

The Culver Citizen

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Have board, will travel

CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

ABOVE: That's Culver resident Megan Levett on her Stand Up Paddleboard right of center in the photo above, winning the women's division of the third annual Lake Max Challenge's Rec Race Saturday afternoon. The event, which launched from the Culver town beach, brought over 80 participants from around the United States to Culver, and saw them racing in a variety of competitions, including kids' races. Lake Max Challenge is sponsored by Sail22, an international sailing company operated from Culver by Ed and Becky Furry, and is the only nationally sanctioned SUP event in Indiana. Local businesses also provided food, and area musician Chad Van Herk -- who also raced in the event -- provided live music. Results, more information, and more photos will appear in a future edition of the *Citizen*.

In Brief

Hydrant flushing

The Town of Culver will be flushing fire hydrants from Monday, June 30 through Friday, July 11. Citizens may experience "foggy" water during this time frame and we ask that you bear with us while we flush the system. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Town Hall at 574-842-3140.

VFW 4th steak fry rescheduled

The steak fry planned for July 4 at Culver's VFW Post 6919 has been postponed until July 11. The Post will be open on the 4th and will offer an open menu. The public is welcome.

Community meal at Grace July 15

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

Summer Reading programs upcoming

The long awaited arrival of The Game Truck will be at Culver-Union Twp. Public Library Wednesday, July 31 from 2 to 4 p.m. Come and play all the latest PlayStation and Xbox games with your friends.

Free community meal at CBC July 6

Culver Bible Church on South Main Street will host a free community meal Sunday, July 6, starting at 6 p.m. This month's meal will be held outdoors and will feature a barbecue theme. Community meals are held on the first Sunday of each month at that time, typically in the church basement. All are welcome.

The 31st annual Culver Lake Fest returns July 18 through 20, at the Culver town park. New features include the Max Factor talent show (replacing the

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Culver Elkay plant to add 100 new jobs

Town council discusses planned abatement at public hearing

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

The Culver manufacturing plant Elkay (also known as Medallion) plans to add some 100 local jobs over the next four years, as well as a significant capital investment of new machinery and equipment, with the assistance of a tax abatement from the town of Culver.

The Culver town council, at its June 24 meeting, voted to declare the Elkay property an economic revitalization area as part of its recently-completed tax abatement policy, following discussion of the Elkay plan.

Jerry Chavez, executive director of the Marshall County Economic Development Corporation, introduced the discussion and noted that the process of choosing which of Elkay's several plants nationwide would expand was "very competitive." He also noted the property had been designated a redevelopment area back in 2005, and he added the company had already invested around \$8.5 million in its Culver plant in the past few years with no tax abatement.

Plant manager Rick Coffman, explaining he'd been at Culver's Elkay plant for nearly three years, said Elkay has plants in US locales as far-flung as Minnesota, Oregon, Colorado, and Virginia, and that some of the upcoming work could go to multiple plants, "but we would like to keep it here in Culver."

Elkay's plant has been on West Jefferson Street for more than eight years now, Coffman said, adding, "I want to see Culver in business forever."

Much of the \$1.5 million investment the company is about to make here is in new equipment, explained Coffman, and the company will likely retrain some of its employees for the expanded work load.

Elkay Cabinetry is home to seven brands, including the popular Schuller brand sold nationwide at Lowe's. Coffman pointed out the Culver factory is the exclusive maker of the frameless cabinets sold via the Home Depot retail chain, though many Elkay-made cabinets travel to Sears and Menard's as well.

"This is a big to-do," he said. "It's very important to

See Council page 2

State corrects omitted four-star rating for Culver Comm. High School

Culver Community High School earns status as "Four Star School" from Indiana Department of Education for the 2012-13 school year.

That's a fact that was missed in the original IDOE publicity regarding public schools in the state, according to an email sent from outgoing CCHS principal Albert Hanselman.

Noting the school had received an "unexpected" letter from the IDOE last Thursday, Hanselman said the school was notified there had been an error in calculating school grades. Specifically, math ECA (End of Course Assessment) scores were miscalculated during the initial Four Star School tally, according to the letter.

To calculate the designation, the state adds together the passing percentages for English 10 and Algebra 1 to create a "combined ECA passing percentage." It then calculates the top 25th percentile of schools based on combined passing percentages and identifies schools that are above the 25th percentile. A school must be in the top 25th percentile order to be considered a Four Star school, according to the DOE.

"This is a great honor for the high school," said Hanselman, "as it is one of the highest awards a school can earn from IDOE.

"It is unfortunate that IDOE took so long to provide correct statistics. However, what is important is that, in the end, Culver Community staff and students are being recognized as being one of the higher performing schools in the state of Indiana."

More information on the award is available online at www.doe.in.gov/accreditation.

A trip to the (Farmer's) Market

Or, "The Humans of the Culver Farmer's Market"

By Clare Nowalk
Correspondent

A Facebook page called "The Humans of New York" has exploded across the web and into the laps of its subscribers. The creator of the page uses it to share photos of various people in New York City and their stories. The idea of sharing the tales of everyday, normal people for inspiration and a couple of cheerful laughs is beginning to be used in other cities with names such as "Portraits of Boston" and "Humans of Rome."

Although Culver is a small town with not nearly as many tourist attractions as Rome, Amsterdam, Chicago, or New York, it is a melting pot of individuality with a variety of unique people. In the town as a whole though, you will see some of the greatest examples of this diversity at the Farmer's Market.

The town Farmer's Market was started over 15 years ago by the Culver Chamber of Commerce as a way to bring people together to sell produce, homemade goods, and various products. Since its beginning, the Farmer's Market has continued to grow and thrive, turning into a small community of its own among the vendors. They all are there for different reasons, but in the end they all keep coming back because of their love for what they do. So as a spinoff of the "Humans of New York" Facebook Page, I went to the Culver Farmer's Market to take some pictures and get the backstories of the vendors there.

PHOTO/CLARE NOWALK

BELOW: Vivian Bush sells woven rugs and other items at Culver's Farmer's Market.



Name: Felicia Payne
Product: Homemade Honey and Pots. I make all my pots at my house and gather the honey from my 13 hives at home to bring to the Farmer's Market weekly. All my pots and bowls are microwavable and dishwasher safe.

"It's a lot of fun. I used to come with my Grandparents every weekend. When they both passed away, I guess I just decided to carry on the tradition."

Name: Pat Hirsch
Product: Pierogis, Frozen rabbits and chickens, noodle, flowers, spices, and produce. Everything I sell is homegrown, homemade, and

See Market page 5

Underdog tale a success story to Lakehouse owner in Burger Wars

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

Mark Damore Jr., owner of the Lakehouse Grille in Culver, realized his restaurant was the underdog in the Northern Indiana Burger Wars competition, but he's thrilled that his eatery -- in a town of 1,300 -- was in the final four and faced off against a restaurant from a city with 77 times its population.

The Lakehouse's burger beat out seven other restaurants to win the MarshaAll County Burger Wars, and last week competing with The View Tavern of South Bend, who as of Monday had earned 57 percent of the vote versus the Lakehouse's 43 percent (the final round of the competition takes place this week).

The contest is a joint initiative of the Northern Indiana Tourism Development Commission (NITDC) and its member convention and visitors bureaus in Porter, LaPorte, St. Joseph, Marshall, Kosciusko, Elkhart

See Burger page 3

History of crime in Culver at July 12 AHS event

A look at the great crimes of Culver's past is on tap for Saturday, July 12, starting at 10 a.m. as part of the annual meeting of the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver.

The event will take place in the large meeting room of the Culver Public Library, 107 N. Main Street in downtown Culver.

Speaker Jeff Kenney will present "Crime, Punishment, and Culver," which examines some of the more memorable crimes -- from bank robberies to murder myster-

ies, to just plain odd cases -- via an audio-visual Pow-

er Point presentation, following the business portion of the meeting.

The event is free and open to the public. Those with questions may email historyof-culver@gmail.com or call 574-635-0053 (a local number even if not an "842" prefix).



LEFT: Then-Culver Citizen editor M.R. Robinson holds the special edition of the paper following the 1933 robbery of the State Exchange bank in Culver.

Correction

In the June 19 edition of *The Culver Citizen*, in the article entitled , "Academies honors 143 past, present staff members at dedication of Distinguished Service Monument," retired Academies staff member Dorothy Beauchamp (pictured with fellow retiree and husband Roger Beauchamp), was mistakenly identified as "Doris." The *Citizen* regrets the error.

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Council from page 1

us. We're the fourth largest cabinet company in the US, and we make cabinetry for the entire house; not just the kitchen."

The plant also makes trims and moldings, and its output is semi-custom to "almost custom," and is made to order, Coffman noted.

He also said the plant went to a split shift this past April to reduce overtime, and hopes to transition to an actual second shift in the near future, though that process would be gradual.

The plant currently employs 320 people, and its goal is to increase that number by 25 each year until 100 more are attained, though Coffman said that estimate is "conservative" and may be higher.

"The growth potential is great," he added.

Town attorney Jim Clevenger said the tax abatement offered by the town is around \$7,000 per year. Council president Ginny Munroe noted the discussion at the current meeting, however, pertained to establishing the district to allow the plant's abatement, rather than the abatement itself.

Asked by an audience member whether there are checks and balances to ensure the company follows up on its hiring as part of the terms of the abatement, Chavez confirmed there's a process of confirmation with the State of Indiana and various criteria for the company to receive its tax abatement. Munroe added that the town will track the matter, as well as the MCEDC.

Audience member Sue Beggs asked if the proposed new equipment would reduce lacquer emissions smelled around town from the plant, adding she could also hear the factory from her home.

Coffman replied that part of the \$8.5 million invested into the plant last year was nitro therm to help workers use less spray. In fact, he said, the equipment to reduce over spraying cost almost \$1 million in itself. He added spraying may become more water-based in the future.

"I think we're at 55 percent of our air permit as far as allowed DOCs," Coffman said. "We're well within our limits."

Clevenger suggested questions along those lines were probably more appropriate for the public hearing on the matter scheduled for the council's July 8 meeting, adding the current resolution is "the first step."

Coffman added appreciation for the assistance provided by the town and county, noting the plant donates its scratched or otherwise unsellable cabinets to the county's Habitat for Humanity, and supports area high school tech programs. The factory also built and donated cabinets for the Culver fire department.

"Being a wood product plant, the fire department is very important to us," Coffman said.

It was also noted Elkay employees wishing to volunteer for special community projects may be paid by the company to do so, provided they ask for the time off in advance, something praised by council members.

Audience member Patty Stallings, of the Culver park board, also noted Elkay has "very generously" offered cabinet packages for each level of the Culver beach lodge, if that building is remodeled.

CCD debate

In other actions, the council approved an ordinance to re-establish its CCD (Cumulative Capital Development)

fund, though not without some questioning from a member of the public.

Fred Kowalinski questioned whether the town had sought other avenues of raising funds besides the CCD, whose re-establishment was the subject of a public hearing at the meeting. The fund, allowable by state law and in place for some years in Culver, would tax five cents per every \$100 in property taxes.

The council specifically intends to use the \$65,000 the CCD would generate, towards matching funds for a Safe Routes to School grant to create sidewalks on several Culver streets currently without walkways.

Town clerk Karen Heim said the CCD fund currently only derives .25 cents per \$100, and re-establishing it would return it to the five cent level it had previously been (that being the maximum amount the state allows municipalities to levy).

Asked again by Kowalinski whether the town had considered other means to raise the funds, including a bond issue taxpayers could choose, Munroe said the town has no revenue source to pay for capital projects and is considering a bond issue through the state revolving fund for the necessary replacement of its water plant. She added a bond issue wouldn't be used "for a small project like sidewalks.

"Most of our projects either have a grant already or we're waiting to hear (about a grant as funding source). For the water plant, we don't have \$1 million laying around to use. The grant we would get is \$400,000, but it's about a \$1.3 million project."

She added the CCD fund is on a five-year rotation needing re-establishment and was at a higher rate a few years ago.

"You've been paying that tax already," Munroe said. "It's just a higher rate (with re-establishment)."

Kowalinski also asked about the need for a new building for the town's municipal offices and emergency services, which Munroe said council discussed over the course of three or four years, obtaining quotes for various iterations of a replacement or renovation project. She said the matter is currently "not on the top of our list."

Audience member Chester Gut asked about the faux brick crosswalks in town in which "you about lose your wheels" when driving across.

Munroe pointed out the crosswalks in question are derived from Culver Redevelopment Commission funds, rather than town funds. Town manager Dave Schoeff also noted the problem crossings are not part of the initial, grant-funded revitalization project spearheaded by the town in the downtown area, but are part of an extension of that aesthetic rehabilitation, sponsored by the CRC.

Council member Bill Githens added the CRC project was handled by a different contractor than the downtown, and that town utilities manager Bob Porter is working to have the problem repaired at the contractor's expense.

In reply to a query from Kowalinski, Schoeff reported that Culver's assessed valuation is currently at \$161,402,342.

The council approved re-establishing the CCD fund on all three readings, noting levy will begin with 2014 taxes, payable in 2015.

EMS upgrade, update

Culver EMS director Brandon Cooper reported that the service will move to the new advanced EMS status in conjunction with changes in state-mandated levels of care. He noted the new status allows the service to "offer a higher

level of care than we currently are."

A state inspection was scheduled for June 26, he said, to make the update in certification.

The council approved Cooper's request for a pharmaceutical supply agreement between the EMS and the St. Joseph hospital in Plymouth. The contract would run \$600 per year, at \$25 per vehicle (the service has two ambulances) per month, plus the cost of the drugs.

Cooper noted drug orders currently take two days via its present supplier, while the hospital can provide drugs immediately. The contract includes storage of the drugs by the hospital as well.

Also approved by council was a second motion to purchase a supply of medicines from the hospital for up to \$1,200.

Cooper also reported the department's May statistics, which included a total of 28 calls: 10 in town, 16 in Union Township out of town, one to Monterey, four to Miller's Merry Manor, and one a general maintenance call. This brings the total calls for the department to 157 for the year, he said, adding the EMS should be well over 400 calls by the end of the year, bringing its totals to where they were the year before.

Culver Christmas decorations

Though the holiday season may seem far away now, town manager Schoeff noted the town's contract to have Christmas decorations installed throughout town by a private company will be up this year, and asked if the council would like to take the matter out for bids. He said he examined pricing and found the cost of outsourcing the work was a bargain. Council member Ed Pinder added local volunteers or staff had been injured in years past while hanging decorations.

It was also discussed that a contest could be held to allow community members to design replacement banners for the winter-time ones hung around town each year, since those created through Second Century are 11 years old and many have been lost or damaged over time.

Other actions, discussion

Approved was \$4,500 to replace a line in the town sewer plant digester and clean diffusers in an aeration tank. Another \$4,500 was given the thumbs up to have an unused water line on Vandalia Street capped and removed by Zehner Construction.

At a public hearing last week, according to Schoeff, Culver's plan commission approved the town's comprehensive plan. The council will make the final vote approving the plan during a public hearing at its July 8 meeting.

The council approved payment of paving it had already approved at a previous meeting, in conjunction with the storm water project concluding on the west side of town. Additional work needed includes indicators being placed identifying manholes.

Schoeff added that, due in part to the extra paving, the project is about \$17,000 over the grant amount. He noted that Culver Elementary School also tied their drainage system to the stub the town ran, where previously water accumulated on school property had no route by which to depart.

Approved was \$3,977.15 to repair the brakes on the town's dump truck, used heavily for salting and sanding in winter.

A work session has been scheduled for July 8 for department heads to begin work on their budgets, said Heim during her clerk's report.

She also requested -- and council validated -- \$3,208 and \$3,801, respectively, for Culver's fire and EMS for a three-year contract covering some supplemental income (of \$400 per week), should a member of either be injured while performing their duties.

Council voted to accept the resignation from the Culver Public Library board of Carol Minarik, whom it had appointed earlier this year and who is moving out of town in the near future. The open position will be advertised.

The town's cell phone package will be handled by AT&T, by council vote, as its bid came in slightly lower than Verizon's.



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Moonlight Serenade moves to single-night performance July 11



Culver Summer Schools and Camp's annual The Ann M. Smithson Moonlight Serenade will take place Friday, July 11.

However this year's event, unlike most years past, will be limited to one evening covering both the east and west shores of Lake Maxinkuckee (and including the town park).

A beloved tradition dating back over 70 years, the Moonlight Serenade features the Culver Summer Naval Band in performance on the deck of the RH Ledbetter, the Culver summer program's three-masted schooner and the largest vessel on Indiana's inland waters.

The band will serenade boats in its vicinity as well as listeners on the shores of the lake.

The Serenade will begin at the town park around 9 p.m., then head to the west shore of the lake, concluding with the east shore. A rain date for the event has been set for Sunday, July 13.

Burger from page 1

and LaGrange counties.

Damore, who purchased the former Edgewater Grille in 2012, says the quality and popularity of the restaurant's burgers are no accident.

"Our burgers are USDA prime angus beef," he explains, noting nearly 8,000 burgers were consumed there last year. "In other words, they are top of the line meat."

As a result, he says, Lakehouse burgers are extremely juicy (even when prepared well-done) as opposed to greasy.

"The truth is, when I was looking for the burger for the Lakehouse, I knew we needed to have a dynamite burger. The Lakehouse is high-end casual food, and we embrace that role. We want to be casual but we buy the best stuff and we have incredible people preparing it for us.

"The core of a high-end casual restaurant is a great burger."

The Lakehouse's first chef told him, Damore recalls, that he was spending too much time in developing the burger, though Damore countered he wasn't spending enough. In



Due to the resignation of school board member Dave Cooper (who will no longer be eligible to fill the District 5 position due to moving), Culver Community Schools Corporation is seeking applicants to be considered by the remainder of the board to serve as a replacement.

The applicant must reside within the boundaries of District 5 - Culver. Interested individuals should address a

fact, the Lakehouse finally had its own eight-level bracket to choose the best meat for the burger, with just a fork and plate and the beef.

"The one that came out on top has been our burger ever since," he says.

Damore also credits the family business for some of the quality of the burger. His father, who owns the Original

Root Beer Stand just down the street from the Lakehouse, also owns the Original Produce Company in Chicago, and prides himself on the freshest, highest quality produce.

"We put a tomato on there you're not going to get anywhere else," says Mark Jr. "We ripen them before we serve them, just to make sure they're perfect."

The Lakehouse burger's aesthetics don't hurt either. Even alongside several other restaurants at a recent press conference kicking off the Northern Indiana Burger Wars competition, the distinctive sailboat brand in the Lake-

Obituary

Scott A. Louk

Dec. 14, 1967 – June 25, 2014



ROCHESTER — Scott A. Louk, 46, of Rochester, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday evening, June 25, 2014.

Scott was born Dec. 14, 1967 in South Bend to Helen (Coldwater) and Russell J. Louk. The family relocated to Culver in 1972. He was a graduate of Culver Community Jr.-Sr. High School in 1986. He served as manager for the football and basketball teams all through high school. He was a member of Santa Anna United Methodist Church, Argos. Scott was an avid Green Bay Packers and Cubs fan. He liked to scare kids at trick-or-treat times and always had candy for them.

Scott is survived by his mother Helen of Culver and brother Robert (Patty) Louk of Ober and special niece Emily. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, father Russell J. Louk in December 2000, and brother Andy R. Louk in July 2008.

A time of sharing memories with the family was held on Saturday, June 28, 2014 from 1 – 3 p.m. at the Odom Funeral Home, Culver. Rev. Henry Sprunger officiated services at 3 p.m. Interment followed at the Culver Masonic Cemetery.

Memorial contributions in memory of Scott A. Louk may be made to the Santa Anna UMC, Argos.

Condolences may be sent to the family via the obituary page at www.odomfuneralhome.com.

The Odom Funeral Home, Culver, is in charge of arrangements.

New school board member sought

letter by Monday, July 14 to Superintendent Dr. Vicki McGuire or Board President Mr. Jack Jones, Culver Community Schools Corporation, 700 School Street (location), P.O. Box 231 (mailing address), Culver, Indiana 46511-0231.

Any questions can be directed to Superintendent McGuire at 574-842-3364.

Briefs from page 1

Gong Show, Friday at 7 p.m.), while returning will be favorites such as the Miss Maxinkuckee pageant, fun run, fireworks display, parade, car show, bass fishing tourney, bike ride, kids games, rides, vendors, and more. Visit www.culverlakefest.com for more information.

Canoe, kayak, and SUP poker run July 18

The third annual Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council and Lake Maxinkuckee Association Canoe, Kayak and SUP Poker Run will take place Fri., July 18. Launch will take place on the public beach by the light-house. Pre-registration is at 5:30 p.m. (the paddle begins at 6:50). Awards will take place at 8 p.m.

Kiwanis golf outing July 18

The annual Culver Kiwanis Club golf outing will take place Fri., July 18 at Mystic Hills Golf Course, starting at noon. Contact a Kiwanis member for more information.

Garrison parades move to Saturdays, 7 p.m.

The Garrison Parade for Culver Summer Schools & Camps is being moved to Saturdays at 7 p.m. EDT for the 2014 summer. The parades are held on the Henderson Parade Field south of the Vaughn Equestrian Center. The traditional Woodcraft Council Fire is also on Saturday and will now begin at 9:30 p.m.

Carillon recitals every Saturday

Carillon recitals at Culver Academies' Memorial Chapel take place each Saturday through July 26 at 4 p.m. The public is welcome to attend these free event.

CBGC Kidstop program

Kidstop, the Culver Boys & Girls Club-sponsored child care program, runs weekdays from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Breakfast and lunch is provided every day as well as activities such as park, beach, and library visits, and field trips. Kidstop pricing for full lunch rate members is \$12 per day (\$6 for the second child) and free/reduced lunch rate is \$6 per day (\$3 for the second child). For more information visit www.bgcculver.org or call 574-250-0103. The CBGC is located in the Culver Community Elementary School.

tary School.

Kiwanis raffle underway

The Culver Kiwanis Club's annual summer raffle is underway, with 1st prize being a street ready golf cart valued at \$7,000 MSRP. Second prize is an Old Town Canoe with paddles (\$900 MSRP), and third prize is a Sit on Top Ocean Kayak with paddles (\$600 MSRP). Tickets are \$10 each or three for \$25, and may be purchased from any Kiwanis Club of Culver member. All proceeds go to four-year college scholarships for local children.

AHS summer events schedule

The Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver summer schedule includes its annual AHS meeting (July 12, 10 a.m. at the Culver Public Library), with a look at police work and the major crimes of Culver's past; the Huckleberry Queen (August 16, 10 a.m. at the Culver library); with Anna Liechty from Plymouth; Preserving your historic home - myths and answers, with preservation architect Kurt Garner, at the AHS' annual wine and cheese gathering in September (exact date TBA). Visit www.culveraahs.com, email historyofculver@gmail.com, or call 574-635-0053.

Lake Max Triathlon Aug. 9

The Lake Max Triathlon launches Sat., Aug. 9, from Culver Academies campus. The USAT-certified triathlon is a 400-meter swim, 12 miles of biking around the lake, and a 5K run. Teams are welcome New this year will be the Lake Max Kids Triathlon with reduced distances. All proceeds collected are donated to the local Lions, Kiwanis and Culver clubs to help with their humanitarian causes. Register online at culver.org/lakemaxtriathlon. Those wishing to spend the weekend can check here for accommodations.

Friends offer weekly book sales

As a new offering this summer, the Friends of the Culver Union Township Public Library will hold a book sale every Saturday starting May 17 and ending August 30.

house's bun caught the attention of several attendees.

Damore also has high praise for his staff at the restaurant, a factor he says he's learned makes a huge difference. He cites the aid of co-owner Dana Keller (who also happens to be his fiancée, director of marketing, and a manager at the restaurant). As a Culver native, Keller has helped him understand the dynamics of his customer base.

"I'm hooked on this small town community," says the former "city boy" who grew up in Chicago and moved here from Indianapolis to take a chance on restaurant ownership. "I want to do better at making people happy. I take great pride in helping our community because it's our home; we're not going anywhere. My life in the city was based on profit, but here my goal is to know every person by name."

Of course, Damore would have relished a win in the Northern Indiana level of the contest, but he's not demoralized. The fact that the Lakehouse has made it this far is "unheard of," he says.

"Win or lose, we're so proud of our staff, of our restaurant, and this town."

Hours are from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. The book sales will be in the Carnegie Room, in the lower level of the library. To donate books, bring them to the the library during library hours.

Farmer's Market open


The Culver Farmer's Market is open Saturdays at the northwest corner of Main and Ohio Streets, across from CVS. The market will have new hours this year, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Interested vendors please call at 574-842-2648 (ask for Barb).

Schools seek input on Eastern Pulaski bus route

Culver Comm. Schools Corp. is considering running a bus route for any student(s) in the Eastern Pulaski area who would be interested in attending Culver Community Schools in the fall. This would be transportation and tuition free services to the students that enroll for the 2014-2015 school year. Those interested are encouraged to contact the Administration office at 574-842-3364.

CRC offers match to local donors' STEM dollars

The Culver Redevelopment Commission is offering to match any individual or entity wishing to support Culver Community Schools' efforts to facilitate the new STEM-based program to better meet nationwide standards in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, until they reach a total of \$10,000. Expenses may include new computers, software, or other equipment needed in support of implementing Project Lead the Way's program, which are not covered by grant funds. For more information, or to set up a donation, contact Kathy Clark or the CRC at 574-952-2963 or k.clark6094@sbcglobal.net.



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Culver History Corner

The Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver

www.culverahs.com historyofculver@gmail.com

“Culver History Corner” is a semi-regular feature sponsored by the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver. whose quarterly newsletter is also sponsored in The Culver Citizen.

If these walls could talk: the beach lodge and park - Part 2

By Jeff Kenney
In last week's installment in our ongoing 'virtual' tour of the historic places and spaces of Culver, we looked at the genesis of Culver's town park, which began as Vandalia Park -- associated with the railroad company -- in the late 1800s. The wooden bath and boat house there, which burned in 1935, was replaced by the WPA-built beach lodge of today, in 1937. Following is our second, and concluding installment.

1975 saw the most drastic change in the physical plant of the park and beach lodge since the 1930s. In June of that year, the Citizen's lead story gleefully announced that a \$264,000 grant from the federal Economic Development Association, represented at the time by then summer resident Jim Peterson.

The grant was compared, in its day, to the WPA project as 70 percent of the funds had to go towards labor. Changes included major changes to the 1883 train platform picnic shelters, including addition of fieldstone fireplaces and storage rooms at the end of each. A t-shaped docking pier was added west of the public pier already in place as Capt. Amond's Maxinkuckee tour boat pier, with a concrete structure added into the embankment west of the dock, to store it (sunbathing would be facilitated on the flat, railing-enclosed roof of the structure, all of which still remains).

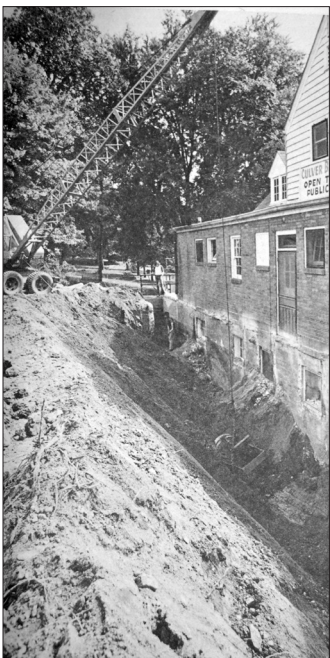
What had been merely a dirt access road would become a staple of the park: the double, cement walking trails along the lake shore. The old street lights from the town of Culver, which themselves had come from the Chicago World's Fair in 1893, would be added to the cement 'promenade.'

Lumber ties were used to construct three stairways up the embankment along the double sidewalk, and another was added alongside the beach lodge (the former three were cemented years later, though the beach lodge one was not).

While the park already had a basketball court, a larger, 60 by 90 foot court was added, and interestingly, the notion of a wintertime ice rink there -- which just came to fruition last year -- was on the collective mind of the town. The original, never-finished plan called for a 'lip' around the court to facilitate filling it with water for ice skating each winter. Better late than never.

A sand volleyball court near the basketball courts was also planned.

Two playgrounds were constructed, primarily of timber with tires, ropes, and chains. This took place both in the



ABOVE: The Culver beach lodge during major renovations in 1975, when the north side of the lodge was dug out to the foundation and steps taken to prevent moisture seepage, the last major renovation to the 1937 building to date.

east end -- supplementing the old metal play structures already there -- and the west end, where little existed up to then in the area of play equipment. Unfortunately little of the equipment created during this period lasted for more than a handful of years.

A host of trees and other plantings were added to the park, as well as wood and rubber chips at various places on the ground and landscaping and fountain creation around the old spring near today's lighthouse.

Perhaps of most lasting significance was work done to the beach lodge itself, the first major renovation there since 1937 and the last one up to today.

A "heating and cooling plant," previously absent, was added by Mike Maddox -- then just a year into his longstanding local HVAC business -- to affect the two top layers of the lodge. The bottom level was designated for summer use only and would house "a service desk, refreshment area, recreational area, restrooms, and locker facilities." Coin operated lockers and dressing facilities were planned.

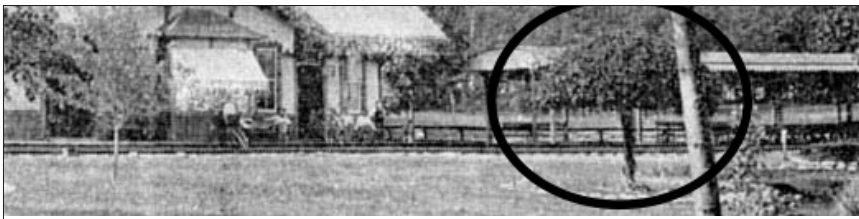
The existing lower level fireplace, it was noted, would be made usable for some heating in spring and fall.

The second, or ground-level area of

the lodge was at that time renovated into a community meeting space, as it remains today, with a capacity of 125 people and kitchenette. The deck area was planned to be screened in (which never took place, and interestingly is in discussion for the future today), and a fireplace planned to be built at the deck level, which again never happened.

The existing northwest door was added to the middle level as well.

BELOW: The circa 1883 Culver train depot (at left), some distance east of the location of the current train station, with the still-standing (in today's park) mulberry tree visible in the circle. In the background is one of the waiting platforms since moved to each end of the park as picnic shelters.



It was also during this 1975 renovation that the upper level was rehabilitated into an apartment "for a year-round park superintendent," with two bedrooms, a kitchen and dining room, living room with fireplace, entry way and utility room. It has been suggested to me that the upper level of the lodge was used prior to this date to house the park superintendent, which was indeed the case, but prior

to '75, the upper level was still split into several rooms and unusable on a year-round basis.

It was noted the park superintendent would coordinate year-round activities as a result of the renovation.

During the project, Don Stubbs was brought in to dig a ravine to the very foundations of the lodge, which he filled with gravel and dirt to minimize water seepage into the basement level of the lodge.

Through this period, various people held the park superintendent title, including Dorothy Thews, Bob and Diane Napier, and starting around 1984, Kelly Young, whose tenure ended earlier this year. Thus, for most of the past 30 years, operation of the beach lodge and park stayed largely the same.

One could delve into many facets of the park grounds. Judi Burns points out, on her Lake Maxinkuckee history website, that the beloved old mulberry tree in the town park, just west of the sidewalk which intersects the park north and south, is over 100 years old and can be seen in photos of the original, wood frame train depot that burned in 1925.

She notes the tree, which provided generations of kids and adults with juice mulberries and hiding places, was pruned and revitalized sometime in the 1970s. There was brief talk of its removal via the Culver tree commission recently, but it's become jokingly referred to as "Ed Pinder's tree" after the town council member's requests that its removal take place only in case of a serious need. Along with the old train platform-picnic shelters, it's one of the oldest things in the park today!

In the 1990s, the present gazebo was constructed on the west end of the park, some yards west of a somewhat similar structure -- often referred to as "the round stand," which occupied the park in the late 19th and early 20th centuries (that building sold ice cream during the summer months).

Parking fees were also added during the '90s to help sustain the economically struggling operation, and soon thereafter plans were put in motion to establish boat slip rentals at newly added piers at the park, which has drastically reversed its fiscal fortunes up to today.

In 2005, a landscaping overhaul took place as part of a joint community and Culver Academies student project, and in 2006, the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver paid tribute to the old 1895 lighthouse (which blew down in the 'great wind' of 1913) by erecting a larger 'tribute' ('replica' isn't exactly the word) to it at or near its original location just west of the town beach.

It appears the beach lodge is poised to undergo another massive -- and, time and circumstance being what they are -- much-needed renovation, with the notion of scrapping the old WPA lodge and starting over having been quickly dismissed.

So it appears there'll be something for the author of a similar column to this one, to research decades down the road.

CITIZEN PHOTOS/JEFF KENNEY

New sign points to downtown Culver's history

Pictured at LEFT and RIGHT is the new informational sign installed at the southwest corner of Main and Jefferson Streets as the final capstone to the grant-funded downtown streetscape project of a few years ago, which installed new sidewalks, curbs, gutters, lighting, crosswalks, and landscaping.

The Indiana Dept. of Transportation-funded grant required signage pertaining to the history of the area since downtown Culver was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in the 1990s.

The text of the sign, which is handily located between the new Museum of Culver and Lake Maxinkuckee History (102 W. Jefferson St., Suite B), and the Culver Academies Museum & Gift Shop (102 S. Main) describes the history and architecture style of the downtown, and the history of the area in general. Also included are photos of the downtown from years past.





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Market from page 1



PHOTOS/CLARE NOWALK
Pictured are Culver Farmer's Market vendors (from top) Pat Hirsch, Alicia Coby, and Barb Linhart. RIGHT: Chad Gard of Hole in the Woods farm and (BELOW) Elizabeth Rayl.

Name: Vivian Bush accompanied by her granddaughter Anna Bush and Sharon Mevis (Union Church of the Brethren)

Products: Woven rugs made by a weaver, doll blankets, church babies, and their special handmade rugs. We sell handmade rugs of Culver Academies kilts. We hand braid strips given from the uniform shops. They make great graduation gifts. Some of the proceeds from Mrs. Bush's booth go to the local food pantry.

Time spent with the market: Since the market started over 15 years ago.

all natural.

Time spent with the market: two years. However, I have been cooking since I was a child.

"I enjoy making people happy by the food they eat."

Name: Alisha Coby (The Back porch Bakery)

Product: Pies, cookies, cakes, and breads. All my goods are homemade, and are either sugar free, gluten free or just regularly made.

Time spent with the market: three years.

"I enjoy coming here and meeting new people from really all over the world. I like to hear their stories."

Name: Barb Linhart (Chamber of Commerce member)

Product: Jams, pickles, salsa, and peanut brittle.

How did you hear about the market? : The Chamber of Commerce asked me to run it. I have been doing it ever since.

"I have been in charge of the Farmer's Market for 15 years now. I rent out the booth space and handle all the affairs. I enjoy seeing all the people from one summer to the next."

"You meet a lot of friends and neighbors; make friends. We are like a family."

Name: Anonymous

Product: Produce, baked goods, plants, and flower bouquets. Everything is homemade from scratch.

Time spent with the market: five years.

How did you hear about the market? From a friend
"I enjoy providing food for the local people...I keep coming because I keep selling. If it's worth my time, I'll be here."



balm and handmade soap.

Produce: We grow 298 different types of fruits and veggies. Much of our farm is connected to CSA (Community Supportive Agriculture), an organization started in Japan by women who wanted to trade and grow produce, so we get a share from them and in return they get a share from us.

Jewelry: I started making the jewelry when I found some 4 leaf clovers and decided to press them for frameables. My friends convinced me to cast some in resin, and from there I started making jewelry of plants, flowers, and other various objects. Now I invest in chains and charms for the jewelry pieces, and bring a kit along to sales so I can custom-make the jewelry for each customer.

How long have you been with the market? five years. They all run together really.

What do you love about the market? Chad: The people, the other vendors; we check in with people. You see people each week. People come into town and play heavily into the local food movement.



Names: Xzina Czifirk and Chad Gard (Hole in the Woods Farm)

Products: We sell two different types of things; jewelry and alpaca fiber products, and fruits and vegetables. We also sell lip

Xzina: Interacting with the customers. They can play with the jewelry and feel relaxed at my booth. I like to talk to them and figure out who they are and what they are passionate about.

"This (the market) is a labor of love. We

are here for the community."

Name: Elizabeth Rayl (Hoosier Healthy Oils)

Product: Essential oil products for allergies and everyday needs. I mix some myself, but most of my products come originally from essential oils. I teach classes on how and why to use them, and how to get them.

How did you find out about essential oils? : From my old college roommate when I came up here from Florida on maternity leave from my teaching job. I introduced them to my family and have been teaching others about them ever since.

"It's fun because kids are cured pretty easy. I make them for my family and want to give to others."

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CITIZEN PHOTOS/JEFF KENNEY

ABOVE: Thirty years after his death in 1984, former Culverite Jim McAllister, who flew 72 missions during World War II and was denied graveside military rites by the officiating pastor at the time, finally got his due. A throng of friends, family, and admirers gathered at Culver's Masonic Cemetery Saturday morning to witness the memorial, which was conducted by members of the Rochester, Indiana VFW (McAllister was a member, having moved to that town after several years at the State Exchange Bank in Culver), the Culver FFW, and a state-wide honor guard. Pictured at LEFT are VFW members giving McAllister a 21-gun salute. At RIGHT, McAllister's widow, Harriet Provost – surrounded by family members – accepts an American flag from a representative of the Rochester Post.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

ABOVE: New members of Culver's Lions Club to join recently include (photo at LEFT), from left, John Ahlenius, Shane Lowry, and Justin Croy; and, in the photo at RIGHT, Judy Labney (center). Labney is flanked by her sponsor, BJ Lawrence, and outgoing Lions president Don Freese (the current club president is Susan Elizondo). Both Ahlenius and Croy were recipients of the club's annual scholarship as seniors, this year (Croy), and last (Ahlenius). Both are recent Culver Comm. High School graduates and volunteered frequently at club events in the past. The Culver Lions Club (culverlions.net) meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the train station-depot in the town park.

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