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Thomas, 2 years old, and Andrew, 4 years old, sons of Jessica Oliver & Lance Overmyer of Plymouth, grandsons of Jack & Jana Oliver and Lynn Overmyer of Culver wish everyone Happy Holidays!  
**Only 12 more days until Christmas!**



**Merry Christmas from...**

**The Culver Citizen**

Thursday, December 20, 2012 Vol. 119 Issue No. 51 50¢  
Serving Culver • Lake Maxinkuckee • Monterey since 1894



PHOTOS PROVIDED/PAUL PARÉ, BRYCE LINDVALL,\* AND ANNE JOHNSTON\*\* - LAYOUT/JEFF KENNEY

**In Brief**

**New computer classes at CUTPL**

Culver-Union Township Public Library's Computer Security class will take place Fri., Dec. 21 at 10 a.m. and will last two hours. Computer classes are free and open to the public.

**Nativity pageant Friday**

St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church's annual Nativity Pageant will take place Fri., Dec. 21 at 5:30 p.m., with a potluck dinner following (meat and drinks provided).

**Monterey New Years Eve party Dec. 31**

A spaghetti dinner to benefit the Monterey Days festival in Monterey will take place New Years Eve from 7 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., at the American Legion Post in Monterey. Adults are \$8 and kids (5 to 11) \$5; under 5 are free. Kool Aid and coffee available (anything else would be BYOB). Music provided.

**Board and Commission Openings**

There are several openings on Town Boards and Commissions. Currently, there is one opening on the Park Board, five openings on the Redevelopment Commission, three openings on the Tree Commission and one opening on the Marshall County Economic Development Corporation. Those interested should submit a letter of interest no later than Monday, January 7 to Town Hall, 200 E. Washington, Culver.

**Community meal at St. Mary's Dec. 30**

St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church's monthly community meal will take place Sunday, Dec. 30. On the 30th day of 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.

**Notice to Antiquarian member-subscribers**

Members of the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver, all of whom receive one year's subscription to The Culver Citizen as part of their annual membership dues, are asked to contact the Pilot News office, rather than the AHS, regarding seasonal changes

**Surfboard Santa and a very Culver Christmas**

ABOVE: A variety of "Christmasy" views of Culver, including (UPPER LEFT), the Master children -- attending the annual children's Christmas party Saturday at the Culver High School, had no idea their father, Tyler Master, was "assisting" jolly old St. Nick behind the beard! From left, they are Brendan (age 4), Addalynn (1) and Gavin (3). UPPER RIGHT: The previous Sunday, Culver Academies held its traditional Christmas Vespers service, at Memorial Chapel. Pictured from left: cadets James Callan (Flower Mound, Texas), Cameron Benn (Dundalk, Ontario), and Dean Ferris (Alma, Ontario). LOWER RIGHT: While this photo wasn't taken this year, it just about could have been! The unusually warm temperatures on Christmas day, 2011, led Jack Johnston, of the west shore, to take to his stand up paddleboard in full Santa attire, on Maxinkuckee waters!

**Park board talks skating rink in the park, survey results**

By Jeff Kenney  
Citizen editor

Culver's parks and recreation board lacked enough members in attendance to merit a quorum -- which meant no official votes could be taken -- at its Dec. 5 meeting, but that didn't prevent informative discussion from taking place.

Among topics discussed: the possibility that Culver's park could see an ice skating rink, possibly even yet this winter season.

Brandy Pohl of Culver's Chamber of Commerce, accompanied by Chris Chambers of Rideon Bicycles, suggested a temporary, portable rink be installed at the site of the park's basketball courts, something Pohl said would have been presented by Tony Sellers of the Chamber, had he not been called away to another meeting that evening. The idea, she said, was in conjunction with the "Come Alive Outside" initiative Sellers has been promoting in recent years in Culver, which seeks to increase children and families' outdoor activity in the community.

Pohl said some other communities have had success with the rink concept. "The movie theater is gone now," she added. "We don't have much for young kids to do here in the winter time."

Pohl also referenced statistics concerning diabetes and chronic diseases associated with children aged 8 to 18 spending eight hours a day or more in front of media.

"I think maybe an ice rink could be a help to get kids and families out enjoying the outdoors," she said. "And it could help bring in business (to the area)."

Chambers explained the portable rink includes a liner for bottom portion and perimeter for the side walls, adding setup and takedown of the rink is "pretty basic." He also noted the rink wouldn't damage the court's concrete, since the ice isn't terribly thick. The cost for a kit appropriate for the basketball courts' size would be around \$6,500, he said.

Asked by park superintendent Kelly Young if a committee would be willing to staff the rink, Chambers said he would volunteer time to set up the rink, which he said needs to be resurfaced by clearing off snow and adding water to fill in cracks and scrapes. Pohl noted the liner would have to be replaced every three or four years.

Park board member Kathy Hart said the city of Laporte, Indiana has a similar rink which "is rarely frozen," since the air temperature must stay consistently at 32 degrees or under to maintain the ice, though some audience members pointed out that, while some local winters -- such as last year's -- have lacked enough temperatures to make the endeavor worthwhile, other recent years have been consistently cold.

Young said she would have to check with the park's insurance company, which in the past had eschewed the notion of the park sponsoring ice skating on Lake Maxinkuckee, a tradition through most of the 20th century here.

Board member Patty Stallings suggested the park's new activities director, slated to be hired in early 2013, could plan activities on the rink.

"I think the community would be very excited about this," she added.

The board and superintendent also discussed the park's short and long range plans, which Young said would include input from the public, employees, park board members, and Young herself. In particular, board members discussed ranking various proposed projects in order of priority.

Two Americans with Disabilities Act compliance matters topped the list: a railing for the steps leading to the park's boat rental piers, and a new sidewalk to connect the parking area more directly with the

See Park page 2

**Wakefield elected new fire chief**

Will take over in January; council also talks farm animal ordinance

By Jeff Kenney  
Citizen editor



Terry Wakefield

The Culver-Union Township fire department will have a new chief after the first of the year, according to current chief Mike Grover, who made the announcement at the Dec. 11 meeting of Culver's town council.

Grover explained the department held its election of officers recently and elected longtime fireman Terry Wakefield as the new chief. The assistant chief will continue to be Ken VanDePutte and Dave Cooper will stay on as secretary, said Grover. Jerry Siler will also retain his post as training officer and Tim McCarthy as safety officer. The new captain will be Pete Peterson, replacing present captain Glenn Whitmarsh. Other changes included Jim Grover and Walt Hanselman's election as maintenance men, and Bryce Lindvall's election in charge of cleaning.

The council also approved Grover's requests for \$883.73 worth of hose for its existing grass truck -- noting the new grass truck should be ordered after Jan. 1 -- and \$750 for a refurbished deregulator for use on one of the department's fire trucks, which will facilitate one unit on the fire engine and one on the squad truck, "so we'll always have it," said Grover.

Grover was also given the go-ahead to purchase a new desktop computer for the fire station, to replace the six-year-old machine there.

Council member Ginny Munroe, near the close of the meeting, complimented Grover on his work as fire chief.

"You always came in (to council meetings) with a professional attitude and often with humor," she said. "You did a great job."

In other actions, the council passed on second and

See Council page 2

**Area mother, daughter lost in accident last week**

A Culver-connected family and friends and relations are reeling from tragic news last week.

Leesa Sexton, 46, of Argos, and daughter Katelin Sexton, 10, were dead at the scene of a vehicle accident just after 6 p.m. Friday night, and Katelin's twin sister Sarah was airlifted to Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne, from which she has since been released with a minor injury.

Sexton's 2003 Ford Focus veered off U.S. 31 in Fulton County, where it was traveling south, just before re-entering the roadway and rolling several times. The accident took place south of 375 N., on the west side of the highway.

The family, including Leesa's husband Ed, who survives, are parishioners at St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church in Culver. Eldest Sexton daughter Emma is a freshman at Culver Girls Academy, from which Leesa graduated in 1984.

Visitation for Leesa and Katelin Sexton takes place Wed. evening from 4 to 7 p.m. at the gymnasium of the Argos High School, with funeral immediately following, presided over by St. Mary's pastor Fr. Tad Balinda.



Leesa Sexton.



**Bell ringers needed**

Culver's Shae Harris (left) and Nick Peterson spent part of last weekend ringing the traditional Christmas bell for The Salvation Army outside CVS Pharmacy on Ohio Street in Culver, two of a number of area volunteers for the activity.

More, however, are needed to cover Culver Council of Churches-sponsored bell-ringing shifts up to Christmas.

Those interested are encouraged to contact Marlene Mahler at 574-842-4260.

All funds stay in the Culver community.

PHOTO PROVIDED

See Briefs page 6  
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## Death notice

Benner

**Larry Lee Benner**  
Dec. 14, 2012

PLYMOUTH — Larry Lee Benner, 67, of Plymouth died at 1:10 p.m., Friday, Dec. 14, 2012, at the Catherine Kasper Life Care Center, in Donaldson.

He is survived by his son, Sean Benner of Plymouth; his brother, Lawrence (Carol) Benner of Oakwood Hills, Ill.; and his companion, Vickie Benner.

Visitation was Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2012 from 4 to 8 p.m. with a 7 p.m. Masonic Lodge service at Van Gilder Funeral Home, Plymouth. Services were Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Plymouth. Burial is at Mount Hope Cemetery, Logansport.

Memorials may be given to: The American Cancer Association, P.O. Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123-1718.

Condolences may be made at [www.vangilderfuneralhome.com](http://www.vangilderfuneralhome.com)

## Obituary

**James V Miracle**

Feb. 13, 1917 – Dec. 11, 2012



CULVER — James V Miracle, 95, of Culver, passed away Dec. 11, 2012 in Plymouth.

Jim was born Feb. 13, 1917, one of two children born to Alfred and Agnes (Yorty) Miracle in Osh Kosh, Wis. After graduating high school, Jim earned his bachelor's degree from Osh Kosh State Teachers College and his master's degree from the College of William and Mary in 1948. During World War II Jim served as a Bombardier on B-24s in the U.S. Army Air Corps 14th Air Force throughout China/Indochina Theater of operations. He left active service at the war's end with the rank of captain and continued serving in the Air Force Reserves until retirement in 1976 as a lieutenant colonel.

Jim took a position as a biology instructor at the Culver Military Academies from 1948 – 1965 and directed the chapel choir for several years. He helped to establish and operate the CMA chapter of the Civil Air Patrol during winter school. During summer school, he was a nature study instructor, museum directory coordinator, and council fire song leader in the woodcraft camp, and Company 2 counselor in the Naval School.

In 1965 Jim left Culver. He took a position as a biology instructor at Newport News High School in Newport News, Virginia. From 1969 – 1971 Jim was a biology professor at Christopher Newport College. From 1971 – 1974 he was Headmaster at Hampton/Roads Academy in Newport News. From 1974 – 1976 he was the NASA Public Information Officer for the Southeastern US Region. Then in 1976 he came back to Culver Academies during winter school as a master biology instructor and Epley Chair holder. During summer school he operated the woodcraft museum and led council fire singing. In 1985 Jim officially retired as Master Instructor Emeritus.

Jim married two wonderful ladies in his life. The first was Ethna Lawson, who passed away in 1963. He later married Martha Griffin, who preceded him in death in 2008.

Jim is survived by his daughter Laura Oatney of Wilmette, Ill. She attended CMA for two years as a faculty daughter. Her husband Karl is deceased; sons Tom of Culver, who works as a technical linguist and is a 1964 CMA graduate and Jay of Venice, Calif., and independent filmmaker and 1969 CMA graduate; and granddaughters Elizabeth and Margaret Oatney.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. The Odom Funeral Home, Culver, is in charge of arrangements.

## Obituary

**Olive Violet Beck**

Nov. 29, 1926-Dec. 14, 2012



CULVER — Lifelong Culver resident Olive Violet Beck passed away Friday, Dec. 14 at Miller's Merry Manor in Culver after an extended illness. She was surrounded by family members and her pastor. She was 86 years old.

A strong, sociable lady, Olive devoted herself to her family, her church and her community. She often joined her husband J.C. singing country and gospel songs, harmonizing sweetly in her soft country voice.

Olive Johnson was born Nov. 29, 1926 to Eva (Mitchell) Johnson and Luther Johnson in the village of Maxinkuckee east of the lake. Olive attended school in Culver and graduated from Culver High School in 1944. She married J.C. Beck on May 17, 1945.

Olive was employed at Taylor's Five and Dime Store and James' Grocery Store in downtown Culver. She later

worked at Grant's department store in Plymouth and Shirt Shed in Culver. Olive also ran the telephone switchboard at Culver Academies for 11 years before retiring in the 1990s. She was a member of Grace United Church of Christ and served on the Consistory there. She also volunteered with United Way.

Olive was preceded in death by husband J.C. who passed in 2009 and by her son Alan who died in an automobile accident in 1958. She is survived by her daughter Janet Beck Baker of Culver, son Terry Beck (Marcia) of Defiance, Ohio and son Timothy Beck (Vickie) of Valparaiso.

She is also survived by her grandchildren: Donald Baker (Janet Halling) of Culver, Megan Beck of Mary Esther, Fla. and Garrett Heath Beck (Stephanie) of Port Huron, Mich. She is also survived by great-grandsons Graham and Leo Baker of Culver and great-granddaughters Nevaeh and Ava Beck of Port Huron, Mich.

Visitation was held at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Grace United Church of Christ in Culver, with funeral services followed at 1 p.m. Burial followed at Culver Masonic Cemetery.

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## Tragedies a reminder of deeper Christmas context

December is usually a pretty happy -- often even joyous -- month in our household. Besides, of course, the Advent season and Christmas holiday, which our children naturally love as well, our wedding anniversary (this year our 10th) is Dec. 13 and my wife Beth's birthday the 15th.

Like so many in the area, however, it's been difficult to celebrate with the usual exuberance this past week in particular. A few weeks ago, I titled my column on this page, "A tough week in Culver," in response to the shooting deaths of two residents, one a 16 year old Culver Comm. High School student. Well, make that a tough month in Culver.

Earlier in the week, we lost one of the town's last surviving World War II veterans, Jim Miracle. If his war service wasn't enough, there's also the fact that he taught biology for 28 years at Culver Academies, and may perhaps be most beloved for his role at the Culver Woodcraft Camp, where besides his many years teaching Nature Studies, he was the song leader for generations of campers who remember him fondly. On top of that, he was just a nice man, and I know he'll be missed by his family and many others, to whom my sympathies go out. His passing was a great loss to Culver as a whole.

Of course, chief on the minds and lips of many was Friday's horrific shooting of 26 people -- many of them young children -- at an elementary school in Connecticut. It goes without saying that our family, like everyone else, was stunned and saddened by the unfolding news, but by late Friday evening, the sting of unexpected loss hit us closer to home.

We learned then of the passing of Leesa Sexton and her 10 year-old daughter, Katelin, in a car accident in Fulton County that same evening. They left behind Leesa's husband, Ed, and Katelin's twin sister, Sarah, as well as the couple's eldest daughter, Emma, a freshman at Culver Academies.

On a personal note, we have been acquainted with the Sexton family for around a decade, and though they live in Argos, their connection to Culver goes beyond Emma's school affiliation: Leesa was herself a Culver Girls Academy graduate, and the family attends St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church here in Culver, where the twins often served at Sunday morning Mass.

I can only say the St. Mary's and I'm sure Culver Academies communities are reeling from the news, and our hearts go out to Ed and his daughters. Like so many, I think the reality has only barely begun to sink in, and it's a difficult reality to say the very least.

Add to that the news that the same day, well-known, lifelong Culverite Olive Beck passed away, joining her also well-known husband J.C. Beck, who passed away in 2009.

On top of the shooting tragedy in late November, this Christmas season feels a somber one compared to most.

A few thoughts came to mind, in the midst of all this.

The first pertains to the verbal, online, Facebook, and other comments I observed and heard in the wake of the

Connecticut tragedy. Most, of course, were expressions of shock and sorrow. But every so often, someone would remark to the effect that such incidents reveal the "true" nature of humanity, or just how sick and depraved the human race (or has become, as if cruel brutality were something new).

Don't get me wrong, there's plenty of evidence to that effect: wars, abuse, racism, and the like. But if such a notion were completely right, we would see gunmen slaughter children daily, and most all of us would rejoice at it, or possibly worse yet, be indifferent to it. Instead, the entire nation -- and perhaps the world -- reacted with tears or expressions of disgust and completely unaffected. Flags were flown at half-staff, the president of the United States

teared up, people mobilized to send donations, flowers, and funds to Newton, CT, and expressions of like tearfulness canvassed social networking sites. Yes, I know it's easy to change a Facebook status, but I read a great many from a great many people I know, as well as many I don't, and I've no doubt they were sincere.

For all the great wrongs and cruelties of our world and culture, I do liken it to what we in Culver see almost regularly: neighbors rallying around their own in times of suffering and loss, in support and care, for the most part apparently motivated out of nothing but empathy and charity. I've seen it countless times as editor; I expect I'll see it countless more.

Am I being Pollyanna -- a simplistic "optimist," as it were? I'd argue not. I'm all too well aware of the current trend to deny the simple existence of good and evil, and good and evil behavior in human beings, and I've concluded that what is amazing is not the evil people do -- particularly as often as it's a disordered attachment to a perceived good -- but that so much good is done in spite of so many reasons it theoretically ought not to be taking place.

British writer G.K. Chesterton wrote that he once noticed "the optimist thought everything good except the pessimist, and that the pessimist thought everything bad, except himself," making both notions fairly useless. He argued instead for a kind of "cosmic patriotism."

"The point," he wrote, "is not that this world is too sad to love or too glad not to love; the point is that when you do love a thing, its gladness is a reason for loving it, and its sadness a reason for loving it more."

We're citizens of the world; we're neighbors of one another, and we don't get a choice (save for suicide) in that matter, so we may choose to embrace it.

As is often the case in a situation like this, the question of, "Where was God?" was also bandied about in the wake of the Connecticut shootings. If God seemed absent in the terrible actions of the murderer, to me He was hard to miss in the outpouring of love, charity, sympathy, and shared grief (the word "compassion," deconstructed, means "to suffer with") of humanity after the shootings. I saw it again in the wake, locally, of the sad news concern-

ing the Sexton family.

The second thought had to do with the reference I made above to the tragedies of our area and Connecticut in recent weeks casting a pall upon the ideally warm and merry holiday season.

I read recently someone's comment that, to say one celebrates or observes Christmas may mean one of a few different things. I'll try to avoid the easy path of cynicism here in referencing the crassly commercialized shopping event many have come to loathe.

Instead, in fairness to most people, Christmas may be a genuinely warm, festive gathering of family and friends, steeped in the nostalgia of years of childhood memories, familiar music, perhaps cherished films, food items, and traditions. And that's very good.

But then there's also the Christmas from which its name derives: the marking of the birth of Christ according to the traditional liturgical Christian calendar.

The latter did get me pondering the present sense that tragedy, loss, death, and violence should seem so unrelated to the season of Christmas. To be sure, the birth of Christ is, for Christians at least, a joyous and festive occasion to mark.

But for those aware of the historical calendar from which Christmastide is derived, long before Christmas itself was observed, Christians observed that day marked in the line from the old carol, "Good King Wenceslaus looked out, on the feast of Stephen."

The feast of Stephen takes place Dec. 26, the traditional day the first Christian martyr, Stephen, was stoned to death for his beliefs. Even more sobering is Dec. 28: the feast of the Holy Innocents, which marks the traditional day King Herod ordered all the male babies living in Bethlehem to be slaughtered, in hopes of snuffing out the life of the prophesied Messiah by so doing. That's not to mention the oddly un-warm-and-fuzzy birth of Jesus himself, which we've heard about so many times we're probably immune to the strange rawness of it: in a smelly stable surrounded by farm animals and doubtless smellings of their dung, so poor as to be laid in a bed of straw.

All very strange, but more to the point, the opposite of cuddly, warm, and fuzzy or lovely, elegant, and "Christmasy" shiny.

People undoubtedly rarely associate Christmas with the "Massacre of the Innocents," as its also known, but really they should. And America bore witness, these few days prior to Christmas, to its own massacre of its own innocents, and my only point is, that aspect of reality has always been a part of the Christmas story as well -- but it has never robbed that story of the hope and beauty, even amidst the pain and ugliness, that it conveyed.

And hope is the key word here -- the implications of an idea so strange that I wonder how many of us would so casually embrace it if we really considered its claim: that the source of all goodness and all being itself would bend down and become little and naked and cold for the likes of that Connecticut shooter, among many others.

On the other hand, that hope is the best thing we've got, in the wake of a month like we've had in Culver. I'd argue it's better than the alternative.



### View from Main Street

By Jeff Kenney  
Editor

## Letters to the editor

### God's mercy in the face of tragedy

There are times when even pastors shake their heads and shed tears. The murder/suicide in Culver a couple of weeks ago, the recent mall shooting and now this school shooting in a Connecticut Elementary School are some of those times. Yet, I continue to trust in God, whose thoughts are not our thoughts and His ways are not our ways. And so, we cry out with the psalmist: "Deliver me, O Lord, from evil men; preserve me from violent men, who plan evil things in their heart ..." (Ps. 140:1-2)

It is important to remember that this is not God's doing ... this is a truly evil act brought about by the work of Satan in this young man's life. This is a terrible reminder, in the midst of preparations for Christmas, that we live in an evil world that is corrupted by sin (there, but for the grace of God, go I).

And so, we give thanks that God, in His mercy, sent His Son into the world, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem us who are under the law. God knows what violence to a child is as His Son was crucified at the hands of evil men for our salvation. God knows the grief and anguish these parents are experiencing. We commend these families into His most gracious care.

*When aimless violence takes those we love,  
When random death strikes childhood's promise down,  
When wrenching loss becomes our daily bread,  
We know, O God, You leave us not alone.*

*Because Your Son knew agony and loss,  
Felt desolation, grief and scorn and shame,  
We know You will be with us, come what may,  
Your loving presence near, always the same.  
Through long grief-darkened days help us, dear Lord,  
To trust Your grace for courage to endure,  
To rest our souls in Your supporting love,  
And find our hope within Your mercy sure.*  
"When Aimless Violence Takes Those We Love" (LSB 764, st. 1, 4, 5)

**Pastor K.C. Dehning**  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Culver

### Thanks for Culver 'angels'

David and I would like to thank all of the wonderful "Angels" that were involved in the Bake Sale for us. We were amazed and humbled by all of the donations. We are once again reminded of the many reasons small town living is the best!! So many caring, compassionate neighbors, friends and family willing to help each other out in difficult times. God bless each and every one of you!!

**David and Bobbi Schrimsher**  
Culver

### Name that Culver 'citizen'

Last week's Mystery Citizen has been on the minds of many in Culver recently, along with husband David, for whom a benefit bake sale was held last week to assist with medical bills. She's lifelong Culverite Bobbi (Weaver) Schrimsher, a lab assistant in Culver Academies' Science department.

Recognizing her were Anna Neher, Deanna Allyn, Glennia Cooper, Theresa Burns,

Kay Tusing, Jack Houghton, Josh Pretzer, then and now, Savanna Larson, J u d i



Burns, and Scott Schulz, all of whom are entitled to free parking in recently renovated downtown Culver, for their efforts!

This week's Mystery Citizen has been here for more than three decades, in a leading role in a particular Culver institution.

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



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## No. 3 OD dispatches CGA,



PHOTO/PAUL PARÉ

Culver Girls Academy's Saralena Barry pulls up in the lane for a jump against Oregon-Davis' Ashley Campbell during a basketball game at the Academies last week.

ple runs on us in the second quarter; they banked in a 3-pointer at the half. It wasn't our night.

"It's significant when you're without a kid who's a four-year starter," he added. "We had some opportunities. We got what we wanted against the pressure. We attacked, and I think we missed a couple of opportunities for layups. The one thing is we had too many empty possessions early. But we've got some things we can build upon."

Rita Zambon scored 12 points for the Eagles, followed by eight points and 10 rebounds from Victoria Christlieb.

"(Starting guard) Helen Weinberg did a nice job stepping up for us and handling the pressure," the CGA skipper said. "Rita did some nice things, too."

• OREGON-DAVIS 75, CGA 34  
At Culver

By Dee Grenert  
Staff Writer

CULVER — Fact No. 1: Class A No. 3 Oregon-Davis dispatched Culver Girls Academy's basketball team by a wide margin Friday night.

Fact No. 2: You might be hard-pressed to deduce Fact No. 1 from listening to the opposing coaches' postgame reactions.

With CGA standout Andrijana Cvitkovic sidelined by a concussion, the visiting Lady Cats used a second-quarter spurt to shrug off a sluggish start and race past the Eagles 75-34 at Fleet Gymnasium but not necessarily inspire the boss.

"I wasn't real happy with the way we played defense all night," OD head coach Terry Minix said. "We were taking too many chances that put us in bad spots and we didn't rotate. It all comes down to we weren't talking.

Meanwhile, the Eagles hung in against OD's patented full-court pressure in the first quarter, even taking a 9-8 advantage on Saralena Barry's triple at the 1:56 mark.

However, 39 turnovers and the absence of its 6-foot-3 leading scorer eventually took its toll on CGA.

"In all honesty people will probably think I'm crazy, but I thought we played hard and did some things well," CGA head coach Gary Christlieb said. "The third quarter we didn't bring enough offense, that was the difference in the game. (OD) got a cou-

ple runs on us in the second quarter; they banked in a 3-pointer at the half. It wasn't our night.

"It's significant when you're without a kid who's a four-year starter," he added. "We had some opportunities. We got what we wanted against the pressure. We attacked, and I think we missed a couple of opportunities for layups. The one thing is we had too many empty possessions early. But we've got some things we can build upon."

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• OREGON-DAVIS 75, CGA 34  
At Culver



PHOTO/PAUL PARÉ

Freshman Everett Krueger (number 4) takes a shot with two seconds left in regulation with Culver Community down two points during a home game vs. Jimtown. The ball rolled out off the rim but was put back by Trent Elliott as time expired to tie the game and send it into overtime. Culver eventually lost 49-48 with a missed shot as time ran out in the first overtime. Guarding Krueger at left is (number 54) Augie Farwig and at right Michael Hobbs (number 52).

## Boys basketball

### Cavs fall in OT

Culver Community dropped an overtime Northern State Conference boys basketball heartbreaker to Jimtown, 49-48 Friday at John R. Nelson Gymnasium.

Junior forward Trent Elliott erupted for 33 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Cavs.

Nick Floyd led the Jimmies with 12 points — all from 3-point range.

Jimtown hit 8 of 14 from the 3-point line, while Culver hit just 3 of 13 from deep.

Culver slips to 5-2 (1-1 NSC).

• JIMTOWN 49, CULVER COMMUNITY 48  
At Culver  
JV score: Jimtown 32, Culver 18

### Elliott steps up for Cavs

Winamac held Culver junior Trent Elliott seven points under his average, but Collin Stevens stepped up big as the Cavaliers handed host Winamac a 58-41 defeat Tuesday night.

Stevens led the Cavs with 17 points while Elliott put up 13 for Culver. Micah Budzinski finished with eight points and nine rebounds, Tucker Schutz scored six with nine rebounds, and Jordan Sanders finished with seven points, four assists and six steals. Everett Krueger scored seven for the Cavs' balanced offense.

Winamac was led by Parker Fox's 10 points in the loss.

• CULVER 58, WINAMAC 41  
At Winamac

## Girls basketball

### Culver stays unbeaten in NSC

Mickella Hardy finished with 10 points and 12 rebounds as one of three Culver players in double figures, and the Lady Cavaliers remained unbeaten in the Northern State Conference with a 51-43 win at Jimtown Saturday.

Kayla Shaffer led Culver in scoring with 12, while Donna Zehner finished with 10, and Tatum Schutlz scored nine with five assists as Culver stretched a three-point halftime lead into double figures going into the final frame.

Culver improved to 8-3 overall with a 3-0 NSC start.

• CULVER 51, JIMTOWN 43  
At Elkhart

## Argos wins thriller with CGA, 55-50

By Kyle Hilliard  
Correspondent

ARGOS — It was a hard-fought, neck-and-neck game for most of the night at Phil Weybright Gymnasium, but the Lady Dragons of Argos prevailed over the CGA Eagles 55-50.

The Eagles started the game off well, taking a 16-10 lead after the first quarter. But everything changed when, with about three minutes left in the first quarter, 6'2" senior Andrijana Cvitkovic left the game with a possible concussion after hitting her head on the floor.

Culver still led at half-time, but the lead had narrowed to just one with the score 23-22. The Lady Eagles still played well, but it was their inability to defend the 3-point line that Coach Gary Christlieb said

was the difference in the game.

"We didn't defend the 3 line very well. They go 7 for 12, and that's 21 points right there," he said. "We lost shooters too much, and we didn't execute offensively after the first quarter. You have to give them credit. They hit some big shots and some 3s. Down the stretch we didn't do what we needed to do. We got behind and had to play catchup."

Senior Jami Patterson led the attack for Argos with both her shooting and play-making ability.

She had 19 points to fuel the team, and she was the catalyst for coach Gary Teel's offense.

At the start of the second half, Argos was able to get on a mini-run and push the lead out to 27-23. Culver battled back and was able

to re-take the lead and was ahead 37-36 at the end of the third quarter.

The fourth quarter was a back-and-forth battle with Argos junior Libby Moyer hitting a basket with 1:06 left to put the Dragons up 49-47. Steal leading by two, Argos' tough defense forced a turnover by Culver with 39.6 seconds left.

The home team took a timeout there to devise an inbounds play from the back court baseline.

Senior Kayla Prochno threw the ball over the half-court line and Jami Patterson outraced everyone to it and scored the easy lay-in to put her team up 51-47. That basket was the sealing moment in an exciting game.

CGA drops to 7-3.  
• ARGOS 55, CULVER GIRLS ACADEMY 50  
At Argos

## Eagles handle New Prairie at home

By James Costello  
Sports Editor

CULVER — At the tail end of last season, the Culver Academies swim teams spoiled an undefeated New Prairie record. But more than avoiding any potential reprisals for that loss, Monday's dual meet at the Academies was more about a gut check than anything else.

Approaching the winter break after a grueling front end of the season and with all the fatigue, anticipation of the holidays and illness entailed by this time of year, new Culver head swim coach Cali Girard simply wanted to see her swimmers compete.

The Eagles passed the test with flying colors as they handed the visiting Cougars a pair of losses in a girls/ boys swim meet that ended in identical 115-65 scores at historic James R. Lowenstine Pool.

"It was more fortunate where it was last year I think because you get a break. The kids get a little more rested and a little more relaxed, so I think it was going to be a little more competitive meet at that point," said Girard. "This is is competition but across the board it's basically who can be less tired and who can have less sick kids. I know they came in and they had

like eight changes. They probably were looking forward to it, but I know as a coach, especially this late before Christmas the kids are looking forward to Christmas, they're all sick, so you're just trying to get them to push every ounce they have out, for the ones who can actually swim."

"This meet is our hardest. I keep telling all of them if they're sad about their times I'm like 'Guys, it doesn't matter. Just be competitive,' and that's all we ask for at this meet," she added.

The boys showcased their depth in the win over New Prairie, winning seven of 12 events, but more importantly going one-two in both the 50 and 100 freestyle swims as well as in the 200 free relay, thanks to a false start by the Cougars.

Bryan DeVries claimed top honors in both the 50 free and breaststroke as well as in the 400 free relay, while Leopoldo Burguete finished first in the individual medley and on the 400 free relay, and Grant Ralston placed first in the 100 free — following a second-place turn in the 50 free — and swam anchor for the Eagles' winning 400 free relay squad.

The girls went one-two in four races themselves

and were led by several standout performances for the night.

Rory Byrne went four-for-four in wins with victories in both the 200 medley relay and 400 free relay as well as the individual medley and 100 free. Byrne's 200 medley and 400 free relay teammates Lauryn Robinson and Eberle Miller each finished with a trio of wins as Robinson claimed an individual win in the fly and Miller won the backstroke, and that trio's two-win relay partner Jaclyn Schutjer was joined by Josephine Schott and Anna Zaccaria with a pair of wins apiece as the former topped the field in the 200 and 500 free races, and the latter won the breaststroke and was a winner on the Lady Eagles' 200 free relay team.

"We planned for the boys and girls a little bit differently because we knew that the girls weren't as strong. Basically I've been using the last few (girls) meets to kind of flesh out how I'm going to do the sectional lineup so I've been filling some slots that kids aren't used to," said Girard.

"The boys, it was more of a 'Have you been doing what you should be in practice?' They're exhausted. A lot of them are in troupe

See Eagles page 6

## Sports briefs

### Wrestling

#### Eagles top Culver in crosstown match

Culver Military claimed seven wins by forfeit, and the Eagles beat host Culver Community 52-24 in a crosstown wrestling meet Tuesday night.

CMA's two state-ranked wrestlers earned the Eagles their lone victories in live bouts as Miracle won by fall in 38 seconds at 126 and McHugh scored a 10-2 Major Decision victory at 152.

Culver Community had four victories by pin in the team loss. Jarrod and Alan Betts both notched first-period pinfalls at 113 and 120, respectively, and Mark and Matt Hurd both recorded second-round pinfall victories at 170 and 195.

• CULVER MILITARY 52, CULVER COMMUNITY 24  
At Culver Community

See Sports page 6

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## Eagles from page 5

and preparing for inaugural so they've been doing extra exercises on the weekend. Half the team has the flu. so it was can they fight to the very end, and they showed that they could, which is good."

Monday's meet opened with a dominant, better-than-16-second win by Miller, Byrne, Robinson and Schutjer in the medley relay, and the quartet combined once more to close out the girls meet with an equally dominant victory in the 400 free relay, topping New Prairie's A relay squad by more than 26 seconds with a 3:56.07.

The foursome has been golden for the Lady Eagles in all three relays this year, as last week they combined to break a 10-year-old pool record in the 200 free relay with a 1:43.55 stop, a full second better than the previous mark that had stood for a decade.



TOP PHOTO: CGA, and it was nice to see it's now back in CGA's hands," GIRARD SAID OF THE RECORD. "IT WAS PRETTY SPECIAL BECAUSE THE GIRLS LAST YEAR KIND OF KNEW THEY COULD'VE BEATEN IT, BUT (FORMER HEAD COACH TOM DUCKETT) KIND OF WANTED TO WAIT AND GIVE THEM ANOTHER YEAR SO THAT THEY COULD SOUNDLY BEAT IT. IT'S NICE, AND WE'RE GOING TO TRY AGAIN FOR THE MEDLEY AT PLYMOUTH. WE'LL SEE

LOWER PHOTO: GIRLS SWIMMING • CULVER MILITARY 115, NEW PRAIRIE 65 AT CULVER BOYS SWIMMING • CULVER MILITARY 115, NEW PRAIRIE 65 AT CULVER

PHOTOS/JAMES COSTELLO

season and kept the Lady Eagles at a single loss in Girard's first season at the helm of both programs.

Girard takes over for 25-year boys coach Major Tom Duckett, who briefly headed the girls program for Girard last season as she went on sabbatical after serving as head coach of the Lady Eagles for four years. Girard's previous experience as the girls head coach as well as Duckett's continued involvement with the boys team this season have combined to help make her transition a smooth one.

"What's been helpful is I've had the girls for the four years before last year, so this year is only the first year I've been head coach of the boys as well. We're slowing that process because Major's been here for so long there's no way he's not going to be a big part of the boys team," Girard said. "It has been an eye-opening experience when it comes to the software and the organization and all that, but when it comes down to practices and how involved I am in the boys it's just a little bit of a change. I'm sure when he leaves it's going to be a big change, but right now it's been nice because he's there to back me up."

GIRLS SWIMMING • CULVER MILITARY 115, NEW PRAIRIE 65 AT CULVER BOYS SWIMMING • CULVER MILITARY 115, NEW PRAIRIE 65 AT CULVER

## Sports from page 5

### Hockey

#### Shattuck St. Mary's shuts out Eagles for Cornfield Cup

Shattuck St. Mary's beat host Culver Military's varsity A team 3-0 to win the Cornfield Cup Sunday at the Cul-

ver Academies. Jack Slifer finished with 20 saves in goal for CMA, but the Eagles couldn't find the net and had to settle for second best at the tourney.

Culver Military advanced to the championship with a 5-5 draw versus New Trier. Charley Salk scored four of the Eagles' goals, and Matt Moody finished with four

partial assists. Phil Kreuger scored CMA's final goal on a Luke Israel assist with just five seconds on the clock to knot the game up.

SHATTUCK ST. MARY'S 3, CULVER MILITARY (A) 0 AT CULVER • CULVER MILITARY (A) 5, NEW TRIER 5 AT CULVER

## Briefs from page 1

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### Extensive Tyler art exhibit at Crisp Gallery

The recently-launched Herbert F. Tyler Bequest – the most generous gift of visual art in the history of Culver Academies – is exhibit in the Crisp Visual Art Center on the campus of Culver Academies through March 2013. The exhibit features more than 190 pieces of artwork in 10 media disciplines. Galleries are open to the public each Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the school year and on the second Sunday of each month from 1 to 4 p.m. Groups desiring a tour should call 574-842-8278. The Crisp Visual Arts Center is located on the south side of Academy Road between Logansport Gate and Eppley Auditorium.

### Lilly scholarship application

The Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship pro-

gram is available for 2013 graduates, who may apply online at [www.pulaskionline.org](http://www.pulaskionline.org). Deadline is Jan. 7, 2013 at 3 p.m. eastern time. The program is fully funded by the Lilly Endowment Inc. and administered locally by the Pulaski County Community Foundation. Recipients will receive full tuition and required fees as well as up to \$900 per year for required books and equipment for four years of undergraduate study at an accredited Indiana public or private college or university. Applicants must be a resident of Pulaski County, be a high school senior graduating by the end of June 2013 with a diploma from a regionally accredited Indiana high school, and be accepted to pursue full-time baccalaureate study at an accredited public or private college or university in Indiana.

### Good News Club at CES

Culver Elementary School will host Good News Clubs Tuesdays after school until 4:30 p.m. The club will meet in the library (in the Pit). Good News Clubs are sponsored by Child Evangelism Fellowship, and consist of Bible les-

sons, missionary stories, songs, Scripture memorization and creative learning activities. All children attending must have a permission slip supplied by the school.

### Adult basketball at CCMS gym

The Culver adult winter basketball takes place from 1 to 3 p.m. EST, at the Culver Middle School gym, and continues Sundays (except Dec. 23) until March 10. The cost is \$2 per Sunday, or \$15 for the entire season. Please pay before you play and bring your good sportsmanship, but not your children. Questions should be directed to Ken VanDePutte at 574-274-9942.

### Downtown clock donations sought

The fund-raising goal towards Culver's new Main Street clock is at the halfway mark towards total \$8,000 cost of the clock -- which will be installed in conjunction with the downtown revitalization project at the corner of Main and Jefferson Streets. Checks may be made out to The Town of Culver and sent to: Verl Shaffer, 1140 South Street, Culver, IN, 46511.



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## Culver Christmases past

### Culver tradition through the years

Typical Christmas reports in the late 19th century pages of the *Citizen* focused on visits of residents to family members' homes for Christmas, as well as elaborate Christmas productions or services at one of Culver's churches, most commonly Grace Reformed (today Grace United Church of Christ) or the Methodist Episcopal Church on Main and Washington Streets.

By 1930, Culver had a "community Christmas tree," annually erected on the corner of Main and Jefferson Streets.

A longstanding tradition through much of the 20th century, the annual Christmas home decoration contest was in full swing by 1939, when the Culver Boy Scouts took top prize for their decorating of the scout cabin near the north end of Main Street (today Sharon Coffey's home). Albert Stahl won the contest the following year, and Harry Sanders the following year. In 1963, the Don Mikesell home won the \$10 first prize, one of many, many occasions the School Street house took the prize and delighted residents.

By December of 1943, however, all outdoor Christmas lighting was banned due to the war effort, with businesses asked to abandon their indoor lighting as well.

Another cherished local holiday tradition, Culver Academy's Christmas Vespers service of carols and readings was already noted as a tradition back in 1944, when Col. Ed Payson was band director and also led his musical charges to entertain during the cadets' annual Christmas party in the Mess Hall.

For the 1959 Vespers, choirs from the Methodist, Grace United and Emmanuel Evangelical United Brethren churches of the town of Culver joined with the Cadet Chapel Choir and the Culver High School Mixed Choir in presenting a Christmas program, according to a Christmas note from CMA superintendent Delmar T. Spivey. The war a thing of the past by 1946, Culverites enjoyed Miss Ruth Behmer playing carols over the Methodist church's tower speakers 30 minutes each afternoon during the Christmas season.

The annual children's party Culver youngsters enjoyed last Saturday in 2012 was no new thing even in December, 1956, when "The El Rancho Theatre and the VFW (sponsored) their annual Christmas movie party and Santa Claus treat for the children of the community Saturday afternoon."

Another longstanding tradition was the Culver Military Academy faculty children's Christmas party. In 1958, it was held at The Shack, where Jim Miracle led the singing and Santa Claus visited, to the more than 100 children's delight.

Some 120,000 holiday letters and packages passed through the Culver Post Office during the 1960 Christmas season, said assistant postmaster Harold Fitterling.

The *Citizen* was "mighty happy" to receive a Christmas greeting by Air Mail from Culver's Tommye Glaze, the 1960 "Miss Indiana" (and almost Miss America), who was touring with other students to entertain US troops in Germany, France, and Italy during the holidays.

### A look back Letters to Santa

*Publishing children's letters to Santa has long been a tradition in the Culver Citizen. Here's a sampling from over the past century, which show not only how requested gifts change, but how children stay the same -- and for that matter, how many local names might stay the same. Look for a few you might recognize!*

**1906:** Mr. Santa, 12 Goodies Street, North Pole. Dear Santa Claus: Excuse me, Santa, but will you kindly remember me on Christmas Eve? I am a little girl, 10 years old, am not very well today, so had to miss school today to my sorrow. I want a nice big dolly, dressed in white., a washing outfit so I can keep her dresses nice and clean, a piano (not a toy one, but a real piano) and a box of candy; and please bring our teacher, Harley Davis, some candy too. Now, don't forget. **Lena Keller (later Mrs. Ray Gass)**



PHOTO COURTESY CULVER FIRE DEPT. "Santa Claus" comes to town in a Culver fire truck, 1985.

**1907:** Dear Santa Claus: I want you to please bring me a doll, a go-cart, and a little hat for my doll and some handkerchiefs and candy. If you will please bring me this you will be thanked. **Ruth Behmer (Lennen)**

**1909:** Dear Santa Claus: Please bring me some tiddewinks and come croquets. From your little friend. **Roth Cline**

**1929:** Dear Santa - For Christmas I want a toy machine gun, a train and some track. I want my father and mother to have a nice Christmas, too. **Warren Foreman**

**1932:** Dear Santa - I want a big doll for Christmas. I want it with pink clothes, just like the one I saw in the store window. **Jean Keller (Epley)**

Dear Santa Claus: I want an aviator cap with goggles on it, a tie, some candy and oranges, also a book. Your friend, **Harry Russell McFarland**

**1933:** Dear Santa - I would like to have a pair of skates, a suit, a pop gun, a typewriter, a watch and a police outfit. Your friend, **Jack Easterday**

Dear Santy - I know you are poor this year, so it's no use telling you all the things I want. But please bring me some candy and nuts and don't forget my brother and sister. Your loving friend, **Bob McFarland**

Dear Santa Claus - I'm a little boy. I'm sending this letter to you for you to bring me a football, scooter, pop gun, baseball, train, cars, cowboy suit, Indian suit, and a wagon. I have a stocking hung up so you can come down the chimney. Our Christmas tree will be all lit up. You friend - **Norman Baker.**

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Your place to find local places of worship

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**Culver Bible Church**  
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Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.  
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Pastor: Rev. Daniel Hahn

**Emmanuel United Methodist Church**  
401 S. Main St., Culver  
842-2133  
Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.  
Worship - 10:00 a.m.  
Minister: Ron Lowellen

**Grace United Church of Christ**  
307 N. Plymouth St., Culver  
574-842-2331  
Church Service: 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School: 10:15 Children and Adults  
Handicapped accessible  
Pastor: AnnMarie Kneebone

**Memorial Chapel**  
Culver Academies  
Protestant Chapel - 10:30 a.m.  
Catholic Mass - 9 a.m.  
Pastor: Rev. Johanna McCune  
Wagner, Chaplain

**Mt. Hope United Methodist Church**  
7022 W. 700N  
www.mthopechurch.com  
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.  
Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
574-542-9333  
Pastor: Bob Metzger

**Sovereign Grace Baptist Church**  
110 N. Main St., Culver  
842-3629  
Sunday Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Evening - 6:30 p.m.  
Pastor: Bro. Mike Cissna

**St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church**  
515 N. State St.  
http://steculver.org  
Eucharist - 9:00 a.m.  
Pastor: Thomas Haynes

**St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church**  
124 College Ave., Culver  
www.culcom.net/~stmarys/  
Sunday Masses - 7:30 & 11:00 a.m.  
Pastor: Rev. Tad Balinda

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
430 Academy Rd.  
www.trinityculver.org  
Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m.  
Pastor: K.C. Dehning

**Wesley United Methodist Church**  
511 School St., Culver  
842-2900  
Memorial Day-Labor Day - 8:00 a.m. at Culver Depot  
Labor Day-Memorial Day - 9:00  
Sunday School  
Worship - 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary  
Handicapped Accessible  
Pastor: Jacob Junker

**Bible Trivia**  
by William Cassady

1. Is the book of Athens in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In 2 Kings, what prophet's word caused Syrian soldiers to be struck blind? Gad, Jubal, Solomon, Elisha
3. Where were Saul and Jonathan's bodies nailed to a wall? Troas, Nob, Beth-shan, Sychar
4. On fleeing from Jezebel, what prophet hid in a cave? Elijah, Nathan, Daniel, Amos
5. What converts burned their books of magic? Philistines, Ephesians, Hittites, Canaanites
6. In what book is the phrase "Hollier than thou" found? 1 Kings, Ezra, Amos, Isaiah

ANSWERS: 1) Neither 2) Elisha 3) Beth-shan 4) Elijah 5) Ephesians 6) Isaiah

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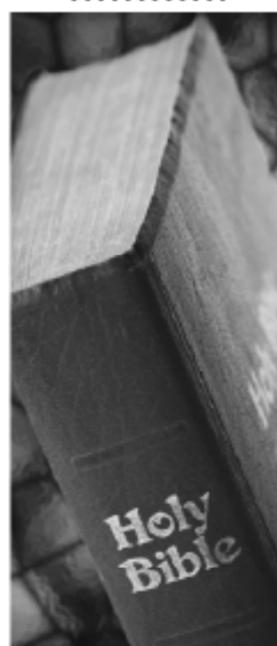
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# Chamber Chatter

December 2012

Monthly news items & events from the Culver Chamber of Commerce



SHAWN REED  
574-842-4552  
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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at...  
*Michelle's*  
**Headquarters**  
114 N. Main Street  
Culver, IN  
(574) 842-0008 (local)



Last Tuesday marked the Chamber of Commerce's annual awards dinner, where we celebrated and honored 3 outstanding individuals/organizations in this community! We'd like to extend an additional CONGRATULATIONS to the following:

**VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR  
GINNY BESS MUNROE**

**BUSINESSPERSON OF THE YEAR  
TONY SELLERS/SELLERS SERVICES**

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT  
Culver Union Township Volunteer Fire Department**

Thank you for giving back to this community and continually helping make Culver an amazing place to live!

We'd also like to extend a HAPPY HOLIDAYS from your Culver Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. 2012 was an exciting, successful year and our 2013 board is looking forward to volunteering to bring more events and business to Culver in the coming year!

Please note we will not have a networking meeting in January but will look forward to seeing you all again in February! Have a Happy New Year!



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