



CITIZEN PHOTOS/JEFF KENNEY AND \*JENNIFER LUTTRELL - LAYOUT/JEFF KENNEY

## In Brief

### Veteran's Day programs in Culver

Culver Community High and Middle Schools will recognize Veteran's Day Wednesday, November 11 at 10 a.m. in the high school gymnasium with a ceremony, address, music, and presentations. The public is welcome. The same day, Culver's VFW Post 6919 will conduct its annual Veteran's Day ceremony in the Culver Masonic cemetery, and Culver Academies will conduct its annual observance the same day at 11 a.m. at the Legion Memorial Building. The public is welcome to all.

### Holiday bazaar November 7

The annual "By the Lake" holiday bazaar will take place Saturday, November 7 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the depot-train station in Culver's town park. As in years past, the bazaar will feature holiday-themed crafts and other items, as well as refreshments. Those with questions may call Lois Curtis at 574-842-2308 or Connie Overmyer at 574-842-2446.

### Tree volunteers needed this weekend

The Culver Tree Commission is in need of volunteers to help with the planting of 61 trees Saturday, November 7. Volunteers will meet at the Main Street entrance to the library at 8 a.m. for coffee, donuts and instructions. When finished in the early afternoon, we will return to the basement of the library for pizza. If you are able to help out, please let Kay at Town Hall (574-842-2861) know. Gloves are desirable and if possible, bring a shovel and/or rake. The results of your volunteer efforts will be seen in Culver for decades to come.

### Culver pantry in need

Culver's food pantry, located in the basement of Grace United Church of Christ, 397 N. Plymouth Street in Culver, is in desperate need of donations to fill its rapidly-emptying shelves. Needed are non-perishable foods as well as unused, unopened personal hygiene items. The pantry is an ecumenical effort of Culver's Council of Churches, and is operated under the direction of Amy Hutchins.

See Briefs page 12

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## A Culver Halloween

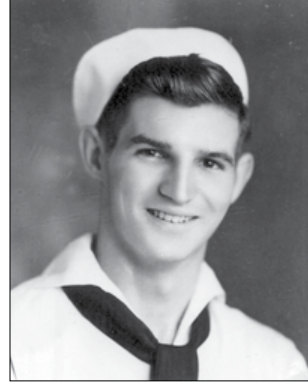
ABOVE, LEFT: \*Members of Wesley Preschool's junior class trick-or-treated in downtown Culver October 29. Front row, left to right: Nora Johnston, Jack Rodgers, Gavin Young, Matti Marshall, Ben Blessman, Eliza Loehr, Jack Christiansen, Preston Jessen. Second row: Alexis Roberts, Kirstin Minix, Sophie Blessman, Karsen Hoffman, Tristan Nix, Makenna Strycker, Caitlyn Otteman. Top: Ryan Gormaly. ABOVE, CENTER: Left to right, Aaron Becker, Brenden Walters, and Kenny VanDePutte prepare for a run through the hay maze set up this Halloween night by Culver's fire department at its station. ABOVE, RIGHT: Shiloh Guerra (age 9, left) and Lorena Martinez (age 3) choose treats Halloween night from colorfully dressed Edgewater Grille owners Dan and Bonnie Bickel. BOTTOM RIGHT: Members of Grace United Church of Christ (left to right) Deanna Allyn, Trudy Vossburg, Mary Lynch-Weirich, and Pastor Robin Keating handed out treats on Main Street as characters from 'The Wizard of Oz'

## Veteran's Day 2009



# Riester remembers Pearl Harbor, WW2

## Late veteran was one of few remaining Culverites who saw historic attack



**Editor's note:** when Culver lost Eugene William "Gene" Riester September 29, it lost one of its last Pearl Harbor veterans and a well-known and well-liked member of the community. Thankfully, Agnes Bramfeld of the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver interviewed Riester – as well as several other World War II veterans of Culver – earlier this year.

Riester was born October 24, 1921 to Robert and Augusta (Sue) Riester in Gary.

After his graduation from Lew Wallace High School in Gary in 1939, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy

And achieved the rank of Seaman First Class. After his 1946 discharge, Riester returned to Gary, marrying his wife Katherine Mihalik in 1948, and beginning a life-long career with NIPSCO. The company being transferred him to Culver in 1961 and he retired in 1983, taking on work in 1986 as the meter reader for Culver's water and sewer utilities, from which he retired in 2001 at age 80.

A member of St. Mary's of the Lake Catholic Church and the Finney-Shilling VFW Post 6919, Riester was also a member of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association and the Knights of Columbus, besides Culver's Lions Club, Fraternal Order of Eagles, and the American Legion.

What follows are Riester's words during the Bramfeld interview, a DVD of which may be viewed at the Antiquarians' Center for Culver History museum and research center at the Culver Public Library.

I joined the Navy in 1940, just after getting out of high school, and they sent us to Great Lakes (Naval Base) for training. We got off to Pearl Harbor. I was out there during the attack. We were getting ready for breakfast when (the order) sounded...to get to your battle stations. We got up on topside and couldn't figure out what was going on; we thought it was just the Air Force holding maneuvers just to keep us alert.

Then we saw the insignias on the airplanes and (heard) the explosions, and then we figured it out: we're at war. We're being

attacked.

It dawned on us, so that's when we got scared.

And we did the best we could to fight it back with anti-aircraft fire. And the (USS) Arizona got blown up.

The attack got going. After it was done we got underway to get out to sea to do some searching, but to no avail. They were already gone.

During the attack one Japanese airplane flew low over the water and our third class quartermaster shot it down. He was manning a deck anti-aircraft gun, so we struck one for our side.

The ship I was on was the USS Warden; it was a destroyer (in) Destroyer Squadron One.

Like I said we got out to sea and did some searching but they were already gone, so we came back in and reorganized.

The next step was, I believe, the Coral Sea. The Japanese were going to invade Australia and New Zealand, but we stopped them and we lost the carrier USS Lexington. Then we hopped into the landing of the Solomon Islands. Then we operated in the South Pacific off and on. We got into Midway; that was mostly Navy Air Force, but we helped. We were there.

I was a seaman – a swab jockey, that's the nickname for it. We operated with Admiral Halsey -- everyone called him "Bull" Halsey -- on the famous Task Force 58. He was nicknamed "the Patton of the Navy." (He was a) very good admiral; very aggressive.

We were in Guam (and) places like that, and we helped on the invasion of Iwo Jima. We would bombard targets to help the Ma-

See Riester page 2

## Council seeks picket answers

### Will attend park board meeting following heated discussion

By Jeff Kenney  
Citizen editor

Heated discussion marked the Culver Town Council's October 28 meeting, focusing largely on concerns over actions and statements of Culver's board of parks and recreation, whose next meeting the Council plans to attend.

Teresa Yuhas of Culver, who spoke about the matter at the previous Council meeting, addressed the Council about funds raised for the Vandalia Village community-built playground starting in 2006. Part of the fund-raising effort for the project involved selling personalized fence pickets at \$25 each. Yuhas

said she and her family – who purchased pickets for the project – were told at the park board's October meeting the picket money had already been spent on the playground and no pickets would be placed at the site.

At the October 28 Council meeting, Yuhas said that despite claims the playground was not a park project, picket money was placed in the same fund as boat slip rentals, as her own canceled checks demonstrated. She added Jim Hill, "a very good friend of the park," donated \$350 for a bench at the playground in honor of his deceased daughter; she said the

bench was never placed at the site.

Yuhas also said she contacted Leathers and Associates, the New York-based firm contracted in 2006 to design and help implement the playground. She said \$18,448.50 was paid to Leathers before they were dropped from the project in favor of Nutoys, Inc., who oversaw the final playground built in October, 2008, and that Park Superintendent Kelly Young's assertion that Leathers was dropped because of "hidden costs" was "not the case."

Council president Sally Ricciardi said town attorney Jim Cleavenger has

informed the Council it "doesn't actually have the authority to force the park board to do repairs or put in tickets...you need to be speaking to the park board."

Yuhas noted three park board members are appointed by the Council and said records show recent years in which only five park board meetings took place the entire year. During the same year, she said, one member attended only two of the five meetings. She said there were "many years" when no meetings took place from June to August as well as a period between September, 2008 and April, 2009.

Town clerk Casey Howard, in response to Yuhas' assertion that meetings are posted for the entire year and not actually held, noted all boards in Culver post their schedules at the start of each year, but not all are able to reach a quorum for every meeting. She also said Indiana code declares all boards must meet at least quarterly, but are not required to meet more often. The code, noted Yuhas, also says "any board member missing three meetings should be removed," adding one park board member has missed three meetings twice in recent years.

See Pickets page 6

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CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

ABOVE: Infant through age 3, pictured with parent (left to right): Brandon Welsh (mummy, fourth place), Destiny Stubbs (witch and Toto, seventh place), McKenna Strycker (Tide, ninth place), Scotty Banks (pumpkin, eighth place), Charlie Schrimsher (old man, first place), Alexis Nelson (witch, sixth place), Nora and Owen Johnston (caterpillar and butterfly, second place), Hannah and Olivia Williams (Thing One and Thing Two, fifth place), Lillian Back (chick, third place), Graham Baker (dog, tenth place).



CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

ABOVE: Ages 4 and 5 (left to right): Skylar Pike (doctor, fourth place), Elizabeth Bell-Howard (witch, tenth place), Kaylee Blair (witch, tenth place), Connor Craig (flashing skeleton, ninth place), Luci Overmyer (Geisha Girl, first place), Kierra Parker (fairy, second place), Lizzie Pugh (Raggedy Ann, third place), Ches Schrimsher (Sonic Hedgehog, seventh place), Joelene Whiteman (witch, sixth place). Not pictured: Landon Back (pirate, eighth place).



CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

ABOVE: Ages 6 and 7: Sam Luttrell (Lego, ninth place), Makayla Wilson (cupcake, fourth place), Mackenzie Banks (angel, fifth place), Ethan Lima (Dracula, seventh place), Lillian Proskey (monkey, first place), Shane Stevens (grim reaper, second place), Isabelle Ahlenius (cheerleader, third place), Brady Moise (Snake Eyes, tenth place), Trayden Schrimsher (ninja, eighth place), Kaydenze Crane (purple witch, sixth place)

PHOTO/DON FREESE

RIGHT: Ages 8 and 9: Austin Danielson (monster, sixth place), Sunora Clinger (jelly bean, seventh place), Tommy Brady (death, ninth place), Arthur Wilson (pizza, first place), Dakota Bennett (skeleton, eighth place), Sarah Luttrell (balloon, second place), Colton Minix (Indian chief, fifth place), Taylor Noah (mummy, third place), Jordan Schrimsher (monster, tenth place) Tihana Stefanic (2 of hearts, fourth place).



Name: RED CRAFT SHOW; Width: 30p11.5; Depth: 10 in; Color: Process color; File Name: 00079739; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Pilot News; Size: 30 in

## Riester from page 1

rines – just a general “do this and do that” ship. But we helped quite a bit. I remember coming back into New Guinea. We backed up some Rangers landing there. During the night we were attacked by two bombers. One we shot down; the other one got away. Next morning the wing was (on the ground). We went out and got the wing, and on the landing gear it said “Consolidated Aircraft, San Diego, California.” One of the guys spoke up and said, “I worked there! Maybe I built that!” But that’s the way it was. We were helping the Japanese before the war, selling scrap.

We were assigned to the Lucian Islands. We landed and backed up the Rangers with anti-aircraft. There was a shell bombardment and we sank. We had to go swimming. It always sticks in my memories. We were on lifeboats. (Me and) my buddy who survived the (USS) Oklahoma at Pearl Harbor. When the captain said, “Abandon ship!” we jumped in like it was the old swimming hole! But it wasn’t; it was cold.

They picked us up and when we got into the air it was twice as bad. They took us to the transport (where we) changed clothes and they gave us some brandy -- that was very nice! I asked, “Can I have another one?” He said, “No, you’re conscious. You don’t need more!”

We got back to the States with the Navy and then operated in the South Pacific for the rest of the war.

I was on Guam when they dropped the (atomic) bomb (on Japan). We gave a lot of cheers when they did that. We were part of the invasion fleet. We were going to invade Japan. We kind of gave a big sigh of relief.

I came back to the States, got discharged, and went back home. I had a bunch of souvenirs all boxed up, the chief postman there said, “Where you going? That compartment is full of water!” So I don’t have any souvenirs, but that’s the way the ball bounces. My overall impression of being in the Navy: I enjoyed it. The Navy was a good job.

Was I afraid? You better believe I was afraid, every time I went into action. There was something wrong with you if you weren’t afraid. We got a few scares there. We lost 14 shipmates when the Warden went down.

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## More Lions Halloween winners from page 2



PHOTO/DON FRIESE

ABOVE: Ages 10 and up: Timmy Wireman (ostrich boy, fifth place), Cara Oquendo (Vampira, seventh place), Shawnie Clinger (bathtub, sixth place), Rayme Shoop (witch with cat and spider, first place), Cody Rieckhoff (grim reaper, eighth place), Vedrana Stefanic (Queen Cleopatra, second place), Braxton Whisman (Captain Jack, ninth place), Elise Oquendo (Michael Jackson, third place), Cody Miller (French maid, tenth place), Ellen Bowman (lady pirate, fourth place).



PHOTO PROVIDED/SHELLY SCHRIMSHER

ABOVE: Charlie Schrimsher, winner in the infants to age 3 category, was a huge hit as an old man with many in the audience besides the judges.

## Monterey Elementary honor roll

Monterey Elementary School has announced its honor roll students for the 2009-2010 first grading period.

- All "A" honor roll:  
**Grade 1:** Aubrey J. Gearhart, Olivia A. Gilley, Reegan D. Sheets, Hunter Blake Watwood  
**Grade 4:** Melissa M. Bradley.  
**Grade 5:** Hailey A. Jones, Brianna S. Kinyanjul.  
**Grade 6:** Rebecca E. Rainey

"A" and "B" honor roll: Grade 1: Chloe E. Baker, Joseph Collins, Triston E. Moore, Hunter Blake Watwood, Noah R. Risner.

- Grade 2:** Collin J. Barkley, Jasmine E. Felda, Sarah E. Keller, Alyse A. Penicaro, Autumn M. Smith, Nathan L. Wood.  
**Grade 4:** Jordan W. Hopkins, Rachel M. Kunce, Bryce A. Reynolds, Dillon R. Salyer, Landon I. Tibbett, Cole M. Welton.  
**Grade 5:** Makayla A. Felda, Katie E. Garland, Faith Amber Rowe  
**Grade 6:** Austin J. Bailey, Kyle A. Kunce, Zarie E. Salary, Victoria M. Shank, Taylor E. Smith, Megan R. Thompson.

## Death Notice

Redweik

**Robert John Redweik Sr.**  
**Oct. 24, 2009**

KEWANNA — Robert J. Redweik Sr., 77, of Kewanna, died Saturday, Oct. 24, 2009 at 8 a.m.

He is survived by his wife Mildred Ellen Gudas Redweik; sons: Robert John (Alisa Dubuisson) Redweik Jr. of Tomball, Texas and David Antony (Lora Dillman) Redweik of Twelve Mile; daughters: Anita Meta Jo (Larry) Doan of Twelve Mile and Susan Jane (Michael) Wood of Jeffersonville, Ohio; 11 grandchildren; a sister, Olga Alma Matzat of Culver; and brothers: Ewald Redweik of North Judson and Roland Siegfried Redweik of North Judson.

Visitation took place from 2 to 9 p.m. (EDT) Tuesday, Oct. 27 at Frain Mortuary, Wimamac.

Funeral Services were held at Frain Mortuary Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 10:30 a.m. (EDT).

Burial took place in the Victor Chapel Cemetery, Star City, Ind. with military graveside services.

Memorial contributions may be made to the donor's choice.

## Briefs from page 1

Those with items to donate are encouraged to bring them to the church or contact Hutchins at 574-842-2598.

### Citizen contact info

Drop-off boxes for community news are located at the Culver-Union Township Public Library and the Culver Coffee Company on Lake Shore Dr. These boxes will be accessible during the locations' normal business hours. Citizen editor Jeff Kenney may be reached at 574-216-0075. News can be sent by e-mail to: citizen@culcom.net.

## Wedding

Potthoff, DeSabatine



Carolyn Potthoff and Dustin DeSabatine were united in marriage during a double ring ceremony July 18, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. at Global Harvest Church, Knox. The bride wore a white taffeta pick-up gown, inverted V-empire with a beaded metallic lace bodice, lace-up back and a sweep train. Her headpiece was a silver tiara with crystal accents and a white bejeweled veil. She carried a bouquet of two dozen white, pink, and red roses, accented with pearl beads, and pink and green ribbon.

Matron of honor was Jennifer Thomas, North Judson, friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Crystal Salyer, Knox, friend of the bride; Jennifer Redlin, Knox, friend of the bride; and Jean Fort, Knox, friend of the bride.

The bride's attendants wore long, chiffon, spaghetti strap dresses with beaded empire waistlines in alternating colors of Rose Petal and Clover.

Best man was Brad Hoffer, Knox, friend of the groom.

Groomsmen were Tyler Kelly, South Bend, friend of the groom; Ron Pokrajac, Knox, friend of the groom; and Logan Reinhold, Culver, friend of the groom.

Ushers were Greg Eskridge, Leiters Ford, friend of the groom, Jimmy Young, Knox, friend of the groom.

Ringbearer was Trenton David Potthoff, North Judson, son of the bride.

Flower girl was Madison Dianna Potthoff, North Judson, daughter of the bride.

Approximately 200 people attended the reception at the Knox Community Center, Knox. The couple returned to their home in North Judson after a wedding trip to Nashville, Ind. and Wisconsin Dells, Wis.

The bride is the daughter of David and Dianna Vires, North Judson. She is a graduate of North Judson - San Pierre High School and Purdue University. She is employed as a math teacher at North Judson - San Pierre High School.

The groom is the son of Thomas and Ida DeSabatine, Culver. He is a graduate of Culver Community High School and Vincennes University. He is employed at Jim Dobson's Ford - Mercury in Winamac.

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## Community Calendar

### Thurs., Nov. 5

Fitness Class, 10:30 a.m., Culver Public Library  
 Kiwanis Club, noon, Culver Public Library  
 Master gardening, 5:30 p.m., Culver Public Library  
 Knights of Columbus, St. Mary of the Lake Council #13720 social mtg., 7 pm., church rectory basement

### Fri., Nov. 6

Computer class, 10 a.m., Culver Public Library

### Sat., Nov. 7

Scrapbooking for adults and children, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Grace United Church of Christ, Plymouth Street  
 Culver tree planting, 8 a.m. (see Brief this issue)  
 Holiday Bazaar, 9 a.m., train station-depot (see Brief this issue)  
 Quilting group, 9 a.m., Culver Public Library  
 "Arcadia," Culver Academies fall play, 7:30 p.m., Eppley Auditorium

### Mon., Nov. 9

Culver Redevelopment Committee, 4 p.m., town hall  
 Knitting Class, 5 p.m., Culver Public Library  
 Computer class, 6 p.m., Culver Public Library  
 DivorceCare, 7 p.m., Grace United Church of Christ  
 Culver Community School board mtg., 7 p.m., admin-

istration building

### Tues., Nov. 10

Master gardening, 5:30 p.m., Culver Public Library  
 Culver Town Council mtg., 6:30 p.m., town hall

### Weds., Nov. 11

#### (Veteran's Day)

Genealogy mtg., 10 a.m., Culver Public Library  
 Veteran's Day ceremonies, 10 a.m. at Culver High School, 11 a.m., Culver Masonic Cemetery and Culver Academies

Name: WK 4 - TWIN BRAKE ROTORS; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00079743; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Lakeside Auto Supply; Size: 8

Hooked on Books book club, 3:30 p.m., Culver Public Library

Garden Club, 6 p.m., Culver Public Library  
 Culver Lions Club mtg., 6:30 p.m., train station-depot

### Thurs., Nov. 12

Fitness Class, 10:30 a.m., Culver Public Library  
 Celebration of the Culver Citizen, Kiwanis Club, noon, Culver Public Library  
 Master gardening, 5:30 p.m., Culver Public Library

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# Today's journey

It is Sunday and as soon as we finish eating lunch, my family migrates each to his or her own quiet time and space. I decide to change from my church clothes to some long pants and sleeves and get my bike gear ready. It is a gorgeous 50 degree day. As pumpkins christen most home's door ways, I am childlike with excitement of thoughts of the fall season. It is my favorite time of year and I thought it



## ONE COLUMN AT A TIME

BY ANDREA G. COOK

Passing the golfers I can faintly hear the plinking of the iron swinging onto the small golf balls. I continue north, riding along the perimeter of the lake to 18<sup>th</sup> Road where I turn and ride straight east.

With my handwritten map folded in my pocket, I eagerly attempt a 40 mile ride. But, the busyness of my life has kept me from riding recently and I realize about ten miles into this ride that my ambition has gotten the best of me. Yet, I keep moving forward, taking in the rustic rainbow colors streaming from tree to tree, leaf to leaf. This particular point in my bike journey is long and flat and the amber waves of grain look like rows and rows of gold glowing in the wind. The white clouds are as perfect as a child's coloring with the v-shaped birds in blue skies.

The midwestern autumn scenes are majestic. Each season of our Indiana climate is a reminder to me of our ever changing seasons of our lives. There are seasons of new beginnings, life and hope just as there are seasons of death, trouble and pain. These seasons are inevitable. These gorgeous leaves will fall and winter will follow. I used to get anxiety over the change of seasons. I would want to squeeze so much into the summer that when signs of fall arrived, I would be agitated. Now, I take comfort in the opening of a new season and a closure of the season past.

Another mile along on my journey, I catch the scent of smoky air from someone's wood burning stove. Steeped in contentment right in that moment, deep in thought, I am stopped by a barking dog protecting its property. A large snarling black dog shows its white fangs at me. In an instant on my long journey, I went from a breath-taking experience to a pee-my-pants freeze in fright moment. Refusing to turn my bike around and go back, I feebly shouted for help. The owner called for his dog and I put one pedal in front of the other and moved forward, not glancing behind me in fear that I might make eye contact again with the doberman.

I was reminded of first grade when I was attacked by three dobermans. They didn't hurt me, they just all jumped up on me, knocked me down in the snow and hovered over me. It was terrifying for a little girl walking to school. I still have a fear of dogs at times.

Turning north, I see a mile long pasture of black and white dairy cows. Another beautiful sight brands itself in my mind. As I approach the group of cows, we make eye contact and one cow starts to run along towards me. Then, another cow runs towards me. And, as I steer my bike to the other side of this long lonely road, all I can think of is mad cow disease and I imagine the headline, "Biker Girl Dies by Stampede of Mad Dairy Cows." You may think I am exaggerating, but there were about 100 cows chasing me. I have no idea why, I mean, after all I am 95% vegetarian! Nevertheless, they were running like wild horses and they were after me. Luckily, they weren't too interested in me to jump the fence and I was able to escape.

This journey is so typical of themes in my life. Numerous attempts, too many to count of handwritten maps detailing my hopes, dreams, ambitions, only to get interrupted by the unexpected happenings. I keep moving forward though. And, how about those times in our lives when we are faced with fear. Do we just turn around and go backwards, or are we strong enough to put out a meek yelp for help? Do we move ahead, See Journey page 6 facing forward or do we keep

Name: Culver Masthead; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 7.5 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00053078; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Pilot News; Size: 15 in

If your editor has seemed a bit harried and blank-stared of late (or more so than usual!), it's at least partly because my family and I have embarked recently on that great adventure of home-buying, which also means we've embarked on the great Halloween horror that is moving -- ferrying every speck of one's possessions from one house to another.

It's with bittersweet feelings that we leave our old, beloved house and neighborhood here in Culver for another (also here in Culver, so it's debatable whether we're really changing neighborhoods as some city folk would view it, but here in Culver we recognize a collection of more than two houses as at least a small neighborhood). The house we're moving to does have lots of history, though, which is comforting and positive for me. For many decades it was the home of Culver's sole movie theater owner, Evert Hoesel, and it was also the home in which my third grade teacher, Mrs. Middleton, grew up. And such things do mean something to me.

The history of the house we're leaving means something to me as well. When I was a newspaper-delivering lad of 11 or so (and for decades before), it was the home of Mrs. Gardener, who made the front porch into a kind of botanical wonderland which I always enjoyed visiting when I had to make my monthly collections for newspaper subscription money. I later learned she was for years the caretaker of St. Mary's church rectory, and small tokens of her life in the church could still be seen in the house, and I valued (and continue to value) that as well.

Across the street was the home of Treva and Eva Leap, whose whole property during my delivering days had an enchanting sort of fairy tale feel to it, with its enclosure of trees and the well-fed wild birds and cats outside, and the Leaps themselves (the last of whom, Eva just passed away the other week, and it's hard to imagine the house without them...hard to imagine it being anyone else's). Next door to our soon-to-be-former home was, I've only recently learned, the longtime home of Nils Paulson, whose first wife Alma (and their four children) perished on the Titanic, as recent Citizen articles detail (in my paper boy days, it belonged to Mrs. Dickey).

My own childhood home was purchased by my grandfather's parents nearly 100 years ago, and he married my grandmother and raised my mother and uncle there; my sister and I, in turn grew up there as well, and my eldest daughter spent the earliest months of her life there before we moved away.

I recognize the benefits (and the drawbacks!) of home ownership, but we try to keep perspective on these things, my wife and I. We may be "buying" a house, but the fact of the matter is, in a very real sense, we're all of us just renting, no matter how many homes we own. At the risk of sounding morbid, that's because we're all, of course,

one day going to die. And then someone, more than likely, will move into our home and make it their own, just as we have other folks' homes, and are again today with our new home.

Even at age 11 or so as a newspaper carrier, I always had an affinity for the older people on my route, perhaps partly because I spent so much time, growing up, around my grandmother, who lived with us. I can still remember the faces, names, and houses of so many of those older ladies and gentlemen...their pets, our conversations, even the little gifts of a tin of cookies, box of chocolate covered cherries, or (joy of joys to the underpaid paper boy!) cash at Christmas time. Most all of them are gone now, some 25 years later, from their homes, and in the years since, others have raised their own families and begun to grow old -- or moved away and made room for a new family of individual.

So I've come to that perspective on it all: we'll inhabit a space that once was likely a shelter for another family, who filled it with the sounds of their own laughter and tears and secrets both good and bad. And the same will likely come after us.

It seems to me there are two ways of looking at that inescapable cycle, and really this is the great existential dilemma of modern man, isn't it? Do these spaces we inhabit and the transitory nature of their occupancy amount to an empty, terrible pointlessness? Or does all of it have a greater meaning? One doesn't have to inject God into the equation, I suppose, to find some greater meaning, but ultimately I'd argue it sure does help! And if we're not dualists and thus don't see ourselves as merely disembodied spirits waiting to be freed from the empty husks we call bodies, then what we do in this place -- with the people in our families and communities, and yes even with our homes themselves -- matters. It matters because God, and all that is implied in His existence, matters...and we matter, and our lives all matter.

And so do our homes. If, as we walk and drive up and down these streets and glance at evening time into the warmly lit homes of some of our neighbors...if our houses are haunted here in Culver, it's not with evil spirits seeking to drive us away. Certainly, of the homes I've lived in here in Culver, I've found there was always some part of the person who once occupied them that's left behind, even if it's something as simple as their taste in architecture, design, or decoration...or even if it's something more.

But never have I heard, in these houses, ominous thumps and bumps (except those caused by my own children, which could be real cause for alarm!). Instead, only quiet and peacefulness, which isn't the same as emptiness. Whatever it is that's left of the families and individuals who came before us in our houses, I'd like to think my family and I are carrying on in their stead, and trying to honor the legacy of the souls who once called our houses "home." And hopefully others will do the same, after we're gone.

# Haunted houses



## View from Main Street

By Jeff Kenney  
editor

## Name that Culver "citizen"



At left: Last week's Mystery Citizen, Kevin Berger, then and now. Right: this week's mystery citizen.

Gary Shaffer alone correctly guessed last week's Mystery Citizen, who was none other than Kevin Berger, a member of the Marshall County Economic Development Corporation among other community organizations. He's likely best known as inheritor of over 80 years worth of Culver's Easterday Construction, which began in the 1920s as a subsidiary of James

I. Barnes Construction of Logansport. Despite his best efforts, young Kevin hadn't managed to grow his trademark beard in elementary school, which is perhaps what threw off many of our readers. Gary, meanwhile, will be basking in the free downtown Culver parking he's earned for his sharp eye and correct guess. Don't hold it against him.

This week's Mystery Citizen is has also been in business in Culver for many years (though not quite 80 yet) but may be as well known or better for another visible role he's played here for many years. Over the years, his arrival at one's home may be good or bad news, depending on which "hat" he wore at the time.



Name: SALT SALE - WKLY; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 3 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00079788; Ad Number: -; Customer

Name: URN AD; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 3 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00079124; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Johnson Daniel-

Name: VETERAN'S DAY; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00080636; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Culver Academies; Size: 8 in

Name: RESERVATIONS/ GIFTS; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00080640; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Culver Reservations; Size: 8 in

## Tree planting time again ...thanks to Alcoa grant

By Judy Sawhook

On Saturday, November 7, the Culver Tree Commission, with the help of numerous community volunteers, will be planting 61 trees in Culver. Since it was formed in 2006, the Tree Commission has been instrumental in assisting the Town with the maintenance of street trees through the removal of dead or dying trees and the planting of new trees. Street trees are those in the public right of ways between the sidewalks and curbs.

The planting this fall has again been made possible though an Alcoa grant distributed by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources with matching funds provided by the Town of Culver. Close to \$6,000 was spent for these trees, with the digging of the holes, the planting and mulching, and the initial watering all being done by volunteers.

Much of Saturday's planting will take place along Liberty St., College Ave., Lakeview St., Lake St. and N. Ohio St. About 18 trees will be planted along other streets in the central part of town. Residents due to receive trees have been notified by an orange flyer. A reminder to all concerned: Do NOT remove the colored tags that are on the trees!

By Saturday morning the holes will be dug and the trees placed close by. The volunteers who will be doing "planting" are to meet at the Main Street entrance to the library at 8 a.m. for coffee, donuts and planting instructions. In addition to "independent" volunteers, members of a number of clubs and organizations will be assisting in this effort. All are encouraged to wear gloves and to bring along a shovel and/or rake. The planting will be done by groups of four or so individuals. When all is done, the volunteers will return to the lower level library meeting room for pizza and soft drinks.

If you can assist in the community project and have not yet contacted Town Hall or one of the Commission members, it is not too late. Just show up Saturday morning – the results of your efforts will be visible long into the future!

### Journey from page 4

looking back and remain frozen in our fears? And how do we handle those conflicts we don't understand? When life doesn't make sense, when the cows are supposed to be minding their own business, grazing on grassy pastures and not attacking you. What do you do?

Well, this is what I say, you put one foot in front of the other. Keep your head up and pedal. You move forward. You ride on.

And so I did. At about mile 18, I decided it was time to cut my ride short and head back home. I turned west, hoping not to find any more barking dogs or mad cows. And as I just kept putting one foot in front of the other one, I kept moving forward, striving for home.

*Andrea Cook, wife to Phil Cook -- Plymouth native and chemistry and physics teacher at the Culver Academies -- and mother to Savana and Sophia has recently moved with her family to Culver from living the past decade in Chicago. While Andrea claims that a part of her heart still beats for the windy city, she enjoys the slower pace and new friends that Culver has provided. Andrea was not too long ago on a two year stay-at-home-mom sabbatical from a demanding career path in Chicago where she was the founder and CEO to The Midas Center, an advertising and marketing agency. In October, she restarted The Midas Center in Plymouth in hopes of rekindling her passion for creativity and help businesses thrive. She offers free monthly workshops to local businesses as well as a range of award winning services such as web site design and development, branding programs, direct mail campaigns and more. Cook invites you to contact her regarding your comments or suggestions or to read past columns, by visiting, One Column at a Time online at: <http://andreacook.wordpress.com>.*

## A Culver eagle indeed

This bald eagle drew a crowd October 24 when it was spotted in a tree near Hibbard. A number of people gathered, drove by, and photographed the bird over the course of the several hours it perched there, including Dean Norwich of Culver, who provided the photo above. Eagles have been seen from time to time over the years in the Culver area, most recently on the west shore of Lake Maxinkuckee near the public boat landing over the past few winters, though this is the first photo of one of the birds submitted to the Citizen in many years.

PHOTO/DEAN NORWICH

### Pickets from page 1

Attorney Cleavenger confirmed Council member Ginny Munroe's comment that the Council can only remove park board members "for cause" which were appointed by the Council itself, though the Council could file charges against a board member appointed by another board and leave resultant action – or lack thereof – up to the appointing board. Park board members are appointed by the public library, school board, and township board, besides the Council.

Debate ensued as to the Council's ultimate responsibility in the matter, with Council member Lynn Overmyer suggesting the Council is indeed involved due to the money spent, though Howard pointed out playground funds, not being tax dollars, are not monies the Council is liable for.

"But the park board is liable," said Munroe. "by state statute. Any committee formed to do anything in the park is solely the responsibility of the park. So even if they (the park board) say it's not a park board project, the fact that the money was received into and out of that (park gift fund) account (indicates) it's a park board project."

Yuhas explained the park board told her at its last meeting it had nothing to do with the project, which instead was the work of a committee called the Friends of Vandalia Village.

Howard confirmed the park board is liable for the

money, adding all town departments have similar gift funds to that used by the park for the playground.

Overmyer said she, Margaret Dehne, and Connie Van Horn (the latter two of whom were also in attendance at the meeting) were told at the September park board meeting pickets would be printed up over the winter and placed at the site in spring, though the statement is nowhere in the park board minutes. Overmyer added the park board would not meet with the Council as requested to discuss the matter.

Audience member Patty Stallings said the park board, though not necessarily Superintendent Young, has been unresponsive to the public. "You're saying, 'talk to the park board,' but the park board is telling untruths. What do we do? Do we have to get a lawyer and go after the park board?"

She added some people attending the Council meeting have shown interest in serving on the park board and "have been rejected time and again."

Park board member Tammy Shaffer, in the audience, told the Council she's been on the park board over the past three years and the board struggled in earlier years to get a member on the Democratic ticket (the park board is required by law to be politically balanced), adding the board went through "a growing period as people got on and off...I'd say in the past year meetings have been more consistent than in the past."

Audience member Bob-

bie Ruhnow, who also serves on the township board and plan commission, commended Shaffer and her fellow park board member Leroy Bean for attending the Council meeting. She said since tax payers' dollars should not be spent to correct the picket situation, "it would appear the only solution is to put it at the taxpayers' door and then in turn say, 'Oh gee, we made a mistake,' because you're going to get socked for this. I'm sorry the park board president feels it's not necessary to appear (at the Council meeting, as requested by the Council). I think it's an error on his part and it's discourteous he's not here. But somewhere a solution has to be made."

Audience member Mike Stallings said the matter is a "credibility issue with you five (on the Council)."

"Personally, we bought pickets for our grandchildren (and the park can keep the \$25. That's my feeling, but it's not everybody's. The problem is credibility with you, the park board, and with Kelly (Young). One misstatement has been compounded by making another misstatement, and on and on. The best thing to do would be for Kelly, or (park board president) Ed Behnke, or whoever to write a letter and come clean and admit the mistake. I think a lot of people would say go with it."

Cleavenger responded the matter is not a Council issue, "regardless of what the public has said. We've tried our best to get them (the park board) to communicate what's going on; we've offered them a forum. Ultimately, what can we do?"

A round of applause met

Stallings' response, "Replace them."

Ruhnow noted, however, the public should also address the school, library, and township board about replacing park board members.

"It's awful hard for somebody to bring up an item today and have it resolved tomorrow," interjected park board member Leroy Bean, adding the board only meets once monthly. "If everybody would come to our board meetings, it can be resolved. Don't come to this board meeting; they've got their own problems."

Bean added the Council appointed him and added he's missed no meetings except once for illness. He also said facts were mixed up as to park board members who missed multiple meetings.

"Get your facts straight," said Bean. "You're talking about me. I'm a member of the park board and right now you're talking about us, ok?"

Shaffer agreed with Bean that the park board only received information in September about the matter. "I've been enlightened by some of Teresa (Yuhas') information. A picture's coming together for me...I'm sure we'll find a solution."

Munroe noted after the park board president's refusal to attend the Council meeting, letters signed by Ricciardi were sent to the homes of each park board member. In response to audience query why Young didn't attend the meeting, Overmyer said the Superintendent was directed by the park board president not to come, adding Cleavenger informed her such a move on the president's part is illegal.

Council member Ralph Winters suggested the ma-

majority of Council members attend the next park board meeting, November 4 at 6:30 p.m., a step which he agreed needs to be advertised to be legal.

In other discussion, Patty Stallings, representing the Second Century Committee of Culver's Chamber of Commerce, said Second Century's Growth Initiative sub-committee has been studying potential impact on the town, township, and county of a proposed Planned Unit Development on the southeast shore of Lake Maxinkuckee. In particular, she said the PUD's relevance to local fire, EMS, police, roads, construction supervision, and environmental impact was being assessed, but that a formal impact study by a third party entity should take place. She noted normally the developer would pay for such a study and encouraged the Council and plan commission to approach the developer of the Maxinkuckee Village PUD in question about doing so. She told the Citizen the study would likely also assess impact fees charged to the developer should they be deemed necessary.

The Council also held a public hearing on additional appropriations requested from the local roads and streets fund in the amount of \$23,400 to pay for engineering for a pavement management system. Also requested was \$10,000, an annual amount given for economic development to the Marshall County Economic Development Corporation. Kevin Berger of the MCEDC explained the group has brought new businesses into the county including industry to Argos and Plymouth, and has kept in the county a number of businesses considering re-

locating. He also said the group's work to bring the Metronet to the area would most likely have an effect on local business and economy. The Council approved the spending discussed.

The Council also approved, at the suggestion of Council member Winters, a donation of \$5,000 in 2010 to the Culver Boys and Girls Club, which Council member Munroe (who sits on the CBGC board and abstained from voting) said now boasts 280 members, "probably the highest percentage of attendance of any community in the state," and hosts between 95 and 100 youngsters daily. She praised the Porter County Boys and Girls Club, which has overseen the local club and its staff training.

The Council also voted to approve a five-year contract with Accumed to handle billing for Culver's EMS service and a bid from Bennett's contracting in Culver to remove the former fire siren chimney above Culver's town hall. Ricciardi noted the new pole has been installed for the new, central fire siren at the town hall site, but no electricity has been run to the siren. Town Manager Michael Doss said he would contract Culver fire chief Mike Grover about the matter.

Attorney Cleavenger also followed up on discussion from the last Council meeting concerning damage done to resident driveways on Hoosier Lane, explaining he reviewed the town's contract with the paver and believes the time has expired to hold the company responsible for the damage. However, he said the company is used frequently by the town and may be willing to share the cost of repairs if approached.

Name: HOLIDAY BAZAAR; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 5 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00080071; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: MYSTIC HILLS GOLF CLUB; Size: 10 in

Name: METRO; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00080638; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: City Tavern; Size: 8 in

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# Sports



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Name: VISIT, VIEW, PURCHASE; Width:  
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