITORS:
 NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, FRANCES K. TABER,
 DECEASED died January 31, 2012.
 Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate
 will be forever barred unless presented to Jay S. Taber, named personal
 representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate
 court at 1200 N. Telegraph Rd. Pontiac, and the named/proposed
 personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of
 this notice.
 ROBERT G. ISGRIGG, JR. P-24924 Jay S. Taber
 2745 Pontiac Lake Road 3110 Rosamond Lane
 Waterford, Michigan 48329 Waterford, Michigan 48329
 (248) 682-8800 (248) 431-2628

PUBLIC NOTICE
 Because the People Want to Know
INDEPENDENCE TWP.

**SYNOPSIS
 TAKEN BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD
 THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
 MARCH 5, 2013**

- A. A Regular Meeting of the Charter Township of Independence Board was called to order at 7:00 PM at the Independence Township Hall.
- B. The Pledge of Allegiance was given.
- C. ROLL CALL Present: Kittle, Pallotta, Brown, Aliaga, Lohmeier, Ritchie, Schroeder

Absent: None
 There was a quorum present.
 Also Present: David Belcher, Building Director, Ken Elwert, Parks, Recreation & Seniors Director, Richard Carlisle, Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc., and Steven Joppich, Johnson, Rosati, Schultz & Joppich, PC

- D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: As amended
- E. CLOSED SESSION: None requested
- F. BOARD/PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS: Trustee Schroeder announced that the Optimist Club is hosting their annual Murder Mystery fundraiser on Saturday, March 9th.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT: James Reed commented on a conservancy workshop about fracking which was hosted by Jim Nash, Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner. He also requested that DPW fill the potholes in the Library's parking lot.

- H. PUBLIC HEARING: None scheduled
- I. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS:
 1. Discussion and Public Input Related to Chapter 20, Article III - Open Burning of the Charter Township of Independence Code of Ordinances

J. CARRYOVER / POSTPONED AGENDA ITEMS: None

K. CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. Award of Bid and Approval of Commercial Service Agreement for Fertilizing Services for Clintonwood Park Grounds
- 2. Approval of Board of Trustee Regular Meeting Minutes of February 19, 2013 as corrected
- 3. Approval of Payroll and Accounts Payable Check Run for a Total Amount of \$330,329.59

L. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA: None

M. REGULAR BUSINESS:

- Trustee Schroeder was recused from participating in discussion and voting on Agenda Item M-1 due to a direct conflict of interest related to her homeownership and her position as the president of the Eagle Ridge Homeowner's Association.
- 1. Approval of First Reading to Permit Amendment to the Concept Development Plan for Eagle Ridge at Morgan Lake Planned Residential Development (PRD)
- 2. Request to Adjust Fee Schedule for Contractual Building Department Inspectors and Budget Amendment #3, and Approval of Independent Contractor Arrangements to Perform Plumbing, Mechanical and Electrical Inspections - REMOVED

N. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: None

O. COMMUNICATIONS / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS / REPORTS:

- 1. Report: Sheriff's Department Monthly Report for January 2013

P. ADJOURNMENT: The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Barbara A. Pallotta, CMC
 Township Clerk

O.A.T.S. programs continue, begin

Continued from page 1
 fellow students develop self confidence, which they can transfer to every aspect of their lives, Jim said.

"She left a strong foundation," he said. "We can't replace her, but like she said, 'walk on.'"

She had high expectations for her students, children and adults with a wide range of physical and emotional disabilities, and they lived up to them, he said.

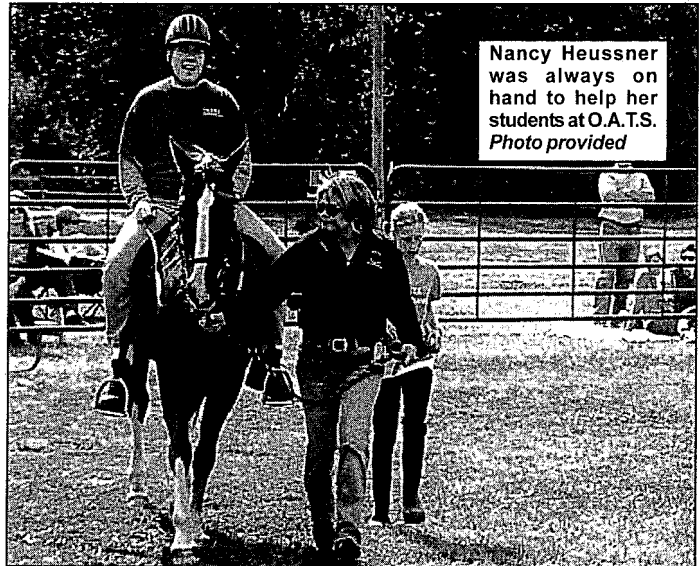
"They never wanted to disappoint Miss Nancy," Jim said.

"She found ways to get kids to speak, to get out of their wheelchairs and get up on a horse," Elaine said.

"No" wasn't in her vocabulary," Pellerito said. "She never accepted limits, never said a student couldn't ride. That's what made her unique. She was here to help people - we're here to keep her dream going. I hope it goes on forever."

Heussner was the loving wife of Steven for 39 years; beloved mother of Amanda Taylor; proud grandmother of Steven and Hunter; and dear sister of Karen Langer.

Funeral Service was March 9 at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to O.A.T.S. Online guestbook, www.wintfuneralhome.com.



Nancy Heussner was always on hand to help her students at O.A.T.S.
 Photo provided

Volunteers are needed to assist students by leading or walking alongside their horses, help out in the stables and arena, maintenance, event coordination, and other tasks. Also starting this week at O.A.T.S.,

3090 Weidemann Drive off M-15, is a new program for veterans through Wounded Warriors.

To volunteer or donate to the non-profit organization, check OATShrh.org.

Around Town

Continued from page 18
 6:30 p.m., March 13. Guest speaker: Dave Agema, Republican National Committee. Fountains Golf and Banquet Center, 6060 Maybee Road. www.I4RG.com.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE
 Because the People Want to Know
CLARKSTON

**CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF CLARKSTON
 ARTEMUS M. PAPPAS VILLAGE HALL
 375 DEPOT ROAD
 CLARKSTON, MI 48346
 A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
 CITY COUNCIL CITY MANAGER
 SEARCH COMMITTEE**

A Special Meeting has been called for Saturday, March 16, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at City Hall, 375 Depot Road, Clarkston, MI.

The purpose of this meeting is to interview the four candidates who have been selected by the City Manager Search Committee for the position of City Manager for the City of the Village of Clarkston. Each candidate will be allocated one hour. It is anticipated that two candidates will be selected by the City Council at the conclusion of the interviews.

The two selected candidates will be placed on the agenda of the next regular scheduled meeting of the City Council which will be Monday, March 25, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. for final action.

Kelly Richter,
 City Clerk

Senior volleyball league, 9-11 a.m., Wednesdays, Fridays, St. Trinity Lutheran Church. Previous experience desired by not required. \$40, through April, trher7966@comcast.net. 248-625-3881.

Cross Towne 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.

Tell Us About Your Travels, 7-8:30 p.m., third Wednesday, Clarkston Independence District Library, 6495 Clarkston Road. February: New Zealand and Australia. 248-625-2212.

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

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

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

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.

50+ Spanish Lessons, Saturdays, 9-10 a.m., Senior Adult Activity Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. \$60/members, \$65/non-members. 248-625-8231.

Preschool Vision Screening for children 6 months-5 year, 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.clarkstonlions.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 10 visits for \$100 class card. Jewels Yoga and Fitness, 4612 Mountain View Trail, Clarkston, 248-390-9270.



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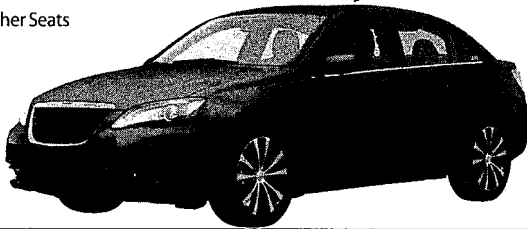
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Tues, Wed, Fri: 8:30 am - 6 pm
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mo.

Employee Sale Price
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MSRP
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2013 Ram 1500 Crew Cab Express 4x4



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\$129*
mo.

Employee Sale Price
\$23,978*

• 20" Aluminum Wheels
• Hemi



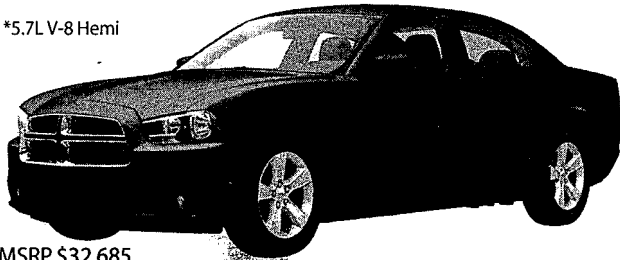
MSRP
\$36,625

2013 Dodge Charger R/T

24 mo. Lease
\$131*
mo.

Employee Sale Price
\$22,196*

*5.7L V-8 Hemi



MSRP \$32,685

2012 Jeep Liberty Latitude 4x4 Sport

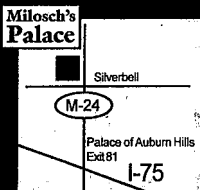
24 mo. Lease
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mo.

Employee Sale Price
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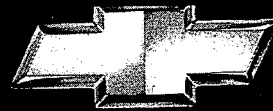
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- 2009 Chevrolet Silverado 1500LT
39,988 miles ~ \$23,492
- 2009 Saturn OUTLOOK XR
34,642 miles ~ \$20,988
- 2008 Ford F-150 XLT
78,202 miles ~ \$15,988
- 2012 Chevrolet Traverse LS
10,318 miles ~ \$22,988
- 2007 Dodge Ram 1500 Quad Cab
117,083 miles ~ \$11,988
- 2007 Chevrolet Silverado 1500
108,375 miles ~ \$15,988
- 2008 Saturn VUE XR
82,253 miles ~ \$10,588
- 2010 Chevrolet Silverado 1500LT
51,274 miles ~ \$24,988
- 2010 Chevrolet Avalanche 1500LT
54,128 miles ~ \$24,988
- 2010 Mazda Mazda6 i
22,966 miles ~ \$13,988
- 2006 Chevrolet Colorado
66,815 miles ~ \$10,951
- 2005 Chevrolet Malibu LS
167,274 miles ~ \$3,988
- 2008 Chevrolet Colorado LT
56,569 miles ~ \$11,588
- 2009 Saturn Aura Hybrid
96,266 miles ~ \$11,988
- 2010 Chevrolet Equinox LT
41,106 miles ~ \$18,301
- 2007 Jeep Liberty Limited
118,097 miles ~ \$6,497
- 2010 Cadillac CTS Base
37,457 miles ~ \$23,588

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