



The Culver Citizen

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Serving Culver • Lake Maxinkuckee • Monterey since 1894

CITIZEN PHOTOS AND LAYOUT/JEFF KENNEY EXCEPT MARK DAMORE JR.

In Brief

Lions 'Spring Fest' Saturday

The Culver Lions Club's annual Spring Fest, including a pancake and sausage breakfast, bake sale, and flea market, will take place this Saturday, May 5 at the railroad station in the town park. Breakfast is from 6 to 11 a.m., the bake sale from 7 to 11 a.m., and the flea market from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Van Herk benefit concert Saturday

Chad Van Herk, known locally as manager of Culver's First Farmers Bank and Trust, will perform at benefit concert Saturday, May 5 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Young Amphitheater in Plymouth's Centennial Park, cattycorner from the High School.

The performance will raise monies for the Ingram family whose youngest son Trek has been diagnosed with Niemann Pick Type A, a rare, incurable disease which claims the life of those diagnosed by the age of three. Tickets are \$10 at the gate on the day of the show, or can be purchased in advance from Chad or at his website www.chadvanherk.com, where donations can also be made. More info is available at www.babytrekatlast.com where donations can be made directly to the Ingrams.

'Town hall' meeting for museum's future May 12

The Antiquarian and Historical Society (AHS) will host a "town hall" type event at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 12 to bring Culver-wide residents together to save its heritage as preserved and shared at the Center for Culver History museum, which will be evicted from the Culver Public Library next year. The meeting be moderated by Jeff Harris, Director of Local History Services at the Indiana Historical Society, and is open to the public. Anyone with an interest in preserving local history is strongly encouraged to attend and make their voice heard. The AHS requests that organizations send a representative to the meeting.

Community meal at Grace May 15

Grace United Church of Christ will hold its monthly community meal on Tuesday, May 15 at 6 p.m. All are invited to this free, ecumenical meal.

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Hangin' at the Lakehouse

Ready to launch Culver's new Lakehouse Grille (formerly the Edgewater) on Lake Shore Drive next Friday are members of the staff (from left) Kelly Beran, Ashley Hnatusco, Brittany Kozubik, Tina Pare, Cristyn Cottone, David Noel, Mark Damore Jr., Peggy Pinder, Crystal Moore, and James Gaskins. Damore has been hard at work on renovations to the building and its menu, and plans to utilize plenty of fresh produce from the longtime business of his father, Original Chicago Produce (and in Culver, Original Root Beer Stand) owner Mark Damore Sr. SEE STORY BELOW.

Lakehouse Grille set to open May 11

Owner of former Edgewater wants new eatery to earn 'the triple crown'

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

Meet Mark Damore, Jr., a far less familiar face to Culverites than his father, Original Root Beer Stand owner Mark Damore, though Mark the younger is quick to emphasize he's "proud to be named after (my father)."

He's a Chicago native, Butler grad, and he wants the former Edgewater Grille to be the best restaurant in Culver.

First the preliminaries: 620 Lake Shore Drive will officially open its doors in grand fashion on Friday, May 11 as the Lakehouse Grille. No, the staple props diners love from the Edgewater dining room have not been removed, though Damore has employed years of experience in real estate to enhance the look of the place through often-subtle changes. The longtime "tavern" side of the operation, to the west, will undergo a much more dramatic change which Damore is confident will be "phenomenal."

But back to Mark Damore Jr.

From Indy to Culver
Butler was what drew

him initially to the Hoosier state, and it's also where he met his wife, Jen. The two decided to give Indianapolis a try after Mark graduated with his business degree, and he spent the next five years as a financial planner dabbling in real estate, which he says went well for him overall.

While 2010 was a "huge" year for him, Damore says he felt as if things were going backwards last year, so he began investigating other options.

Of course he was already quite familiar with Culver, having been coming here regularly since his parents' arrival in 1998.

"Culver is such a hidden gem to me," he says. "I'll never forget the first time I came here. We were driving through cornfields and I was thinking, 'What are we doing?' Then we stumble onto this gorgeous little town and this special little lake. I've never seen water so clear, and it's laid out so openly. So from 1998 to about April 1 (of this year), Culver to me was the ultimate vacation! It's my favorite place to vacation, and I've been (all over)."

As Damore pondered,

earlier this year, his next direction, his father told him former Edgewater owner Dan Bickel had discussed the possibility of the senior Damore purchasing the restaurant. Was Mark Jr. interested?

At this point, Damore Jr. says, his wife is studying hard at Georgetown, and he's sure there will be no committing to Culver.

"But my mom and dad said, 'Talk to Jen; see what she says, and then decide.' I did, and my wife was so supportive. She said, 'If you think this could be something special, I believe in you. We'll figure it out.' That was all I needed to hear!"

Restaurant a natural fit

The restaurant business has always interested Mark Damore Jr. due in no small part to his father owning and operating Original Chicago Produce for 40 years now.

"It's almost like he was born to run (that business)," says Damore Jr. of his father. He notes he made the decision not to follow in his

See Lakehouse page 2

CBGC auction promises to dazzle with Quick Change, enhanced auction offerings



PHOTO PROVIDED BY

Dania Kaseeva and David Mas of magical Brighter Futures Foundation performing June 15 as part of the Culver Boys & Girls Club's annual auction event.

The evening includes a delicious buffet dinner, exciting entertainment, and both silent and live auctions, featuring items to please every bidder. All proceeds from the event fund the operation and implementation of programs for over 300 members of our local club.

Carol Zeglis, chair event organizer and board member, explains that a highlight of this year's event will be live entertainment by the internationally known magical transformation act, "Quick Change."

The intricately choreographed dance exhibition performed by David Maas and Dania Kaseeva will puzzle the audience with flashing costume transformations, their metamorphosis occurring in seconds in front of incredulous audiences.

Since Quick Change's debut in 1996, audiences have responded to their illusions with tremendous ovations. They have appeared on numerous television shows such as Good Morning America and The Oprah Winfrey Show, as well as performing during halftime at professional sporting events. To view a clip of "Quick Change" log on to their website, www.wolfpack-entertainment.com.

See CBGC page 3

CCHS seniors in the spotlight at Lions banquet

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

As Culver Lions Club president Barbara Winters commented, no one seems to know for sure how long the club has been recognizing graduating Culver Community High School seniors at an annual banquet, but the longstanding tradition continued last Wednesday evening in the high school cafeteria.

After the meeting opening, a meal catered by Rochester Deli and Meats, and a well-received performance by the school's Jazz Street choir -- under the direction of Diane Derrow -- Winters continued the event by noting older residents are "looking to these young people to say our Social Security" and

eventually join Lions Club to serve others.

Up first was CCHS student council president Chelsea Jones discussed memories of former Monterey and Culver Elementary students meeting at the shared middle school and overcoming initial nervousness through such activities as the Camp Crossley overnight. High school aged mentors helped the students transition into the 9th grade, Jones said, and Jones herself was "talked into" joining the council by faculty sponsor Tina Stacey.

"It was one of the greatest choices I ever made," she said, noting during her second year in the group, members raised more than \$9,000 to help make two

Culver children's Make-A-Wish Foundation wishes come true.

This school year, the council sold pop tab bracelets to raise funds for homecoming activities including the annual parade and fireworks show, as well as the winter formal dance in February.

In the interest of "going green," she said, the council placed six recycling bins around the school and decorated its bulletin boards with recycling facts.

The student council, she concluded, "has made an impact on the student body and the community, and I thank you for all you support."

Class of 2012 president Kellie Bonine gave a brief history of the class, includ-

ing Fall Bonanza (which the class won in its sophomore and senior years) and Sports Spectacular (which it won this year) events, as well as victories in the annual "Bell Game" against Argos and last year's regional victory for the girls' basketball team, sectional victories for the volleyball and baseball teams.

Bonine said the school's regularly successful Business Professionals of America organization this year sent two qualifiers to the BPA national competition in Chicago, and the choir qualified for state competition and won an Indiana State School Music Association award. She said 31 seniors just returned from the senior trip to Florida, which she called

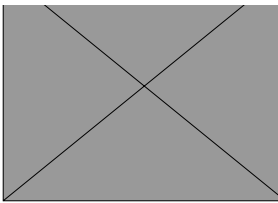
a "great experience."

"Individually," Bonine noted, "we've accomplished even more. Each of us has changed. I couldn't have stood up here and given you a speech as a 7th grader. And the greatest is yet to come in 57 days (with) graduation. All of us are so excited, but also nervous what will happen after June 1."

Kicking off the awards portion of the evening, CCHS guidance counselor Brenda Sheldon explained that each academic department chooses an influential leader to receive an award, and the president of each club is also recognized.

"These are involved leaders who have had a positive

See CCHS page 2



Lakehouse from page 1

father's footsteps, partly to prevent Mark Sr. from continuing his breakneck work pace past retirement age in order to lend Mark Jr. a hand. He says his strategy worked.

"He (my dad is) certainly not retired, but he backed out a bit. Now he goes to Chicago once a week.

"He might go twice a week now that he'll be bringing produce here (to the new restaurant)," Damore Jr. adds with a smile.

Besides the food connection, Damore Jr. adds his knowledge of real estate and love of people as "some weird equation, and it says, 'restaurant!'"

With all this in mind, Mark Damore Jr. worked out some details, packed up his clothes and cats, and established a "dorm room" at his parents' house in Culver, leaving behind the house he customized to be his castle in Indianapolis.

"I tell my staff I'm going to be as involved in this as a man can be! I'm all in --I just sold my soul to the north shore of Culver!"

Naming the Lakehouse

Specifically to the Lakehouse Grille, a moniker for which Damore Jr. credits his wife, despite her surprise at his reaction to what she'd intended as an offhand suggestion.

"I considered 'Lake Side' or Lake Shore. (But) if you say, 'Let's go to the lake house. I always called my parents' house that. So in my brain, if people said, 'Hey, let's go to Culver and go to the lake house,' you'd say, 'You mean the house or the restaurant?' I hope both!"

While he acknowledges some people's disappointment at the name change, Damore says he "just really felt like it needed something new. That is zero-point-zero defamation of anybody or anything of the past. I want to get the people that swore off the old place to give it another shot. And secondarily, I think the name's fantastic!"

Changes

By far the most major change in the space itself is the bar, says Damore, which he aims to make “more of an open space -- user friendly. That's why I eliminated booths

and the partition wall."

Because of that, the section will become 21 and over only, which in general has been met with enthusiasm.

Add to the equation a plethora of high definition televisions (primarily for game-watching, though Damore emphasizes it's "not a sports bar"), retention of the popular Buzz Time game, seating for 70 in the bar space alone, "world-class bartenders," and renovations that take advantage of the view and the lake, visually.

"The way I was viewing it," he says of the changes he's made, "I'm giving lots of nods to the past. I have a deep appreciation and respect for the past. I want to leave a bit of history. The props (on the restaurant side) are cool and I know people like them. I felt like...the carpet brought in blue and nice, neutral beiges. The lake is major theme on both sides."

And yes, many of the faces at the Lakehouse will be familiar to devotees of the Edgewater.

A ‘world class’ staff

"The hardest part has been not being able to retain everybody," Damore says. "I don't want to be a villain for anybody, but the people I did retain I feel special about. When somebody puts their whole life on the line, they need to feel special about the staff."

One new face is Tim Wilcken, the executive head chef, who is actually Damore's uncle, so "I've known him 25 years. He's been a chef ever since I've known him. He was my number one choice for a variety of reasons. The two biggest were his experience and the fact that I...trust in his abilities."

Damore says he feels the same way about Edgewater veteran David Noel, who is "executive chef B" and "an incredible universal guy."

"To pair them together is the dream team back there! I love that."

Other staffers include Peggy Pinder ("A staple, and one of the first people I called," he says), Crystal Moore, and Dana Keller behind the bar. Tina Pare' will offer sushi Thursday through Saturday once again as well.

"Location and supply staff is why this place will be

wildly successful," he adds.

What’s on the menu

Damore and Noel agree the Lakehouse's menu will be "60 percent the same and 40 percent different" in relation to the Edgewater's.

"We know lot of people enjoyed the old menu," adds Damore, "so we used it as an outline."

Of course, fresh produce will be a major boon to the Lakehouse's offerings. Damore Sr.'s Original Chicago Produce Company, emphases Mark Jr., is "known for quality -- and I'm not just hyping my dad!"

"If our produce disappoints people," he says, "they need to find me and let me know. But I don't think I'll have that conversation very often!"

Quality over quantity

First out of the gate, Damore Jr. explains, the Lakehouse won't be open for lunch, though within a month or so, they'll likely add lunches from Friday through Sunday. He says he's not sure there will ever be lunches offered during the week.

That policy exemplifies a philosophy he sums up as "quality over quantity," and it's also borne out in the fact that Damore is already planning the restaurant to be closed from Dec. 24 through Jan. 24 each year.

"I don't want to burn out my staff. I want to keep my staff of 18 healthy and happy. Most of all, I want to keep the customers stoked."

"I feel like, if we do what we do and do it well, that's enough...some people overdo it, and it hurts them."

It's obvious Damore has been pouring virtually every waking moment into realizing his vision for the Lakehouse.

"I want the triple crown! Great location, great food, and great service," he says, though he's quick to add he hopes all restaurants in Culver succeed.

"That will bring more people to this town. They will spend more money at the other restaurants and this one, at the retail shops, the gas stations -- it all feeds the town. I like a thriving place. I think it's good for the town."

CCHS from page 1



CITIZEN PHOTOS/JEFF KENNEY

Recipients of the CCHS Presidents awards included (first row, left to right): Cassandra Back, Caroline Baker, Kellie Bonine, Chelsey Jones, and Gabby Jurado. Back row: Aspen Kitchell, Kalee Miller, and Cassandra VanSky.

influence and added strength to our school," she said.

Recognized students included:

Cassandra Back, daughter of Mr. Robert Back, who received the Yearbook award and Science Club president award. She told the audience she plans to join Job Corps and earn a degree in the medical field, probably as a lab technician.

Caroline Baker, daughter of Terry Baker and Brett Baker, who was recognized as Art Club president. She plans to attend Ball State, and is as yet undecided on a major.

Kellie Bonine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Bonine, won the Band award, Drama Club president award, and was recognized as senior class president. She plans to attend Manchester University to study accounting.

Luke Dunfee, son of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Dunfee, recipient of the Building Trades award. Sheldon noted she recently toured the Building Trades, student-built house and said Dunfee looked as if he were "directing the orchestra" by pointing fellow students to the appropriate jobs. Dunfee said he was surprised by the award and also said he's been a "friend of the Lions Club" due to its role in helping fund his mission trip, with other students, to Mexico this spring. He plans a five-year construction apprenticeship to be an electrician.

Serena Hughes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Hughes, was at the BPA nationals in Chicago, but will re-



CITIZEN PHOTOS/JEFF KENNEY

ceive the French award and French Club president award.

Chelsea Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Jones, was honored as student council president, and plans to attend Manchester University to major in athletic training.

Gabby Jurado, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ruben Jurado, won the Spanish Club president award. Jurado, whom Sheldon described as a "sweet, quiet, positive force in our school," said her college choice is undecided, but she hopes to become a computer systems analyst.

Aspen Kitchell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Kitchell, received the Choir award and National Honor Society president award. She will attend Purdue University in West Lafayette this fall with an undecided major.

Cally Jo Klausing, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Doug Klausing, won the Art award, though Sheldon noted she is "an artist in many ways," including in theater. She will pursue an undecided major at the University of Southern Indiana.

Joe Krsek, son of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Krsek, won the Math award. He plans to attend Purdue University and study either mechanical or aerospace engineering.

Kalee Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Miller, was recognized as CAVS (Culver Alliance for Voluntary Service) co-leader, as well as recipient of the Science and Social Studies awards. She plans to attend Ball State University to major in educational psychology and become a



Receiving the Lions Club scholarship was, at center, Kellie Bonine, pictured here with parents (at left) Kevin and Amy Bonine, and grandparents (and Lions Club members) Jim and Rosalie Bonine. Jim Bonine presented the award.

guidance counselor.

Cameron Turney, daughter of Ms. Sherrie Back, won the Business award, Drama award, English award, and Spanish award. Thanking the Lions Club for their co-sponsorship of BPA, Turney said she also plans to attend Ball State, and will study speech and language pathology.

Sheldon noted Turney's perfect score of 800 on the SAT exam is a national rarity.

Cassaundra VanSky, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Terry Wakefield, was recognized as the other co-president of the CAVS Club, which Sheldon said engages in a number of community service projects including town-wide clean-ups, Christmas baskets, Relay for Life, and more.

"I can't say how much I value the efforts, organizational skills, and leadership of these two," Sheldon added.

VanSky plans to attend Indiana University South Bend to become a nurse practitioner.

Introducing the recipient of the Lions annual \$1,000 scholarship winner was Lion Jim Bonine, who said he'd been a member for 50 years but had never been honored by granting such an award, for which he expressed his appreciation to Winters.

Bonine asked the audience to "excuse my pride" and awarded the scholarship to his granddaughter, Kellie Bonine.

Winters noted the high school's scholarship committee,

rather than any Lions members, chooses scholarship recipient.

She said the Lions just donated enough to buy two new band uniforms for the school, among other supportive endeavors.

"Wherever we can lend a hand, we are there," she concluded.

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Champion bodybuilder explains his recipe for success

By Lydia Beers
Staff Writer

CULVER — Monterey resident Ron King first became involved with amateur bodybuilding a few years ago. At that time, the avid workout enthusiast said that he was just curious about where he would place in competitions. He soon found out that his naturally big physique wasn't enough to win.

"I always work out, that's just what I do," said King. "To prepare for a contest, I do the diet. The diet really catapults you up there."

The diet he follows is an extreme one — he doesn't allow himself any fluids in the days approaching the contest, and he varies between consuming large amounts of carbs and a no-carb, high protein intake. This — combined with consuming very little or no sodium — allows him to get that extremely built look necessary to win contests.

His hard work paid off, and King took home a win in the light heavy-weight class March 31, at a contest in Ohio. He is now looking forward to a bigger competition in Chicago June 16. The overall win there, said King, could put him in the position to get paid for his efforts.

"It would be nice to get paid, since I'm going to do it anyway," said King.

His friends and family were shocked when he won the



PHOTO PROVIDED

Ron King, of Monterey, is shown here at a bodybuilding contest March 31.

your hard work can be seen my everybody. My ultimate goal would be to be named the best-looking guy in the world!"

March 31 contest, but they are now becoming King's biggest supporters.

"(My family) is getting into it now," said King. "Before it was all a joke, but I'm representing the family bloodline now (that I've won)."

King also works at GNC in Plymouth, and he said his contest win has granted him some credibility in his job.

"Before I had to practically twist people's arms to buy (products)," said King. "Now, they buy whatever I tell them to — I told them this stuff worked before, but they didn't believe me!"

Working on his goals for bodybuilding contests and putting himself through his extreme diet plan has been life-changing for King.

"It opened my eyes to another dimension of life that I didn't know existed," said King. "(The diet) made sense to me, and that's why I went with it."

He continued, only half-jokingly, "I like the fact of knowing that

Birth - Aman



Michael and Kathleen Aman of Plymouth announce the birth of a son born March 14, 2012 at 7:08 a.m. at Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, Plymouth.

Liam Michael Aman weighed 8 pounds and 9 ounces and was 21 inches long.

He was welcomed home by a sister, Chloe Michelle Aman, 2.

Maternal grandparents are

Mike and Michelle Cissna of Plymouth.

Paternal grandparents are Jim and Sheri Lynne Aman of Kalamazoo, Mich.

Students receive chemistry info for Earth Day

Marshall County students received Earth Day-related materials in their science classes last week, according to Darrell Beach, representing (and former chairman of) the St. Joseph Valley section of the American Chemical Society. The materials included brochures and balloons for elementary-aged students, says Beach, who noted Earth Day was April 22. The annual distribution aims to educate students about Earth Day, chemicals, and chemistry, and this year for the first time included two Amish schools, he said. More information is available at the ACS website at www.acs.org.

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REAL Meals menu

To share a meal at REAL Meals, call Ruth Walker at the nutrition site (the Culver beach lodge) before 11 a.m. the day before for reservations, at 574-842-8878. A donation is suggested for each meal.

Thurs., May 3: Beef stroganoff, peas, cauliflower, whole grain bread and margarine, pineapple, milk.

Fri., May 4: Salisbury steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, broccoli with cheese sauce, wheat bread and margarine, mixed fruit, milk.

Mon., May 7: BBQ chicken, broccoli, succotash, honey wheat bread and margarine, fruited jello, cupcakes, milk.

Tues., May 8: Ham and beans, cornbread and margarine spinach salad and raspberry vinegarette, cobbler, milk.

Weds., May 9: Chopped steak and gravy, vegetable blend, mashed potatoes, rye bread and margarine, dessert, milk.

Thurs., May 10: Pulled pork, yellow kaiser bun, macaroni and cheese, zucchini and tomatoes, pears, milk.

Fri., May 11: Taco salad: meat, lettuce, salsa, shredded cheese, corn chips, ranch dressing, black bean and corn salad, hot cinnamon apples, milk.

Baker named no. 1 individual RE/MAX agent in Indiana



CULVER — Pam Baker, with RE/MAX Oak Crest Realty, has qualified for the

RE/MAX Chairman's Club Award for 2011, which honors successful agents as measured by gross annual commissions, as well as through their high performance and meeting their clients' needs in the past year.

Baker has been working in the real estate industry for more than 25 years and has extensive experience in residential and lake homes. Among Baker's many achievements, she was recognized as the No. 1 RE/MAX individual agent in the state of Indiana for 2004 and was ranked No. 2 in 2005. She also received the Platinum Award nine years in a row, Hall of Fame Award in 2003, and Chairman's Award in 2004 and 2011, plus the Life-

time Achievement Award.

"Baker has been an integral member of our team and is more than deserving of this very prestigious award," said Dave Goebel, principal broker of RE/MAX Oak Crest Realty. "Winning this award is a tremendous accomplishment. Pam continues to raise the bar in real estate, making us and this community proud."

In addition, Baker has actively supported the Culver Chamber of Commerce since

1998, the Maxinkuckee Lake Association, and although Children's Miracle Network is her charity of choice, she also helps the Culver Boys & Girls Club and is on the Building Trades Board, and the Lake Association Fund-raiser committee.

RE/MAX Oak Crest Realty is a full-service real estate provider in Culver, Bremen, and Plymouth, with the resources and experience to help clients buy or sell a home.

CBGC from page 1

The auction committee will also present new and diverse items at the auction this year.

Ginny Munroe, CBGC president, says she is thrilled to see the number of items arriving at her office. "This community is always so supportive of our club," she notes. "We are grateful to the individuals and organizations who give to this event to make it possible to operate our club. This year, we have a lot of new items arriving. From overnight trips accompanied with restaurant gift cards, theater tickets, and other enticing items, to the new things we are seeing from businesses in Culver, Plymouth, and even further away, we can't wait to show everyone what we'll be able to offer. We have some amazing items, including Kentucky Derby tickets, opera tickets, belly dancing lessons, shopping sprees, sports tickets, gifts anyone will love such as an iPad, and an array of items that I can see people of all ages bidding on."

The CBGC board is encouraging people to donate items of value. If you would like to donate, you can drop items off at CulverLodging Realty, located at 218 S. Main Street in Culver. The level of participation from local businesses and merchants has been outstanding in the past and this year proves no different. Donations are being posted on the club's website at www.bgcculver.org. Munroe encour-

ages people to check out the site more than once, as it will change with each set of items posted.

A goal of \$50,000 has been set for this year's auction and as in the past, the club is accepting corporate and individual sponsorships to help us reach this challenge. For more information on sponsoring the auction, contact Ginny Munroe at 574-252-6148.

The CBGC has much to celebrate at this year's event. With a total of 333 youth served in the past year, the Club is reaching more youth than ever before. It offers some of the most popular after-school activities for area youth.

Corey Monnier, Unit Director, reports that members participate in various programs such as the MK scholastic remediation program, the SMART girls program to develop self esteem, the NetSmartz Internet safety program, and the Triple Play program teaching good nutrition, physical fitness, and good character development. Members are also involved in community service projects that provide them an opportunity to thank the community for its support of the club.

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Pancake Breakfast: 6:00 a.m. till 11:00 a.m.
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First, the good news...

Well, Culver has wrapped up what could be considered the first of its uber-busy weekends of the year, and perhaps the first sign that the consistently busy summer season is on its way, though you wouldn't know it from the weekend's weather! Culver Academies parents' weekend, of course, isn't just an Academies event (though there were certainly many things taking place on campus this weekend): timed to coincide were, as usual, the town-wide yard sales (a bumper crop this year -- and chances are, you'll get a chance to catch some bargains you missed at the Lions Club's annual spring flea market Saturday morning) and, among other events, Tri Kappa's annual student art show.

I have to take a moment to compliment not only Tri Kappa for its usual first-class job of arranging the Culver Cove-based show, but this year's really incredible showing from Culver Comm. High School, which I must assume is due to the influence of art teacher Shane Lowry, who's wrapping up his first year at the school. Perhaps most striking were the variety of mediums used, from the more "folk art" styled wood pieces, to the "seran wrap" people greeting the veiwer, to the animal scupture employing bits of reflective glass. My own kids, of course, were very fond of the giant-sized Sharpie marker and "Dum Dum" sucker. We'll have detailed coverage, including photos, of the event and its winners in next week's Citizen, but my hat goes off to the students of Culver Comm.



View from Main Street

By Jeff Kenney
Editor

but thanks to the help of Amy Bonine and Cindy Miller, had a great DVD of the event (and photos), which led to last week's article. I almost feel it's a cliché to say -- as it seems I'm always hearing it around town, as I cover various events and projects -- that whatever negative news there is of teens, these events are among many which showcase the extrememly positive, and they're always heartwarming and inspiring. Kudos to those teens -- and the local organizations who give them a chance to show off their talents -- as well.

We've been touting it for a couple of weeks now, but hopefully readers will make the short trek to catch First Farmers Bank manager Chad Van Herk's benefit concert at Centennial Park in Plymouth Saturday. It appears so far that the weather should be conducive to a nice, mellow outdoor concert for a great cause, even if it's a tearjerker. Chad's music, on the other hand, isn't, and Chad deserves the highest

See View page 6

Speed development part 1

It doesn't matter the distance or sport, speed means success in athletics. From the marathon to 100 meters, baseball or gymnastics, the quicker and more efficient a performance, the greater chance for success.

Older athletes normally plateau, however adults can improve significantly when proper techniques are applied. Development in a young athlete comes naturally, and with good coaching, most are able to improve significantly. When I was a boy in elementary school, recess meant playing tag and racing classmates. It seemed natural to join the track team as I got older. I was a distance athlete, which meant I competed in the 800 and 1600 meters events. But, I also possessed good speed, which landed me a spot on the varsity 4 x 400 meter relay team (each runner racing one lap on the track).

I was the only freshmen in this speed-oriented event, usually reserved for older, stronger boys. I was not the fastest of the four, which allowed me the luxury of tucking into the number two spot on the relay, with the goal of simply holding my own, not really gaining or losing ground. Shock and surprise stuck when our coach announced that I would anchor the event at our next away meet. As I watched my teammates surge to a 10 meter lead, positioning me for the victory lap, I observed my competitor next to me pacing in the exchange zone anxious to revive his team. He was a senior, much taller, stronger and more muscular than I. He was chiseled and experienced. Conversely, I was only 14 years old, slight by comparison and a novice. When I received the baton, I ran for my life!

On the back stretch I heard his rhythmic breathing bearing down on my shoulders, and by the last curve, driving hard toward the homestretch; I knew I was in trouble. Stride for stride we hammered toward the finish line as I was overpowered in the last 20 meters, finishing behind my opponent. He had developed a rich reservoir of speed, able to recruit deep from within, while I had just begun my running 101education.

The next several articles will be written about speed development, covering three specific areas: hindrances to speed development, speed development in junior high/high school athletes, and speed development in adults.

The most significant hindrances to athletic speed are weight gain and/or "bulking" up. We have all heard the phrase "Bigger, Faster, Stronger." When achieved properly, these three allies work well together to provide quality speed in the developing athlete. Unfortunately, many athletes consume unneeded supplements, desiring the "bulking up look," but which cause muscles to be rounded and undefined, rather than lean and responsive. Younger athletes should be weary of supplements, especially if they replace food calories needed for bones, joints and muscles.

Weight training is very important, but only if that



Heartbeats and Footprints

BY DANA NEER

training makes you a better athlete. All too often, athletes simply want to get bigger, which often times hinders speed. Sadly, I have seen many fine high school athletes gain 20 or more unnecessary pounds, which not only minimizes their athletic speed, but also hampers them well into adult life. If an athlete chooses to lift weights, his routine should involve quick, full range

of motion exercises with moderate weight, high repetition movements. Heavier weights should be reserved for specific times of year, under the direction of a knowledgeable coach.

Loss of flexibility is also a major component to slow-muscle response. Muscles crave use and thrive when exercised daily. Atrophied muscles become tight and accident-prone, leaving the body to function in a confused state of inactivity. Over long periods of time, unused muscles actually need to be re-educated. Weight gain is a natural by-product of inactivity, often times resulting in chronic injury to the back and neck. Our bodies were created for movement, and when we halt forward progress, health and fitness digress quickly. The weather is beautiful. Carve out 45 minutes a day for your wellness!

Next month's article will be devoted to speed development in adults.

Dana Neer serves as Wellness Coordinator and Counselor at The Culver Academies. He can be contacted at Neerd@Culver.org.

Name that Culver 'citizen'

Last week's Mystery Citizen was recognized with definite conviction by numerous readers, though a few near misses came in too. He was Tim Osborn, who with wife Lydia has been associated with the gas station and mini-mart (and local Subway eatery) bearing the family name for some years now, besides a similar venture in Knox.

Sharp-eyed readers earning free parking in glamorous downtown Culver include Cynthia Bonine Goss, Jean E. Overmyer, Jack Houghton, Jeanette Geiselman, Louellen Kowatch, Lynn Crist, Kay Tusing, Brad Smith, Glennie Cooper, Coleen Watwood, Anna Neher, Lora Pinder, and Marilyn Kelly.

This week's Mystery Citizen has had an association with one prominent institution here for much of his life, but more recently became involved in public life in Culver.

Guesses may be emailed to culvercitizen@gmail.com or call the editor at 574-216-0075.



LEFT: Last week's Mystery Citizen, Tim Osborn, then and now. ABOVE: This week's Mystery Citizen.



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CMA takes 2nd, Cavs 5th at Marshall County tourney

By James Costello
Sports Editor

CULVER — The Triton Trojans swept the top three spots to win for the fifth straight time with a dominant 320 at the annual Marshall County Golf Tournament at Mystic Hills Saturday.

Culver Military placed second with a 356, John Glenn finished third just three stokes back with a 359, LaVille was fourth with a score of 361, Culver Community was fifth with a 371 score, and Bremen placed sixth with a 382.

The blustery, wet weather and an hour lightning delay early in the round played havoc on many golfers' scores.

Triton's Tanner Shepherd turned in a strong 80 to tie with Culver Community's Trent Elliott for third-place honors, while Ryan Rapp was seventh with an 83 as Triton five-peated at the sets up his drive off of the 14th fairway at Mystic Hills during the Marshall County Golf Tournament Saturday.

BELOW: Culver Community's Trent Elliott set up his drive off of the 14th fairway at Mystic Hills during the Marshall County Golf Tournament.



considering who we play against. Triton's a good team."

Culver was paced by Elliott's 80, while Luke Dunfee shot a 92, Zach Duplay came in in 95, and Cody Peterson carded a 104 for the Cavs on their home course.

"Trent Elliott ended up as one of the medalists with an 80. He shot a 42 on the front; and I talked to him at the turn, and he wasn't overly pleased with his front side," said Culver head coach Kyle Elliott. "Obviously, the conditions had something to do with that, but he got a little bulldog in him and fought back on the back nine — which is traditionally tougher — and shot a 38. I'm very pleased for him to bounce back and have a nice back side."

• MARSHALL COUNTY TOURNAMENT

At Mystic Hills
Team scores: 1. TRITON 320, 2. CULVER MILITARY 356, 3. GLENN 359, 4. LAVILLE 361, 5. CULVER 371, 6. BREMEN 382

Culver, Triton split NSC dual meet

By James Costello
Sports Editor

BOURBON — A two-way meet with a conference opponent is always a good opportunity to see where you stack up in your league.

With the Northern State Conference meet still two weeks out, Triton hosted Culver Thursday, and the two schools earned a split as Culver's boys beat their hosts 84-43, and Triton's girls edged out the Lady Cavaliers 61-53.

Culver's boys team went one-two in seven different events against a young Trojans team ailing with injuries, and the Cavaliers earned a convincing win on a gusty, cold night in Bourbon.

"Tonight I think Triton has been hit by injuries pretty bad so we were able to get some seconds where maybe their top guy would have gotten our second or even first," said Culver boys track coach Chad Hollenbaugh. "One help was injuries, but I think the other thing is we've been trying to build depth. We have some numbers in the program now, and being able to have that depth has helped us score points like that."

Culver took the top two places in a total of seven events at the meet — in both hurdles races, the 100, 200, 400 and the high jump and discus — and broke tape in all three relays for the wide margin of victory.

Bradley Beaver was a quadruple winner in the high jump, the long jump, the individual 400 and in the 1600 relay, while Matt Hurford won the 300 hurdles, the shot put and was a winner in the 1600 relay, and Cole Flora recorded wins in the 100, 200 and the 400 relay.

"Matt's the color of our team, really. He'll practice hard every day just like he does in football and wrestling and compete," said Hollenbaugh. "He may not look like the smoothest runner out there, but he sure does compete and go as hard as he can, and he's all about scoring points anywhere for the team. He'd never done shot put before in his life and we got him going at the start of the season, and now he's put himself in a place where he can score points at conference and sectional."

"Cole Flora has been real consistent in the sprints," he added. "He's been injury-free, knock on wood. He's had a couple of disappointing ends to his season due to injury in the past so hopefully he can continue with that. He's had his best season by far in my three years of coaching and been real consistent in the sprints for us."

Triton's boys earned most of their points in the distance events, meanwhile as the Trojans finished one-two in the 1600 and swept the top three places in the 3200.

Both Triton's and Culver's girls teams face low turnout this year, but both benefitted from some strong individual performances Thursday.

Culver went one-two in the 100 and 400, but the Lady Trojans earned the top two places in the 800, 3200 and in



PHOTO/JAMES COSTELLO

ABOVE: Culver Community's Bradley Beaver competes in the high jump during a dual Northern State Conference meet at Triton last week.

BELOW LEFT: Culver's Kayla Shaffer runs in the home stretch of the 400-meter race at a dual meet in Bourbon last Thursday.

the long jump to edge out the Lady Cavs.

While Culver fell short of a team win, the Lady Cavs had a historic night as sophomore Kayla Shaffer broke her school's 100-meter dash record with an 11.1-second time, putting another feather in her cap after breaking the program's 200-meter dash record recently. Shaffer took home wins in all of her races as she won the 100, 200, 400 and ran anchor for her team's winning 1600 relay team. She was followed closely by teammate Denisha Brown in the 100 and 400 as the Lady Cavs went one-two in both events.

"She does a great job. She's really fast," said Culver girls coach Michael Buschman of Shaffer. "The nice thing is with having she and Denisha both around it doesn't really matter what the competition is; they're pushing each other because wherever one is finishing first the other is pushing right there on her coat tails. She just works really hard. She runs some really tough races. The 100, 200, 400 and then 4 by 400, that's a pretty serious work load, and she does it without batting an eye. Actually she requested to put together a 4 by 400 team to beef us up."

Brown also competed on Culver's winning 1600 relay team, while freshman Tatum Schultz earned wins in both hurdles races, the high jump and in the 4X400 along with Donna Zehner, who finished in second behind Howdeshell in both throwing events.

"The big thing is we don't have a lot of girls running so we've got to try to spread out," Buschman said. "With conference coming we're just trying to figure out what our identity is going to be going into that. We kind of have to get times and distances down so that we're ready to go there, and that kind of was our goal tonight more so than worrying about trying to pick up a victory. That's nice, but we're short a couple runners and we're just trying to get some of those distances and times out in events that we project possibly using in conference."

Boys meet
• CULVER 84, TRITON 43, At Bourbon
Girls meet
• TRITON 61, CULVER 53, At Bourbon

Sports briefs

Baseball

Lindsey, Trojans top Culver 4-1

Marc Lindsey struck out eight while surrendering just three hits in a complete seven-inning outing, and Triton handed winless Culver a Northern State Conference loss at home in Bourbon Friday night.

Cordele Keyser's two-run single in the bottom of the third inning scored Erik Hoffman and Cody Shively after they opened up the frame with back-to-back singles. Keyser scored on a passed ball to put the Trojans up 3-nil, and Shively doubled in Cole Creighbaum filling in as designated hitter for Hoffman after he drew a walk in the fourth to give Triton a four-run cushion.

Nick Pritz scored Culver's only run in the top of the

fifth as he coaxed a leadoff walk from Lindsey with the count full then stole second, and George Alvarado singled to right with two outs to drive him home. Chris Zehner doubled for the Cavs, and Collin Stevens took the loss on the mound giving up seven hits with one strikeout and one walk for four earned runs.

Cody Shively went 2-for-2 with a double and an RBI, and Zak Shively went 2-for-3 with two stolen bases for the Trojans, who improve to 5-8 overall with a 2-3 conference mark.

• TRITON 4, CULVER 1
At Bourbon

Eagles fall

See Sports page 6

View from page 4

regards for sharing his talents the way he does. This isn't the only example of his being willing to give for others and be quietly invested in helping, both locally and obviously (read the Brief this issue) well beyond.

Summer in Culver is always pretty fantastic, but this one is shaping up to be an especially great one. Now I didn't

Sports from page 5

Culver Military Academy dropped a 9-2 game on the road at Elkhart Christian Thursday.

Perley Provost took the loss on the mound as CMA slid to 6-3 on the year.

• ELKHART CHRISTIAN 9, CULVER MILITARY 2
At Elkhart

Glenn keeps Culver Comm. winless

The John Glenn Falcons beat host Culver 8-5 in a Northern State Conference game Wednesday.

Nick Pritz doubled twice, and George Alvarado and Nick Zehner both doubled for Culver, which remained winless at 0-9 overall with an 0-4 NSC mark.

• JOHN GLENN 8, CULVER 5
At Culver

CMA wins

Culver Military shut out visiting Tippecanoe Valley, 6-0 Tuesday at home.

Kyle Bartelman got the win on the mound for the Eagles, Trent Kolden tripled and doubled, and Perly Provost, Ralph Laux and Kieran Smith doubled for CMA.

• CULVER MILITARY 6, TIPPECANOE VALLEY 0
At Culver

Softball

Briefs from page 1

menical event whose purpose is to share a friendly meal in a welcoming, community atmosphere. The meals are held on the 15th day of each month in the basement of the church.

MCJFL sign-up dates

Culver's Marshall County Junior Football League youth football sign-ups will take place May 15 (5 to 7 p.m.), June 16 (9 a.m. to noon), and June 23 (9 a.m. to noon). Please sign up at the open garage doors on the west side of the Culver Community High School. We are also looking for volunteer coaches as well as event volunteers. Please contact the following if interested: commissioner Chris Stevens (stevensc@culver.k12.in.us, 574-216-5007) or co-commissioner Van Hissong (vhisssong@hotmail.com, 574-225-0712).

Note: players must be 7 years old by July 31 and weigh at least 45 pounds.

Poplar Grove sale Memorial Day wknd.

Poplar Grove United Methodist Church will hold its annual rummage sale Friday and Saturday, May 25 and 26, Memorial Day weekend, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. As in the past, items will be available both inside and outside, so rain will not cancel the sale. To donate to the sale, please call Susan Shaffer at 574-952-2688 for pick-up of those donations.

Kiwanis raffle tickets available

attend Culver's Woodcraft Camp, but I must admit, I've always been captivated by what it seems to represent, too much of which is lost in today's high-tech world. Anyway, the Woodcraft centennial is pretty nifty stuff, and I think will prove to be one more feather in the community's collective cap. More on that in a future column.

Culver Comm. shelled at New Prairie

Culver Community suffered a 19-0 Northern State Conference loss in five innings at New Prairie Thursday.

Janell Vandeputte took the loss inside the circle as New Prairie jumped off to a 14-0 lead in the first inning.

• NEW PRAIRIE 19, CULVER 0 (5 inn.)
At New Carlisle

Girls tennis

CGA falls to No. 16 Canterbury

Culver Girls Academy lost a match to No. 16 Fort Wayne Canterbury 3-2 at home at the Academies Monday.

The Lady Eagles recorded wins at 3 singles, where Natalia Lopez-Yanez won in straight sets, and at 2 doubles, where Carlota Silva and Rachel Simon also won in two.

• F.W. CANTERBURY 3, CULVER GIRLS ACADEMY 2
At Culver

Boys lacrosse

CMA prep goes 2-0, varsity splits

Culver Military Academy's prep team went 2-0 over the weekend with wins of 15-6 and 11-4 over Western Reserve and Mason Ohio, and CMA's varsity split a pair of games with a 9-6 win over Bishop Chatard Saturday and an 8-6 loss to Noblesville Sunday.

Space is forcing this to be a necessarily brief column this week, and it's been so rife with kudos and good news, I feel I should stir the pot with something controversial (assuming I haven't already, unintentionally!). Sorry, folks -- there's always next week.

Michael Calvello racked up nine saves and P.J. Bogle scored four goals in the prep team's win over Western Reserve, while Bud Graham scored four goals, and Nic Peterson had seven saves in the win over Mason.

Ryan Gandy had three goals and an assist against Noblesville, and Caleb Brooks, Ryan Gandy and Andrew Gleitz each scored twice in the win over Chatard. Brock Frazer notched a combined 18 saves on the weekend for the varsity Eagles.

From Sunday
• CULVER MILITARY (Prep) 15, WESTERN RESERVE 6
At Culver
From Saturday
• CULVER MILITARY (Prep) 11, MASON (Ohio) 4
At Culver

CMA beats DCC

Bud Graham scored four goals, and Culver Military's prep lacrosse team beat visiting Detroit Catholic Central 16-3 Friday.

Joel Tinney scored three goals, and Zach Currier and Dean Ferris each scored twice for CMA. Pierre Byrne finished with two assists, and Michael Calvello tallied seven saves in the win.

• CULVER MILITARY (Prep) 16, DETROIT CATHOLIC CENTRAL 3
At Culver

features local and state-wide maps.

Sidewalk program

Applications for the 2012 Sidewalk Program will be available at town hall. Completed application for the program will be reviewed in the order they are received.

CBGC auction will 'Build Brighter Futures'

Organizers of the Culver Boys and Girls Club (CBGC) annual fundraising event encourage everyone to "save the date" for the "Building Brighter Futures" event to be held Friday, June 15 at the Culver Academies Lay Dining Center from 6 to 9:30 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by the magical transformation act, "Quick Change." The silent auction will culminate with a premium live auction. Admission to the event is \$65 per person or \$125 per couple and is by reservation only.

Lake Max Challenge paddleboard event June 30

Culver will host Indiana's first-ever World Paddle Board Association sanctioned Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP) race Saturday, June 30 via the the Lake Max Challenge. The Lake Max Challenge will start at the beach lodge at Culver's town park, 819 E. Lake Shore Drive. Parking and launching will be off the east end of the town beach. Learn more or register at lakemaxchallenge.com and facebook.com/lakemaxchallenge. Or contact 574.889.0022.

Culver hosts 30th Marshall Co. Spelling Bee



CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY
Culver 7th grader Brianna Kinyanjui spells a word at the Marshall Co. Spelling Bee in Culver Monday. She narrowly missed the third place spot won by Cody Detwiler (seated behind her). Top winner Kendall Dreibelbis is seated at left

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

Twenty-seven students in all from across the county earned the privilege of competing at the 30th Marshall County Spelling Bee, though in the end St. Michael's 7th grader Kendall Dreibelbis finally edged out Plymouth's Riverside Elementary 6th grader Autumn Wilson after a lengthy elimination battle between the girls, to take first place. Argos 8th grader Cody Detwiler came in third, just beating out Culver Comm. 7th grader Brianna Kinyanjui, who was eliminated by the word, "myriad." This was Detwiler's third qualification for the county-wide contest, and

his second year in a row taking third place.

Switching to Culver Community High School this year after years of being hosted at Argos, the contest was judged Monday evening by Culver teachers Todd Shafer and Julie Kitchell, and students were prompted by announcer Valerie Cultice, also of Culver.

Spelling bee contestants went 37 rounds in all, with nine students eliminated in the first round of full play, four more in the second, and eight more through the seventh. Dreibelbis, Wilson, Detwiler, and Kinyanjui duked out for several rounds, with Dreibelbis and Wilson going back and forth for elimination over 17 more words. At the close, "calisthenics," "curvature," and "embroidery" made for tough work, with Dreibelbis spelling the last word correctly and clinching her victory with the word, "judicial."

In addition to the aforementioned contestants, other qualifiers competing included 5th graders Victoria Anderson (Walkerton), Charles Celadina (St. Michael's), Hollie DeWulf (Argos), Sarah Luttrell (Culver), Reynaldo Tijerina (LaVille), Abby Ukinski (Bremen), Samantha Zechiel (Riverside), Brooks Feldman (St. Paul's Lutheran); 6th graders Jake Anders (LaVille), Dakota Bailey (Walkerton), Pierce El-



CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY
Culver Elementary 5th grader Sarah Luttrell in mid-spell at the bee.

See Bee page 10

Plan commission, BZA discuss county-directed zoning changes, vacating Academy Road, more

By Bobbie Washburn Ruhnow

At the April meeting of the Culver Plan Commission, Marshall County Plan Director Ralph Booker made a presentation on changes to the Culver and Marshall County zoning maps, which he said are necessary if the county wishes to implement online permitting. One of the difficulties which have faced both Culver and Marshall County in the permit process is that current mapping cuts through some farm parcels. The changes proposed will place whole parcels in either the county or Culver's jurisdictional area.

Booker continued his presentation by noting that the major changes will be to the north of Culver where mostly farm land is divided between the two areas. The County zoning is A-1 (Agricultural) and Culver is S-1 (Suburban).

The county Plan Commission had positive input from local farmers to keep their parcels under the county zoning. One of the concerns mentioned was Culver's zoning ordinance height requirement of 35 feet. Under these restrictions, a variance would have to be secured from Culver's Board of Zoning Appeals for any farm building exceeding that height.

Kevin Berger said he thought the town should gain land and that Culver would be losing a lot of parcels if the change was permitted. Marlene Mahler, however, said that farmers were concerned about restrictions imposed by Culver's zoning.

There were several other zoning map corrections that needed to be rectified which Russ Mason, building commissioner, presented.

Pete Peterson, plan commission member, made the motion to accept the updated zoning map, which was approved unanimously. Barry McManaway, member, then made the motion to accept the revised two-mile jurisdictional area which also passed unanimously. Both recommendations will now be sent to the town council for action.

Mason told members that the Culver Educational Foundation had approached the county commissioners to vacate Academy Road from the county's jurisdiction.

This action would result in Academy Road becoming a private right-of-way. The commissioners wish a letter of recommendation from Culver's planning body and Mason noted this was an issue that had not been considered by the commission before. However, the road is within the two-mile jurisdictional area so a recommendation is in order. Ralph Winters, president, requested a decision be postponed pending further information. A representative from CEF will be asked to attend May's plan commission meeting to discuss the issue.

The building commissioner reported that to date, 31 permits have been issued with building costs estimated at over \$2 million.

Under citizen input, Berger thanked members for their support of the Garden Court West project. Regarding the vacation of Academy Road, Berger noted that he could see no value to Culver in the vacation. Closing this access road could pose a problem of quick emergency service access, he continued.

Commission members' comments included a request by Brandon Cooper, secretary, to add a Knox Box clause to the zoning ordinance. Peterson commented that another precedent had been set for the town's sidewalk ordinance making it more difficult to implement zoning ordinance requirements. McManaway asked for more communication between boards citing the recent erection of a tower in the downtown area approved by the Culver Board of Zoning Appeals.

The Culver Board of Zoning Appeals had only one variance to consider at their April meeting. James Easterday, attorney, requested a 3 foot side yard variance to replace an existing garage for Leo Watson, 1394 E. Shore Drive.

The new structure would improve the present zero foot lot line setback to the three feet. The board discussed the possibility of moving the structure or positioning it so the owner could back out to SR 117. Easterday said he felt it would be dangerous to back out of the drive due to the proximity of SR 117 and the heavy traffic in the area. There is also a leach bed in the area that would prohibit placing the new structure in another area. Easterday presented a letter from the adjacent neighbor who had no objections unless the new structure obstructed his view of the golf course.

Dan Adams, president, called for the findings of fact and on a motion by secretary Cooper, the variance was approved. Adams, Ron Cole, and Cooper voted in favor of the variance and John Helphrey voted in the negative.

Mason advised that at next month's meeting, a Special Use permit will be presented to allow a Day Care center use for the building located on the corner of Main and Lake Shore Drive. The last business located on that premise was the Bike Barn.

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Culver Youth Celebrate National Boys & Girls Club Week

April 15 marked the beginning of National Boys & Girls Club Week. This week is designed to showcase the work of the nearly 4,000 Clubs and the 4.1 million youth served annually in the nationwide movement.

To celebrate this festive week, the members of the Culver Boys & Girls Club held a biodegradable balloon release competition. The goal was to see who, via balloon flight, could spread the Boys & Girls Club message the furthest. Youth between the ages of five and eight competed. Members drew pictures of their favorite Club activity and wrote a message to potential recipients to contact the Club if they discovered their balloon. The youth involved with the release had high hopes for the competition, with one 2nd grader hoping his balloon would find its way all the way to Hawaii.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Culver Boys & Girls Club members celebrating National Week, from left (foreground): Ayden Annis (2nd grade), Avery Keller (kindergarten), Alex Sorg (2nd grade), Gwen Gilley (kindergarten), Mathew Davis (2nd grade), Wyatt Ringer (3rd grade), Gavin Sayler (2nd grade), Trenton Fritter (1st grade), Tucker Fisher (2nd grade), Timothy Young (2nd grade), Mason Herbert (1st grade). Background, from left: Chyanne Beaver (2nd grade), Lucas Mann (kindergarten), Makenzie Wireman (2nd grade), Brendan Richard (2nd grade), Lane Coby (2nd grade), Evan Brown (1st grade), Anessa Wireman (kindergarten), Austin Dilts (2nd grade).

The Culver Boys & Girls Club serves over 330 youth annually and has an average daily attendance of 83 members. Members who participate in the program receive the opportunity to take part in programs and activities that are designed to foster positive youth development. Those interested in learning more about the Culver Boys & Girls Club and their work to help build brighter futures in our community may visit www.bgcculver.org or contact Unit Supervisor Cory Monnier at 574-250-0103.

Tax bill rates, School Street sidewalk, other items on table at council mtg

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

Some residents' recent increased property tax bills have to do with what appears to be an oversight in advertising Culver's town budget back in 2010, according to discussion between Culver's clerk treasurer and town council at the council's April 24 meeting.

According to town clerk Karen Heim, the town is required by law to advertise its next year's budget annually, and typically it's recommended to request the maximum levy possible. In advertising the 2011 budget, which took place back in 2010, numbers apparently were transposed from one column to another, or miscalculated, and Culver requested some \$400,000 less than what should have been advertised.

The result was a drastically reduced tax rate of .344 in 2011 for residents, compared to .580 in 2009, .588 in 2010, and this year's tax rate of .577, which reflects the increase back to a normal rate. Heim distributed a hand-out to that effect, which also showed the maximum estimated levies for 2009 (\$1,045,968), 2010 (\$909,177), and 2011, which was \$545,998. The 2012 estimated levy was \$956,771.

"So in essence," said Heim, "last year people got a little tax break. You may not have seen it on your tax records because six or seven entities get your money (and some may have increased their own levies)."

Other levies may have been offsetting Culver's decrease, Heim told the *Citizen*, adding she would have to look at a tax statement from last year to be sure. She notes she is checking with the auditor's office to confirm exactly how much Culver received last year from property taxes.

In response to council member Ginny Munroe's query as to whether Culver's fiscal draw last year went down, Heim said she understood less money would have been collected last year, but she would have to research the amount.

Some residents discussed increased property value assessments recently in Culver, which have led to higher

property tax bills. Munroe noted these are based on what's considered fair market value, adding Culver still has one of the lowest property tax rates in the state overall.

Audience member Russ Mason suggested the fact that a lowered funding draw in 2011 didn't result in the town borrowing money, raises questions as to the need for large reserves of funds to be kept intact, something audience member Ralph Winters replied is important to keep in case the town applies for a grant which requires matching funds.

"I know we spent over (the \$500,000 taken in last year due to the apparent error), so we had to have gone into some kind of surplus (funding source); we just don't know yet, which account," said Munroe.

Council member Bill Githens also updated the council and audience on a request initially made to the council to help facilitate a sidewalk linking the Miller's Merry Manor nursing home on School Street with ball fields and the Culver Community Schools administration building to the south.

Resident Tom Kearns had approached the council at its last meeting asking the town to partner with the nursing home to bring the sidewalk into being, to increase safety for residents should an evacuation become necessary, and to simplify transportation for them for entertainment at the ball fields. Following up on the council's suggestion he discuss the matter with the Culver Redevelopment Commission, Kearns was successful in negotiating funding through the CRC and Miller's combined, said Githens.

CRC member Grant Munroe, in the audience, said the CRC stipulated Miller's pay half of the cost of the sidewalk, or just over \$3,000, while the CRC will pay the other half. Work is expected to begin on the sidewalk within two weeks, said Munroe.

Ginny Munroe moved, and the council approved, that the town be responsible for creating a crosswalk between the high school and ball field area.

The council clarified specifics pertaining to a railing and seating added outside Cafe Max on South Main Street, to facilitate outdoor dining there. Restaurant owner Susie Mahler said was in favor of an agreement drawn up by town attorney Bill

Culver'e Ellert endorsed by statewide family PAC

The Indiana Family Action PAC has endorsed Culver-based state representative candidate Francis Ellert (R) for the Indiana House District 17 election.

Indiana Family Action PAC is the sister organization of Indiana Family Action. Indiana Family Action is the advocacy arm of the Indiana Family Institute. The Indiana Family Institute is the state affiliate of Focus on the Family, the Family Research Council and the Alliance Defense Fund.

Ellert is a candidate in the Republican primary election in the newly-redistricted Indiana House District 17, which includes Marshall and northern Fulton Counties.

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lert (Culver), Audrey Himes (St Michael's), Araceli Jiminez (Bremen), Tori Obrochta (Argos), David Hochstetler (St. Paul's Lutheran); 7th graders Courtney Dunlap (Argos), Anna Dennie (Urey), Ellen Fox (St. Paul's Lutheran); 8th graders Dana Gumm (Urey), Kenneth VanDePutte (Culver), and Lucas Vervynckt (Argos).

The event coordinator was Raeanne Stevens, Culver; emcee Missy Trent, Culver. Recorder was Sandra Bailey.

Clevenger, with the exception of language requiring her to remove the railing by the end of Labor Day weekend.

Instead, Mahler said the original council decision had been to allow placement of the railing up to commencement of work on Culver's downtown revitalization project, which will replace all downtown sidewalks, among other changes. The council approved the second timeline.

Council president Sally Ricciardi said the council would bring two town manager candidates back later that week to meet with town department heads as a step towards a final choice of manager. A May 2 work session was scheduled for council members to follow up on that meeting.

Kathy Clark, of the Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council, was given council approval to use stencils to paint messages near Culver's storm drains that each drains to the lake, replacing circular metal signs on the drains, which Clark said easily fall off. The work, which likely will involve Culver Academies students engaged in service projects, should take place later this year, she said.

Jeff Kenney of the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver called attention to a May 12 "town hall" style meeting hosted by the AHS at the Culver Elementary School gymnasium, where the future of the AHS' Center for Culver History museum will be discussed. The community as a whole is impacted by the imminent removal of the museum from its present home at the Culver Public Library, said Kenney, and museums are a valuable asset to their communities. One hope, he added, in response to a question from Ricciardi, is to involve the community more fully in oversight and direction for the museum.

Kevin Berger, of Easterday Construction, thanked council members Ed Pinder and Bill Githens for their attendance the previous week at a ribbon cutting and open house for Culver's new Garden Court senior living facility on South Main Street. He also thanked the council overall for their supporting "in making this project happen," to which Pinder added his appreciation for Berger's efforts on the facility, which Easterday built, and Berger helped find land for.

Ricciardi said she would discuss with town utilities manager Bob Porter making sure bids are let for town projects, after Bob Cooper of Easterday complained several concrete jobs have been given to one company with no notice to other concrete-capable entities in town.

Culver Elementary Students of the Month

Culver Elementary School has announced its Students of the Month for March.

Kindergarten: Avery Keller (teacher: Amy Bonine), Genna Sherman (Heather Overmyer) Nora Johnston (Stephanie Smith), Samantha Tapia (Jean Urbin), Lucas Hardesty (Janna VanDePutte).

1st grade: Haylie Rizor (Andrea Berndt), Baleigh Binkley (Kelly Dickert-hoff), Trenton Fritter (April Jefferies), Marissa Milam (Becky Risner), Kaleigh Firtch (Kelly Young), Abigail Kisela (Carol Jackson), Ashton McCarthy (Rhonda

Kinney).

2nd grade: Emily Heim (Jean Ahlenius), Mason Cormican (Tina Bailey), Alexxa Howard (Cindy Master), Lilly Brown (Lisa Moise).

3rd grade: Mia Conroy (Valerie Cultice), Katie Hoffman (Jill DeSalle), Jane Wright (Rachel Rife, Destiny Garza (Carrie Sharp), A. J. Czerniak (Mrs. Thompson).

4th grade: Makenzie Hymel (Stephanie Alva), Anna Blocker (Leslie Shepard), Ja'Caysia Macon (Alicia Cotner), Brooklyn Sellers (Chris Renneker), Michael Moore (Julie Cow-

en).

5th grade: Shelby Blair (Pam Craft), Taylor Guzzo (Gayle Kinzie), Alyssa Kinyanjui (Raeanne Stevens), Seth Lagneau (Steve Young), Shawn Bell (Kim Morrison), Nik Vela (Suzanne Hollis)

6th grade: Angel Moore (Bryan Albright), Austin Wood (Adam Huber), Cody Russell (Todd Shafer), Macee Strycker (Missy Trent), Malachi Griffith (Kris Arvelo), R. T. Roberts (Mike Elliott), Kia Riale (Terri Zechiel), Dylan Le-wandowski (Joyce Lyman).