

Thursday, November 21, 2013 Vol. 120 Issue No. 48 50¢
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PHOTOS/JEFF KENNEY AND *LAKE MAXINKUCKEE FACEBOOK

Weird weather week

ABOVE: Chalk it up to the usual “Indiana weather” anomalies, but Culver experienced a week ranging from temperatures below 20 degrees and the season’s first significant snowfall (as seen in Culver’s town park in the UPPER LEFT AND LOWER CENTER PHOTOS above) on Monday, to temps into the 50s and the threat of severe storms and tornadoes on Sunday. The town and township tornado sirens went off Sunday afternoon, as news of devastating twisters blowing in from Illinois hit the airwaves. While Culver was spared much damage, there was a brief but picturesque flood on Lake Shore Drive outside Osborn’s Mini-mart following the storm (as seen in the LOWER LEFT photo). The “mini Lake Maxinkuckee” may serve as a visual reminder to residents to work to keep raked leaves contained as much as possible, since it was the result of a storm sewer drain clogged with leaves (though the weekend’s winds made controlling leaves around town virtually impossible). Following the storm, a vibrant double rainbow appeared over the lake, as evidenced by the photo at LOWER RIGHT.

In Brief

Web browsers at Thursday Tech Time
The Culver Public Library’s Thursday Tech Time returns November 21 at 6 p.m. to focus on web browser comparison. For more information, call the Culver Library at 574-842-2941, visit our website at www.culver.lib.in.us or e-mail abaker@culver.lib.in.us. The library’s street address is 107 N. Main St.

Scrapbooking for kids Friday

“Scrapbooking for Kids” will take place Friday, November 22 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the beach lodge meeting room. Supplies will be provided to create a 4 x 6 inch album. Bring your own pictures. Participants must register; there is limited seating. Please call 574-842-3510 and leave your name and phone number. The event is open to boys and girls ages 8 through 12.

Turkey Time for Kids Saturday

“Turkey Time for Kids” will take place Saturday, November 23, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the beach lodge meeting room. Boys and girls ages 4 through 7 will be making a “Loopy Turkey Wreath.” Registration is required with limited seating. Please call 574-842-3510 and leave name and phone number.

BPA student fund-raiser

Culver Comm. High School BPA students are now (through Nov. 24) selling jumbo jellybeans and Gold Canyon candles, with proceeds supporting students in their Business related competitions. For more information, contact Culver Community High School at (574) 842-3391.

Grace Church bake sale, Christmas re-sale

Grace United Church of Christ will hold a bake sale and Christmas re-sale Saturday, November 23, at 9 a.m. There will be lots of goodies to choose from.

Max Singers/Players

See Briefs page 6

www.culvercitizen.com
E-mail: culvercitizen@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/culvercitizen

EMS funding, future detailed at special town council session

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

Though tensions ran high at a recent meeting of Culver's town council regarding the future of Culver's Emergency Medical Service, the special follow-up work session on the subject, which took place prior to last Tuesday's council meeting, seemed a very different story. In fact, by the end of the meeting, many in the audience and on the council were lauding the work of EMS director Brandon Cooper in explaining the department's funding, future plans, and steps towards compliance with new state mandates regarding EMS training scheduled to kick in next July.

The Nov. 12 meeting began with ears turned towards council member Bill Githens, who in past meetings had been vocal in requesting information from EMS directors past and present as to their means of funding the department in light of upcoming changes.

At the start of the meeting, Githens said he'd "like to be steered in the right direction" regarding the department's plans, and specifically asked about the lack of a formal agreement between the town and the EMS, which he said he understood had once existed.

Background to the town-EMS agreement

Council president Sally Ricciardi, a member of the service since its formative years, explained that the agreement in question first came into existence between 1977 and 1978, when Culver's ambulance service was transitioning from then-funeral director Jim Bonine and a small staff of ambulance assistants, to the newly-formed town EMS. Bonine, she said, eventually turned over all his equipment to the EMS service, including the station wagon ambulance which would be replaced by Culver's first "rig" style ambulance in 1979.

It was also in 1977 that the service began offering classes for volunteers, the first set of whom graduated while the EMS still operated out of Bonine's funeral home garage. Ricciardi also noted there were 12 to 15 people in each class. Over the years, she added, people transitioned in and out of the service as they moved to Culver and then moved on to employment elsewhere.

The formal agreement from the 1970s, then, applied to the transitional period between Bonine's control of the ambulance service, to the town's newly-formed EMS service. Thus it was never renewed once the EMS was in total control of the ambulance and its operation.

Council member Ginny Munroe asked if anyone on the council felt either EMS or fire actually needed contracts with the town.

"They're both volunteer services and not private companies out to make a profit," she said. "I don't see the point of a contract."

Audience member Bobetta Ruhnow said there had been a contract between the town of Culver and Union Township, though only in pertinence to the budget amount the township would contribute to the ambulance service.

Former Union Township trustee Marlene Mahler said the formal contract between the town and township started in 1996 and is still in effect, though it hasn't been rewritten recently. She said a revised version was put into effect in the mid-2000s.

Township trustee Jerry Greason said he had

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OutdoorCulverChristmas decorating contest launches

The Culver Youth Community Organization (CYCO), a service organization comprised of students from Culver Community High School and the Culver Academies, is reviving a long-defunct Culver tradition this year in the form of a outdoor Christmas decorating contest for the Culver area.

Longtime Culver residents may recall the longtime annual decorating contest sponsored for years by the Culver Chamber of Commerce and Jaycees, respectively, though that contest ended more than two decades ago.

There is a \$5 registration fee, with funds raised going to Culver’s food pantry. Registration forms will be available at Culver’s town hall. Participants will have a sign placed in their yard designating their homes as part of the contest, and participating addresses will be listed on a map CYCO will distribute throughout the community.

Judging will take place Dec. 18.

Those with questions may contact Justin Croy of CYCO at justincroy@icloud.com.

Park board votes to vacate superintendent’s apartment, beach lodge

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

Culver's park board gave notice last Thursday evening that its longtime park superintendent -- as well as all activities centered in the building -- will have to vacate the beach lodge as of Dec. 31 of this year, in a vote firmly debated by one board member.

The decision came after board member Patty Stallings requested (and the board approved) that a sub-committee of the board be established to focus on the buildings in the park, to be comprised of two park board members and three citizens, including Culver Academies Director of Facilities Jeff Kutch, who Stallings announced had recently agreed to serve. She compared the sub-committee to two other recently established sub-committees, designated to examine finances and policy, respectively.

Stallings then moved that the board discontinue the use of the upper-level beach lodge apartment occupied by superintendent Kelly Young, as well as any activities in the ground-level meeting room of the lodge, effective Dec. 31 and until further notice. She cited the need for architects to get into the building in order to begin renovations there, which she said could create "a big mess."

Fellow board member Rhonda Reinhold described the apartment as "inefficient" and costing a "fortune" to maintain. John Helphrey, head of the aforementioned finance committee and seated in the audience, said utilities in 2011 for the park were \$13,068, in 2012 were \$11,614, and are at \$10,000 so far this year. He suggested the park board first examine how to make the building more efficient.

Audience member Bill Furry asked if the board wanted to "be in the housing business at all," a decision he suggested should come from the policy committee.

Stallings noted the practice of the park superintendent living in the apartment on the top floor of the beach lodge began in the early 1980s as a security practice to help oversee the facility. Inexpensive electronic security devices, she said, could make the practice an outmoded one, she said.

Board member Kathy Hart asked about activities currently scheduled at the beach lodge, including daily REAL Meals gatherings, though it was suggested those activities could be relocated elsewhere in town.

Hart also asked if use of the

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Culver residents recall Kennedy assassination, 50 years later

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

Much as younger generations might target Sept. 11, 2001 as a "where were you when..." day, virtually any American alive on Nov. 22, 1963 -- 50 years ago this week -- will recall in near-exact detail where they were and what they were doing when they learned of the only U.S. Presidential assassination in generations, that of John F. Kennedy in Dallas, Texas.

As the nation this week marks the anniversary of the tragedy, the Culver Citizen looks back at its impact on Culver and its residents.

Culver as a community gathered shortly after the assassination to join in a somber observance. Some 350 people attended a public memorial service for Kennedy was held Nov. 25, 1963, in the Culver Community Building (today's Culver Elementary gymnasium), sponsored by officers of the W. A. Fleet Post 107 of the American Legion and the Finney-Shilling Post 6919 of the VFW. Col. E. Kemp Moore of the Legion addressed the gathering and organ music was played by Paul White, according to the Nov. 27 Culver Citizen. Lucy Osborn sang "The Lord's Prayer" and the V.F.W. color guard participated in the service. Ora Reed participated as chaplain.

The Culver Military Academy Vedette newspaper of the time

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EMS from page 1

been directed by an attorney to consider contracts for the fire and EMS services, though if members of those services are considered town employees, a contract would be unnecessary.

Ricciardi said that, unlike some municipalities, Culver's arrangement with its EMS is such that the town and township pay for the EMS service and handle employment and insurance for those services, and the town itself pays the employees directly, rather than paying the service as a whole and letting it pay its employees as a sort of "middle man." Therefore, members of both services fall under the definition of town employees, rather than independent, free-floating volunteers.

"If they're listed as employees," she said, "why is it any different (regarding contracts) than the sewer department, because they're employees of the town?"

She also explained something of how the EMS department plans its budget, which she said begins with an estimate of funds needed to cover the coming year's expenses. The variable each year, she explained, is the amount of money the department will take in from the fees it charges patients for ambulance runs.

This varies not only because the number of runs may differ -- though generally not radically from year to year -- but especially because not all patients pay in full, or at all, for use of the ambulance, after the fact.

"(That's) why we always ballpark (our income) low," she explained. "It depends on if people pay or whatever. You subtract that (from the budget) and the town pays their portion and the township pays the remainder."

Greason said the township's portion generally isn't calculated as a straight percentage of the EMS budget, such as a simple 50 percent, but instead factors in funds the service takes in from its work for Culver Academies, the town of Monterey, and other sources, and then pays the remaining amount needed.

"From my standpoint it's a funding thing," he said. "They have their board that runs their place, and they make their decisions how to run it; and once (the budget is) passed by the town, we'll support it and pay what we need to pay."

Githens noted Culver Academies in the past had worked via five-year contracts with Culver's fire and EMS departments, though the school will examine their agreement on a yearly basis. He also said funding may be divided between those two departments as well as the Culver police now, since so many Academies students walk into the town and need to be protected alongside town residents.

Munroe suggested it's the council's responsibility to communicate with the Academies concerning emergency services, rather than expecting each department to handle it.

Cooper pointed out that the EMS as an entity belongs to the town and township, but the volunteers did form a not-for-profit entity so they could accept donations.

Githens thanked those who spoke for "the invaluable history lesson."

Culver's EMS status in 2014

Audience member Russ Mason said he understood the main purpose of the meeting was to discuss whether the service would be adequately staffed and funded for the state-mandated changes coming in 2014.

Cooper, who distributed paperwork to the council and some audience members, explained the changes grow from the state of Indiana's decision to shift from having its own criteria for EMTs regarding designations such as first

responder, basic, advanced, and paramedic, and instead conform to federal standards for those classifications. As part of this process, he said, an entire level of service has been eliminated.

Currently, Culver's EMS is considered a Basic Advanced service, so "we're right in the middle (in terms) of care," said Cooper, who described some of the specific actions Culver's EMTs are allowed to take when caring for a patient.

The new Advanced EMT status will give Culver's current Advanced EMTs "a little more skill and the opportunity to provide better care for patients," he said.

"The idea is that a small town like Culver can't afford a paramedic service, so they're giving us the skills to provide a higher level of care."

Examples include an increased capacity of EKG administration in Culver ambulances, five new drugs Culver's EMS will be able to administer, and the ability to drill an IV into the bone marrow of unresponsive patients.

Cooper noted at least one EMT per truck will have to qualify as Advanced under the new mandates, adding the service currently has at least one EMT of that skill level on duty 24 hours a day, seven days per week. He also said a course will be provided to EMS members to upgrade their skills to the new level.

"The cost has been described as some big, scary monster, but it's not case," he continued. "We're not looking at the cost increasing per year...the initial cost is what to look at."

He said the service will need to buy new medications, IV guns, monitors, and needles as an initial cost, at \$43,000, an amount he said the EMS has already budgeted for 2014.

"As I explained last meeting, we hope to encumber some money left over from our last year, so we'll be ready for next year. We should have (that amount) by the end of the year."

Asked about the other skill levels laid out in the 2014 mandate, Cooper said Culver's EMS could choose to be a Basic service or a paramedic instead, but given the cost of a paramedic service, the remaining option would be to become Basic, which he described as "a Band-Aid bus...a taxi ride to the hospital."

He also explained the service currently has two full-time EMTs, one of whom is in paramedic school now and so will be at an even higher skill level than the state will require next year for the Advanced service status. The EMS is planning another Advanced training course between December 3 and March, he added.

Culver's EMS now has 10 volunteers, four of whom are Advanced certified. The intent, he said, is for six more of those volunteers to go through the Advanced class. There are nine part-time personnel on the EMS roster, and all are at least at or will be attaining to the level needed next year. Paid members who have attained paramedic status are paid 50 cents more per hour than other members, he said.

EMS budgeting

One page in the packet distributed by Cooper listed funds left unused by the service from year to year, including \$16,000 in 2008, \$5,000 in 2009, \$45,000 in 2010, \$44,000 in 2011, and \$45,000 in 2012.

Asked by council member Lynn Overmyer why the department returned such huge and varying amounts, Cooper replied that the department has to plan excess funds in case the number of patients who pay their ambulance bills is too low. He said in some cases Medicaid deems an ambulance trip unnecessary and won't pay.

"We can't force them to pay, but if they call, we haul," he said. "We can't deny anybody service, whether you can pay or not. Some years a lot of people pay and others don't."

"If you take the \$50,000

per year that (the EMS service) costs us at the most," said Munroe, "and only count the Culver population -- not the Academy or township -- it's about \$3 per month, or \$35 per taxpayer per year. It doesn't cost you much. Some years it costs you nickels. Most people would say, 'I'd pay that.' If you include the Academy and township, you're down to about \$1 a month per person. That's impressive."

Cooper pointed out volunteers in the EMS have covered 788 shifts so far this year, and part-time paid staffers 414 shifts. The volunteers, he said, are "still way ahead in providing service. Imagine the cost if that number were reversed."

Githens said he had been worried about the number of paid part-timers covering shifts, something Cooper acknowledged "everyone has to monitor," such as the street department and others in town.

Githens also noted the number of revenue-generating ambulance runs is going down, due to both Miller's Merry Manor nursing home and Culver Academies transporting patients to the hospital using their own staff, rather than calling the ambulance.

Munroe alluded to the increasing shift in Culver's demographics to "more of an older population community."

Bobbie Ruhnow described the EMS as "a terrific service, and we're very blessed to have them." Mason said Cooper "did a wonderful job" explaining the changes and funding, something Githens affirmed.

"That's the nice thing about having people in your services -- whether it's fire, water-sewer, or EMS -- who know the rules and regulations and what they should do to better the department and keep it viable and in accordance, so you don't have to nitpick each little issue."

Mutual aid to Fulton County

Other discussion concerned whether to sign a revised version of the Culver EMS' longstanding mutual aid agreement with Fulton County's EMS, which facilitates Culver's service to Fulton County residents closer to Culver than the Fulton County EMS' base in Rochester, besides allowing Culver to call the paramedic-level Fulton County service for advanced assistance when needed.

The change in the proposed new agreement, said Cooper, is that Fulton County would like to be paid its \$300 per paramedic assist whether the Culver patient pays the bill or not. The Fulton County EMS representative, according to Cooper, explained the people of Fulton County are "out an ambulance" when their paramedic team is assisting Culver, but the citizens of Fulton County have to eat the cost of the run if Culver isn't paid.

Over the last four years there have only been 12 calls to Fulton County for paramedic assist, said Cooper, totaling \$3,600. The Fulton County service was only \$1,500 of that money so they were out \$2,100 based on the current contract. Culver's EMS would be out about \$900 per year if it isn't paid by a patient in those scenarios.

Audience member Bob Cooper II, a member of Culver's EMS, countered that when Fulton County calls Culver's EMS to pick up a patient in Fulton County, Culver's service is also left unpaid if the Fulton County patient doesn't pay.

"So (both counties are) taking a chance on everything," he said, "so I have a problem with (Fulton County's proposal)."

Brandon Cooper noted the medical director at St. Joseph hospital in Plymouth sets the protocols as to when Culver's EMS must call for a paramedic assist, and the new state-mandated changes will actually increase what Culver's EMS can do without calling an outside paramedic service.

Culver fire chief Terry Wakefield, echoing Brandon Cooper's recommendation that Culver not drop the mutual aid agreement, also pointed out federal FEMA-related reimbursement funds aren't allowed without mutual aid agreements with surrounding agencies.

At the close of the meeting, Munroe extolled the impact of having familiar faces from the community arrive for ambulance runs or in the hospital when a family member calls the EMS.

"I thank all of you for being local to the community and caring enough about the community that you would take my father to the E.R. and then hug me when I'm freaking out," she added.

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Death notice

Spowart

Robert Noel Spowart
Nov. 11, 2013

CULVER — Robert Noel Spowart, of Culver and Englewood, Fla., 65, died Nov. 11, 2013. The Odom Funeral Home, Culver, is in charge of arrangements.

Exercise for seniors is new program at library

This month, Culver-Union Township Public Library is introducing a new program: exercise for seniors. This free exercise class for seniors will meet three times a week and offer easy, seated exercises. The program is scheduled for Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 10 a.m., and will meet downstairs in the large meeting room. For more information, call the Culver-Union Township Public Library at 574-842-2941 or e-mail ljones@culver.lib.in.us. The library’s street address is 107 N. Main St.

Keep up with the latest Culver news online at www.culvercitizen.com and facebook.com/culvercitizen

JFK from page 1

reported an odd (if dismissable as coincidence) incident the morning of Kennedy's assassination. Said the paper, "....the guard (that morning) had trouble raising the flag. It took half an hour before someone could get there to fix it, and during this time the flag flew at half mast. Much the same thing happened at Shattuck Military Academy, Faribault, Minn.

Recently, a number of Citizen readers responded to a query as to their memories of that fateful day. Following are some of the their recollections.

Judi Burns: "I was in Mrs. Manis' 6th grade English class in the Culver Elementary building, second door on the southwest side from the stairway (think the first was either a lounge or storage area). We all got sent home early as soon as they could get all the busses into the school. I remember all we watched (were) the events of the proceeding days."

Judy Patton: "The day of the Kennedy assassination I was in my high school history class. The teacher was called out of the room briefly. When he retuned, he struggled to announce with a trembling voice what had just happened to the President. There was a stunned silence then sadness and confusion. I will never forget the sadness I felt seeing tears streaming down the face of my grief stricken history teacher."

Robert Carter: "I was in the study hall when Walter Kronkite came over the loud speakers announcing the events in Dallas. If memory serves me correctly, we went ahead with the scheduled basketball game that night. I played hooky on Monday and watched Jack Ruby gun down Oswald. I grew up a lot that weekend."

Vicki Wagner: "We was in the Knox Ford garage buying a new car, what a terrible day."

Jack Houghton: "I was in the 4th grade and the teacher told us at the end of the school day. She had someone tell her at the classroom door earlier and we could all tell something big had happened. I spent the next few days in front of the TV, I did watch while Ruby shot Oswald. It was a very confusing time for someone my age and I think I grew up a lot in those few days."

Marizetta Kenney: "I wasn't in Culver at the time, I was in college at Bloomington, proctoring a dorm library, when a girl rushed in, crying, to report that Kennedy had been shot and they weren't sure whether the shot had killed him or not. The reactions in the group of girls there were shock, sorrow, fear for the future, hope that he would recover, and prayers. Even the people who didn't want him for President were shocked and saddened."

Tom Kniesly: "I was in grade school in Logansport... they shuttled us all home very quickly...to young to fully understand, but it was sad...very sad."

Kathie Huhn: "I was in 7th grade, sitting in band rehearsal, when the news came over the loudspeaker. I can still remember the sinking feeling I got upon hearing the news. Our family was glued to the TV the next few days, and I remember my mom crying (it took a lot for her to cry) during the funeral procession. Seeing those fatherless little children was also a heartbreak."



ON CAMPUS THIS WEEKEND

Friday, Nov. 22
CGA Basketball @ 8 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 23
Wrestling Early Bird Super Duals @ 8 a.m.
Varsity A Hockey @ 1 and 6 p.m.
CGA Hockey @ 4 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 24
CGA Hockey @ Noon

Monday, Nov. 25
CMA Basketball @ 6 p.m.

culver.org



Obituary

Suzanne Ellen Easterday
July 18, 1926 to October 30, 2013

Suzanne Ellen Easterday, 74, Kokomo, passed away on October 30, 2013 at St. Joseph Hospital. Suzanne was born on July 18, 1926 in Greentownship, Marshall co. Indiana. The daughter of John S. and Claire (McFarland) Goheen. On February 3rd, 1946 she married Jack D. Easterday in Marshall Co. Indiana, who passed on June 3rd, 1996. Suzanne graduated from Culver H.S. in 1944 and was a homemaker. She was an amazing seamstress and cook and shared these abilities with her children and grandchildren. Suzanne is survived by two daughters; Becky Richey,

‘Incredible’ West Point cadets include two CMA grads

Business Insider has included two Culver Military graduates in its list of “14 Incredibly Impressive Students at West Point.” Austin Welch, class of 2011, a member of West Point’s Class of 2015, and Luke Schumacher ’10, a member of West Point’s Class of 2014, have been cited by the website for going above and beyond the call of duty at the United States Military Academy. This past summer Welch went on a humanitarian relief mission to provide medical care in the rural villages of Panama. He provided basic medical assistance to patients, received ad- See CMA page 7

Kokomo, Mary Ann (Paul) Leary, Niceville, Fl.; five grandchildren and spouses and 10 great grandchildren. Suzanne was preceded in death by her husband, parents, one brother and four sisters. There will be a private burial at Washington Cemetery in Marshall Co. Indiana. In Lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Culver EMS, 200 E. Washington St., Culver Indiana, 46511 or the American Lung Association, 1301 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20004. Shirley & Stout Funeral Homes & Crematory have been entrusted with the arrangements. Online condolences may be made at Shirleyandstout.com

REAL Meals menu

To share a meal at REAL Meals, call 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., Nov. 21: Mild gumbo, red beans and rice, cornbread, cinnamon apples.

Friday, Nov. 22: Lasagna, salad and dressing, carrots, garlic bread, rice crispy treat.

Mon., Nov. 25: Beef stew, baked tomato, biscuit, fruit

Tues., Nov. 26: REAL special feast: turkey and all the trimmings!

Wed., Nov. 27: Sausage bean bake, squash bake, roll, dessert fluff.

Thurs., Nov. 28 and Friday, Nov. 29: Closed for holiday.

Skip Kiel: "I was standing in the doorway of the Kline Building on Jefferson Street. The Park and Shop across the street had a loud speaker on the outside that played music from the radio. The announcement came from there."

Perry White: "I...was in Mrs. Manis 6th grade class. I don't remember going home early but I am sure we did. I remember seeing live TV coverage of Jack Ruby shooting Oswald. 20 to 25 years later I was in Dallas for a computer convention and walked by the jail where Oswald was shot and also rode on a bus past the site where Kennedy was shot. it made the hair on the back of my neck stand up when I rode past the site of Kennedy's death."

Mel Thomas: "(I) remember sitting in class with Mrs. Mishler when the announcement came over the loud speaker. We were all very young and there were some tears but for the most part didn't know how to process it. Mrs. Mishler as always was very good at explaining it and keeping us all calm, because there was a collective gasp as we all wondered what this meant and where do we go from here."

Bobbi Schrimsher: "I wasn't in school that day because I had just had my tonsils taken out. I remember waking up and my Aunt Nina, who was taking care of me, was crying hysterically and in my seven year old mind I thought it meant something was really wrong with me and I started crying too!! She came in and comforted me and explained what had happened. To this day, I associate a sore throat with bad news!"

Marlene Shoddy: "During a routine State Exchange Bank work day, I received a phone call from the drive-up bank teller, Millie Logan, with the news , via her radio, of the President being shot. The State Exchange Bank employees were in a state of shock, sadness , and anxiety that afternoon. A community memorial service was held in the present elementary gym a few days later."

Kay Tusing: "We had just moved to Culver living on Jefferson St. Cindy was 4 years old and Michelle was one and a half. I remember feeling sad like everyone did but I felt very alone as I knew no one. My husband was working for the Irvine's at the store where the Diva is today. I remember going to the grocery store the next day and the whole town was quiet and sad."



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The Culver Citizen will be publishing a special holiday services page in the December 12 & 19 issue of the paper.

If your church would like to be included on this page please contact Stephanie for pricing and deadlines.
1-800-933-0356



Council plans to add seventh park board member

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

Culver's town council last week took steps towards adding a seventh member to its parks and recreation board, a much-contested matter among park board members and the public in recent months.

Town attorney Jim Clevenger was instructed to work up the language for an ordinance to make the change, which would leave four board members appointed by the council and three "ex officio" members appointed one each by the school, library, and township boards, respectively. If Union Township contributes funds to the park board, said Clevenger, the township should have a representative.

"It seems we have a pretty good basis for one more person than what the statute provides," he said.

The matter had arisen in previous meetings due to concerns raised by some on the park board and in the community that the present, even number of board members (at six) has facilitated "tie" votes in recent months and years. Further, the board has had sporadic difficulty attaining a quorum in recent years, with a seventh member proposed by some -- but opposed by others on the park board -- as a means of attaining the needed people to make a quorum. A park board vote on the matter resulted in the proposal to add a member being struck down, though ultimately that decision rests with the council rather than the park board.

Clevenger said concerns over a politically balanced park board of both Republicans and Democrats can be waived if not enough candidates for the position from a respective party step forward. He also noted the ex officio members can be of either party.

Clevenger said he would send the proposed ordinance to council members ahead of their next meeting.

Munroe also raised a concern over a park board member "telling people he's resigned, but (who) hasn't sent a letter (to that effect)." She added the member in question hasn't been attending park meetings for some time, but still has another year in his term.

Clevenger said the council could consider respondents for the upcoming open position as possible candidates, should the member in question resign.

Audience member Jim Hahn lauded the council for the decision to add another member and urged council members to attend to the park board member not attending meetings.

"That board is working darn hard," he said, "and they deserve the attendance by all the people who have taken an oath to do that job."

Major sidewalk expansions possible

In other actions, the council approved \$60,000 in matching funds for a grant which would greatly increase pedestrian options in several areas of Culver currently lacking

some or any sidewalks.

Town manager Dave Schoeff reported that, while the Indiana Dept. of Transportation has set aside the Safe Routes to School program which helped fund a number of replacement or new sidewalks in Culver over the past few years, INDOT is still open to similar projects, but at an 80-20 matching formula rather than 100 percent funding.

Targeted areas for sidewalk addition include Academy Road from School Street to Lake Shore Drive, as well as College Avenue from Lake Shore Drive to School Street. Primarily targeted for crosswalk markings and sidewalk repair (rather than new sidewalks) was Lake Shore Drive from the Original Root Beer Stand to School Street. New ADA-compliant handicapped accessible ramps would also be part of all of the work. Schoeff said he would know the results of the grant, for which he's in the process of applying, by the end of January.

It was noted that curb replacement is not the priority of the grant funding from the state's point of view, and requesting curb replacement funds could be detrimental to the town's chances of winning the grant.

Schoeff also said the effort would be coordinated with the Culver Redevelopment Commission, which is working on sidewalk replacement and repairs as well.

Direct deposit for utility bills?

Culver residents could choose to pay their utility bills via direct deposit if the council moves forward with a proposed resolution to that effect, as requested by town clerk Karen Heim.

Heim said she discussed the matter with Teachers Credit Union bank the previous week. The slight increase in cost per bill could be passed along to utility customers, she said, something of which council member Lynn Overmyer said she was in favor. Private banking information of town customers would be kept under lock and key, Heim said, and TCU's computer security is strong.

The council agreed with member Bill Githens' suggestion to take the matter under advisement and vote at its next meeting.

Other actions, discussion

Council approved \$100,000 towards paving work as part of the ongoing, grant-funded storm water overhaul project in the works on the west end of town.

Also approved was \$4,784.72 to repair three water leaks in town and patch the street where they took place, and a one-time credit for \$89.63 for resident Joe Smith of Slate Street, who had a leak in his basement and accrued an unusually high sewer bill. Approved was \$2,904.10 to Sellers Services for tree planting.

Kathy Clark of the Culver Redevelopment Commission said street signs are being priced for placement on

Main Street between Davis Street at the south and State Road 10 at the north, to match the "vintage" style signs currently downtown. Pressed concrete crosswalks giving the appearance of bricks, also matching recently-installed crosswalks in the downtown area, are also being priced, she said.

She also explained local merchants' feedback will be sought to determine how successful were two commercials promoting Culver and airing in recent weeks on South Bend television. Two of the three funded by the CRC were nominated for Indiana Broadcasting Association Spectrum awards.

Munroe said talk of the commercials came up at a recent meeting of the Marshall County Economic Development Corporation, with some discussion of the county creating similar commercials to promote various communities within the county.

Town attorney Jim Clevenger told the council he responded to a letter requesting Culver's mobile home park, on West Jefferson Street, be expanded from its current 12 homes, to 22 homes. He noted the park is currently operating under non-conforming use with town ordinances, but was grandfathered in to allow its present use of 12 pads. According to Russ Mason, in the audience, the ordinance forbidding mobile home parks in Culver was passed in 2001, which is when the Jefferson Street park was forbidden to expand beyond its present 12.

During his town manager's report, Schoeff said he has advertised for a new sewer plant operator for Culver, though he praised the efforts of those on staff at the plant in keeping the facility running well. He also asked for a pay increase for plant worker Rob Boyd, whose efforts he lauded in particular.

Schoeff also distributed a packet from a company offering audio-visual "apps" for smart phones and tablets for those visiting the community. These could push out notifications and direct visitors to local amenities, he added, noting the cost of the service ranges from \$4,000 to \$10,000 per year. The service could be integrated with a planned walking tour brochure and informational service of Culver in the works by the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver, it was noted.

Fire chief Terry Wakefield said the renovation project currently at the fire station is already underway, with work being handled by firemen at no cost to taxpayers. He also said the department is planning a Facebook page.

A salary work session was scheduled for Nov. 26 at 5:30 p.m., and the last council meeting of the year, which would have fallen on Christmas Eve, was moved to Dec. 30.

The council approved an offer by Carol Minarek to serve on the Culver library board in replacement of Joan Bess, who recently resigned from the board. The term will expire in one year, it was noted.

CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY



Culver hardware's last days

LEFT: It may not look quite the way many of us remember it, but Culver's longtime (more than 100 years) hardware store, on South Main Street, has remained open a few more days into November, offering shoppers a last chance to pick up some of its inventory at a large discount. As can be seen here, the old shelving is no more and the remaining stock has been sold at a sort of "garage sale." Former store managers say Habitat for Humanity will pick up any remaining items this week. The new owners of the store plan to split the building into two storefronts for rental and local business development.

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A week away and making a move

It might seem like a strange time of year to do it (though is there ever a strange time of year for this?), but for the first time in more than six years as your editor, I'm preparing to take a week off.

That's not to say I won't still be answering the phone and email, or even dashing out an article or two sometime this week, but on the whole I plan to stay away from all things *Culver Citizen* as much as possible. That's not for lack of love for the work (that comes and goes, but mostly stays!), but because our family is gearing up to move to a new abode in the coming few weeks...another strange bit of timing, I admit, but for some odd reason, my wife and I have noticed we tend to move in the late autumn. It just sort of happens that way, and this is no different.

We will still be in the Culver area, lest you were wondering, but our main motive for leaving pertains to something



View from Main Street

By Jeff Kenney
Editor

I've alluded to many times in this column: our wish to create for our children something as akin as possible to my own happy childhood growing up in Culver.

To be honest, that can't really happen nowadays, I know, and the goal isn't to simply force my own experiences onto my children. Instead, the hope is simply to offer the children that which has been "childhood" for most people for most of the existence of humanity, but which has gradually faded away in the last few decades. This involves space to wander, explore, climb trees, ride bicycles, get exercise, imagine, create -- you know...to be children, that all-but-lost art.

For me, growing up in Culver, that meant exploring the town (or, depending on my age at the time, my block and the surrounding block or two) on my bicycle or on foot, pick-up baseball games, heading to the beach or the school playground to swim or play, forming clubs and/or games with neighborhood kids and groaning when our parents called us in for dinner or bed-time.

Those days, of course, are gone for multiple reasons, not least of which is the gradual disappearance of children from Culver. But it's also, let's face it, a broader cultural change; those children who are here often have to be pulled, almost forcibly, from video games and electronic entertainment (and don't worry, I'm not making any ex-

ceptions for our own heirs to the Kenney fortune).

There's also the shift in awareness of the dangers facing children today, which are many and varied, but most specifically center on concerns about abduction, molestation, and the like. Suffice it to say, my own pre-teen children just can't hop on their bicycles and ride to the town park or walk to the corner store, let alone find the ever-elusive fellow child to play with.

That's a realization it took a while to sink in on my wife's and my part. We loved (and love) the proximity of our house in town to so many of those amenities, but we realized we might as well live a few minutes' drive away -- either way, excursions to the park or wherever meant our shepherding the children there.

And so, much as we continue to love where we've lived these past four years (and all of our married lives not far away), we're moving the whole lot of us -- and our far too many possessions, another realization that creeps up on one, in this modern America where the real affliction isn't the absence of material goods, but how to manage their over-abundance -- outside of town.

All of which brings me back to next week's paper, much of which will be handled by my able colleagues at the *Pilot News* office. In the meantime, I hope all of you will bear with all of us as we juggle a sort of editorial substitute, and (in my case) the insanity of a major -- but we believe very good -- move.

Lady Cavs demolish Westville, 73-9

By Dee Grenert
Staff Writer

CULVER — Good luck selecting a single player of the game for Culver Community’s girls basketball team Saturday night.

Certainly the two players topping 20 points — including one with a double-double — built a strong case. But what about the post player who turned in a double-double? Or the point guard who distributed 11 assists with nary a turnover the entire evening? Then there’s the Culver defense that permitted a scant nine points and held a woefully overmatched Westville squad to 8 percent — 3 of 36 — from the field.

Whatever the case, that and more added up to the Class A No. 10 Lady Cavs’ 73-9 laughter over the Blackhawks at John R. Nelson Gymnasium.

“We always try to use our defensive ability to create offense,” Culver head coach Gina Hierlmeier, whose team scored 12 points off turnovers during a frenzied initial quarter before lifting off the accelerator in the second, said. “We want to run, but a lot of teams on our schedule know we want to run, so we need to be able to run our halfcourt offense; we focused on our halfcourt offense all summer. We could have come out and kept running, but we still have to be able to execute our halfcourt offense.”

Culver senior wing Kay-

la Shaffer needed just one quarter to personally outscore Westville, erupting for 12 of her game-high 25 points in the opening stanza. A 5-foot-10 IU East recruit, Shaffer touched off a 29-0 first-half Culver outburst with a transition basket off a Tatum Schultz feed at the 5:27 mark of the first quarter. Shaffer filled up the rest of the stat sheet with 10 rebounds, five assists, and five steals in a strong all-around performance.

“Again, (Shaffer) is a kid who likes to get up and down the floor; we need her to execute the half-court offense, too,” Hierlmeier said. “Tonight she scored, and in the halfcourt she found open teammates which is good for us. When she makes great passes it makes us a better team, and it makes her a better player.”

Junior post Donna Zehner matched Shaffer’s



CITIZEN PHOTO/DEANNA L. GREINERT
Culver Community's Kayla Shaffer breaks away for a layup during a game with Westville at John R. Nelson Gymnasium Saturday.

both played very well,” Hierlmeier said. “We ask a lot of both of them; they’re very athletic and that allows us to do some things. Donna didn’t play as well as we would have liked against South Central (Thursday). She came out tonight with an intensity that set the tone.”

Meanwhile, Schultz, the Cavs’ junior point guard, handed out eight of her game-leading 11 assists in the first quarter against Westville’s 2-3 zone and also powered Culver’s defense with seven steals.

See Cavs page 6

Culver’s Elliott signs on with Fairmount State

By James Costello
Sports Editor

CULVER — Culver Community basketball player Trent Elliott’s ascension to the next level has been a long time in the making. Now that it’s official, he can breathe a sigh of relief.

Elliott signed on to receive a full scholarship playing ball for NCAA Division II Fairmount State in West Virginia Tuesday. The 6-5 senior swingman said it’s nice to start the season fresh with his decision already finalized.

“It feels really great. I’m just really excited to get the season started, and not just that, but to get the decision over with,” he said. “If I didn’t and I waited until the end and I didn’t know what college I was going to I’d have to fill out all the stats, ship out all the paperwork and everything. But now I can just concentrate on the season, and I already know where I’m going. It’s a great feeling.”

The recruiting pro-

See Signs page 6



CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY
CCHS’ Trent Elliott (front row, center) signs on with Fairmont State, flanked by mom Lori Elliott and dad Kyle. In the back row, from left: CCHS athletic director Andy Thomas, assistant principal Brett Berndt, and principal Albert Hanselman.



CGA earns 1st win

PHOTO/PAUL PARÉ

Culver Girls Academy earned its first win with a 73-59 victory over visiting Peru at Harold Weinberg Gymnasium Saturday.

Pictured at LEFT, CGA freshman Jessie Etheridge (guard/forward), right, takes to the air as Peru Junior Molly Prys (forward) tries to move the ball.

Marie Steiner powered Culver with a game-high 31 points, while Victoria Christlieb put up 22 for the Lady Eagles, who improved to 1-1 at the start of the season.

Peru was led by Josie Murphy’s 29 points in the loss, which dropped the Tigers to 0-2.

• CULVER GIRLS ACADEMY 73, PERU 59 at Culver

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Shaffer raises funds for charities at games

Culver Comm. High School basketball player Kayla Shaffer is conducting donation drives during some of her home basketball games and welcomes community contributions to the following causes: Thurs., Nov. 21, 6:30 p.m. vs. Wabash (Marshall County Humane Society); Tues., Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m. (Marshall County Hospice); Thurs., Jan. 2, 8 p.m. vs. Oregon Davis (American Cancer Society); Friday, Jan. 17, 6 p.m. vs. Triton (Riley's Children's Hospital).

Cavs from page 5

“Tatum is one of those kids that makes everyone better,” Hierlmeier said. “With her it’s always been getting her not to force things, but she sees the floor better than anyone I’ve seen in awhile. I’m comfortable with having the ball in her hands, and I want the ball in her hands. She runs this team.”

Also for the Cavs, senior sixth man Shakkira Harris dished out five assists.

“Shakkira Harris made some great passes and hit

some shots,” Hierlmeier said. “That’s two good games in a row for her which is very helpful.”

Megan Henrich topped Westville’s scoring chart with four points, while Mary Parkman’s triple with 3:46 left in the second frame accounted for the Blackhawks’ first and only first-half field goal.

Culver heads to Winamac on Tuesday.
* CULVER COMMUNITY 73, WESTVILLE 9
At Culver

Briefs from page 1

meeting Nov. 24

The next board meeting of the Maxinkuckee Singers/Players will be held at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24 at Grace United Church of Christ, 307 N. Plymouth St., Culver, followed by a general membership meeting at 2 p.m. The director of Bye Bye Birdie will be voted upon at that time, as well as election of new board officers for 2014.

‘Turkey Trot’ Nov. 29

A five-kilometer “Turkey Trot” will take place Friday, November 29, to raise funds for Confiance Dance towards a hoped-for dance studio in Culver. Registration starts at 7 a.m. with the race beginning at 8:30 a.m. At 9 a.m., a costume contest is scheduled, and a one-mile kids’ “gobble wobble” will start at 9:30 a.m. Awards will be announced at 10 a.m. Registration can be done both online and before the race, and is \$10 along with any donation one wishes to contribute. Register at confiancedance.com or http://www.racesonline.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.race_detail&race_id=17668.

Community meal at St. Mary’s Nov. 30

St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church’s monthly community meal will take place Saturday, Nov. 30. On the 30th day or each month, a community meal will be provided for anyone interested in attending. St. Mary of the Lake is located at 124 College Avenue in Culver. Questions may be directed to 574-842-2522.

Free community meal at CBC

Culver Bible Church on South Main Street will host a free community meal Sunday, Dec. 8, starting at 6 p.m., which will be followed by the singing of Christmas carols in the church sanctuary. Future meals will be on the first Sunday of each month at 6 p.m.



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Signs from page 5

cess was a fairly straightforward one for Elliott, who said several colleges had expressed interest but hadn’t made him any concrete offers until Fairmont State head coach Jarrod Calhoun.

Calhoun, formerly an assistant coach under Bob Huggins at West Virginia, is entering his second year at the helm of the Falcons after helping turn the program around from an eight-win season in 2011-12 to last year’s 23-9 season, which included a berth in the NCAA Tournament.

“The last AAU tournament in Fort Wayne, Coach Calhoun was there, and he’d never even contacted me before that and I didn’t even know about them. He called me about a week after that last tournament and asked me if I’d had any other schools interested,” Elliott said. “I told him yes, but when he asked if they’d given me any offers or anything I told him I haven’t received any offers, and he said ‘Let me be the first one.’ He said I’d be the number one recruit for our class just because they’re losing a guard, and I play the same position. He said ‘I’ll send you a scholarship right now.’ I talked to my parents and then that following weekend we went down to tour the campus, and I just loved it. It’s a perfect fit for what I want.”

Turns out Elliott is a pretty good fit for the Falcons, too. An athletic forward with an outside shot, Elliott averaged 19.3 points per game at a 49 percent average from the floor and 79 percent free throw average to go with an average of 6.8 rebounds per game during his junior season in 2012-13. He’s a two-year All-NSC selection as well as the Cavaliers’ MVP over the past two seasons.

“Coach Calhoun recruited Trent as a three or a four. They play a lot of four out around one at the university there, and

Texas Hold-em at VFW

The Culver VFW Post 6919 hosts a Texas Hold-Em tournament Dec. 8. The Post is located at 108 E. Washington St. in Culver. Doors open at 11 a.m. and the tournament begins at 1 p.m. There is a \$45 buy-in (no re-buys), \$10,000 chips, and a \$5 add-on, \$2,000 extra chips at the time of buy-in (25 percent goes to the house, 75 percent in the pot). License number 129586.

REAL Meals holiday feast

Culver’s REAL Meals will host a pre-holiday meal is Friday, December 20 and will include bone in ham, au gratin potatoes, corn casserole, Brussels sprouts and holiday cheesecake. Reservations for that meal are due by December 11. Reservations may be made by calling 574-842-8878. REAL Meals is a program of REAL Services of Michiana, and meets weekdays at noon at the Culver beach lodge on Lake Shore Drive. The program remains donation-based and grounded in community and togetherness.

Live music at the Lakehouse

The Lakehouse Grille, 620 E. Lake Shore Drive, continues its Saturday night series of live musical performances Sat. nights at approximately 9 p.m. Please note the Nov. 30 performance has been canceled. Performances include: Double Standard (Nov. 23), Kevin & Jerry (Dec. 7), Marty Miles Band (Dec. 14), Matt Miller (Dec. 21), Money-shot (1st annual “End of the Year Party” (Dec. 28).

‘Catholicism, Coffee, & Current Events’

Topics of current interest and relevance through the lens of historic Christianity and Catholic teaching takes place Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. in the conference room of the Culver Coffee Company, Lake Shore Drive in Culver. All are welcome to enjoy a cup of cof-

fee and conversation. Topics include: Current events open forum/Q&A (Dec. 1), The Culture of Life - euthenasia, abortion, stem cells, and other life issues (Dec. 8), The healthcare mandate and contraception - what does the Church actually teach? (Dec. 15).

he sees Trent with his athletic ability — he’s up to about 6-5, he’s got his weight up around 195; he’s really hit the weight room hard — and with his shooting range and now with a little bit more strength where he can go inside and mix it up a little bit more. I think that’ll help prepare him a little bit more for that college game,” said Culver head coach and Trent’s father Kyle Elliott.

As Trent’s father as well as his coach, it was a special day for Kyle Tuesday. He recalled the long hours his son has spent working towards the dream of becoming a college player.

“I know the hours that Trent’s put into the game. He’s a kid that’s been a gym rat all his life,” said Kyle. “Just as a little guy, when I was head coach of the girls’ program, he was in there bouncing a basketball and shooting — he’s just always been around the game. He’s watched me break down game film and talk about a game that he was maybe as a youngster watching. It’s just been a neat day for the family to be able to be a part of it.”

The consummate coach as well as Trent’s father, Kyle was quick to give some of the credit for his son’s success to his teammates as well.

“We’ve been making some great strides the past couple years in our basketball program, and it started because we have great kids that care for one another, and it’s no different today,” said Kyle. “Trent’s getting a scholarship, but it never would have been achieved if we didn’t have the kids that we have in the locker room, and he’d be the first to say that as well.

“It’s a good day for the Elliott family, it’s also a great day for Cavalier basketball.”

Firemen’s Honor Wall ready for bricks

The Culver Union Township Fire Department’s Honor Wall, located on the corner of Lake Shore Drive and State Street, is ready to accept community-purchased bricks honoring local firefighters. Active and honor wall bricks can be purchased by individuals, but will be limited to one brick maximwn per active member or honoree and department established criteria must be met. For more details or information, or for an official order form, interested persons may contact the department’s secretary-treasurer Dave Cooper at 574-952-2809 or dacoop13@hotmail.com.

Dance classes at the park

Culver’s Parks and Recreation department will present “Dance with Megan” a dance class of ballet and contemporary being offered to girls and boys ages 4 through 11, free of charge. Dance classes will take place Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the beach lodge meeting room.

Bell ringers in Nov., Dec.

Salvation Army holiday bell ringers will be on hand starting Sat., Nov. 30 at CVS and Park N’ Shop in Culver, collecting donations as in years past. The Culver Council of Churches sponsored bells will be rung from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday through Dec. 22

Community Cab in Culver

The Marshall County Council on Aging, offers transportation throughout Culver via the Culver Community Cab each Wed. from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$2.50 per boarding, with no pre-scheduling required. Those wishing a ride may call toll-free 866-936-9904.

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CMA from page 3

ditional trauma training, and learned elementary optometry skills in order to issue glasses. Welch also vaccinated animals to help eliminate the spread of disease. He has served on similar missions trips in parts of China, Africa, Mexico, and Europe.

Schumacher, who speaks Modern Arabic and Jordanian

Park from page 1

apartment is part of Young's salary and if she has a contract specifying it as such. It was noted Young had a contract, including use of the apartment, in her earliest years as superintendent, a post she began 27 years ago, but has not had one since.

"We're changing the way we're going to do business," said board president Tammy Shaffer. "If we're saying we want to change this, then that's what we're doing."

She added that the move "makes sense financially and from a policy standpoint....when Kelly first came, it made sense (that she lived in the apartment). Now I'm not sure it does."

Asked by Shaffer is she expected to live in the apartment "as long as you live," Young said she expected to as long as she was superintendent.

"I can't put one person ahead of the whole community's needs," said Reinhold, who added that managing both Young as an employee and an apartment building is "too difficult." She also noted conflicts in the past year when the board sought to walk through the apartment as part of an overall assessment of the beach lodge and its condition.

"We couldn't get in," she said. "(We were told) it was private. We're trying to maintain a building and we can't get in to see it."

Reinhold and Stallings described the beach lodge as in a state of disrepair, including leaking windows in some areas, and in need of an overhaul.

Audience member Tom Kearns suggested the board should follow "business procedures" in how it made decisions, and that the board has a right to make the move.

Hart suggested the matter be taken to the town council before finalizing the decision. Shaffer, however, countered that the park board shouldn't be simultaneously told to take more responsibility for its own management, but refer unpopular decisions to the town.

"I don't think this is right," said Hart. "It's wrong. You

colloquial Arabic, has been published twice in academic journals. One article concerned the contemporary Islamic doctrine of jihad. The second covered the effects of Egyptian regime change on the country's prospects for war and peace.

He has tutored Jordanian children in English and math

guys have obviously discussed this (ahead of the meeting). I know nothing about this and I want to make sure everything is legal."

Pressed to vote on the matter, Hart was the lone opposing vote to Reinhold, Shaffer, and Stallings' "yays."

Christmas lights in the park

In other discussion, Tony Sellers of Sellers Landscaping distributed information and drawings as requested by the board at its regular meeting the previous week, outlining various options for decorating the town park with Christmas lights.

Lights would be concentrated on fencing, some trees, and selected buildings, he said, and some would be focused on the basketball court area where a temporary skating rink is planned for this season.

He pointed out bulb colors could be changed to decorate areas for holidays such as Halloween and Valentine's Day as well.

While several price points were outlined, the full range of decorations was priced at \$10,000, which the board approved, with the town able to keep all the lights used, and just under \$700 of that amount deducted by way of an offer by Mike Stallings of Mirar Homes to pay for lights for "Selestine's tree" near the depot.

Sellers said several people had already approached him to underwrite sections of the decorating, which will further reduce its cost.

It was noted the park could be included on a planned map of holiday-decorated homes as part of an outdoor decorating contest being spearheaded by the Culver Youth Community Organization this season.

He also noted this year's ice fishing tournament is scheduled for the Feb. 14, 2014 weekend, an event he hopes can be supplemented with a Culver "winter festival" with various activities for all ages.

while studying abroad in Amman. He is also the project manager of an initiative aimed at improving the lives of residents at battered women's shelters, the team captain and fund-raising assistant for Relay For Life events, and a Special Olympics coach.

Young affirmed the ice skating rink had been ordered and should arrive within a few weeks, and that volunteers have agreed to help set it up. Stallings noted one volunteer, Chris Chambers, suggested the park might hire supervisors during skating hours, and Stallings suggested park activities director Donna McKee might be able to fill some of that time, with Young supervising at other times.

Reinhold said the park hopes to purchase some ice skates, knowing some children won't have their own, and may solicit donations of skates from the community as well. It was discussed that Chambers' RideOn bicycle shop across the street from the park could also be a source for skate rental or purchase.

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