

The Culver Citizen

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PHOTOS/DANA KELLER, *GARY SHAFFER, AND **PAUL PARÉ



...And to all a good night

ABOVE: The Culver Citizen wishes readers the merriest of Christmases with this, our last edition before "Santa's big scene." Speaking of jolly old St. Nick, he seems to be taking a bit too much delight in the change in Mia and Zach Brockey, twin children of Larry and Dawn Brockey of Culver (photos AT LEFT) during the "Santa's Sunday Brunch" event at the Lakehouse Grille Sunday. The event was sponsored by the Culver Beard Club, which meets weekly at the Grille, and Santa is "assisted" here by member Joel Samuelson (yes, the whiskers are 100 percent real). Meantime, the weather outside was pretty frightful last week, between several inches of snowfall Friday and Saturday and so many low temperatures (the coldest in three years) that Lake Maxinkuckee began to steam (LOWER RIGHT photo**) and then started to freeze (UPPER RIGHT*). Though temps are set to rise a bit into the 40s this weekend, they're dropping again (with a high of seven degrees predicted by some for Christmas day!), so we may just see an early total freeze on the lake this year.

In Brief

Special park board mtg Thursday

The Culver park and recreation department board will meet for a special meeting at 4:45 p.m., Thursday, December 19, at the Culver town hall, 200 E Washington, Culver.

Humane Society items collected at Cafe Max

Cafe Max, 113 S. Main St. in downtown Culver, is continuing its annual December drive to collect supplies for the Marshall County Humane Society. Donors are encouraged to bring in pet items to the restaurant.

Food pantry items collected at FNB

The First National Bank of Monterey on Lake Shore Drive in Culver is taking donations for the Culver food pantry in its lobby. All are encouraged to bring in paper products and canned goods during open hours.

Santa's Mailbox available for local kids

Santa's mailbox is now available for area children, who are encouraged to drop off their letters to Santa Claus in the special mailbox set up outside the beach lodge. All letters will receive a personal reply all the way from Santa himself at the North Pole (parents are reminded to include each child's name and address). Letters should be submitted by Dec. 22 and some letters may be printed in the pages of *The Culver Citizen*.

Children's Christmas event Friday

Culver's parks and recreation will present a "Christmas tidings" children's party for boys and girls ages 5 to 12, on Friday, December 20, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Culver beach lodge meeting room. Seating is limited so attendees are asked to register at 574-842-3510. The free event will include ornament making, homemade decorations, music, snacks, and hot chocolate.

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Changes in job description leave park position future in debate

Park board addresses REAL Meals location, superintendent request for housing extension in Dec. 11 meeting

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

Tempers flared once again at last week's meeting of the Culver parks and recreation board, whose members reaffirmed that park superintendent Kelly Young would soon be vacating her apartment in the park's beach lodge (though they did amend the timing of the move), and adopted a new job description for the superintendent position which left at least one audience member asking if Young still has a job (she does, said board president Tammy Shaffer).

The Dec. 11 board meeting began with introduction of the attorney hired to represent and advise the board, Rachel Arndt of Peterson, Waggoner, and Perkins LLP in Rochester. Arndt noted many in the area are familiar with her father, Dr. Mark Coups of the Family Vision Clinic in Culver.

Also introduced was new board member John Halphrey, who had been appointed the night before by Culver's town council, to complete the board term of Leroy Bean, who resigned from the park board earlier this year.

Board president Shaffer noted Halphrey had already been serving on the board's finance committee and was a longtime regular attendee at board meetings.

Also seated at the board table -- though not a board member -- was Kathy Clark, who had agreed to take minutes at the meeting in the wake of the recent resignation of board secretary Kathy Hart.

Relocation of REAL Meals

Shaffer began the business portion of the meeting by explaining she had communicated with a representative of REAL Services in South Bend regarding the future home of the program, which meets weekdays at the park's beach lodge. At its previous meeting, the park board voted to vacate not only Young's apartment, but all programs currently held in the building by Dec. 31.

Audience member Jeanette Geiselman asked if the board planned to address the Golden Agers group, the senior citizens' organization to whom REAL Meals serves lunch at the lodge. Geiselman said the equipment, including tables and chairs, used during the program actually belongs to the Golden Agers, and asked about a handicapped accessible location for the group to meet after Jan. 1.

"I want to take responsibility for the lack of communication," said Shaffer to Geiselman. "I'm about six months behind in my life. It's definitely my fault a letter didn't get out ...I know you heard secondhand or through the newspaper (about the need to vacate the building by Dec. 31), and I apologize. We can work on your time schedule; you tell me what you would like."

It was discussed that heating elements in the stoves at the Culver Lions Club's depot kitchen, which otherwise might be an ideal interim location for REAL Meals, are likely inadequate to meet proper food handling standards. It was also noted the Golden Agers have been meeting in Culver since 1970, though only for about the past 15 years in the beach lodge.

Board member Patty Stallings also affirmed the hope that the group can meet in the beach lodge again when planned renovations are complete. Shaffer added the board had yet to determine what activities could be held in the beach lodge after Dec. 31, but that REAL Meals could stay on in the space in the interim.

"We did a very poor P.R. job of explaining what we really want to do," said Stallings. "We don't want to remove people until we have to, but we had to have a date we wanted to start (renovating the beach lodge)...we apologize for worrying you."

Superintendent's apartment

During the superintendent's report portion of the meeting, Young asked the board for an extension to March 1 in vacating the lodge apartment, citing the difficulty of finding a place to live and the upcoming holiday season, as well as the early status of the renovation project.

Board member Rhonda Reinhold suggested a Jan. 31 date instead, expressing concern that work on the building wouldn't be done by summer if Young remains in the apartment until March 1. She added that the March 1 date was still possible, but she didn't want to be "locked in" to it; Halphrey agreed.

Several audience members expressed disagreement, especially when the board voted to formally approve the Jan. 21 date, including audience member Lora Pinder, who said to the board, "Shame, shame...I don't know how you sleep at night!"

As more expressions of disagreement continued from the audience, Shaffer cut in that she'd "heard enough from the peanut gallery" and cautioned restraint until the audience input portion of the meeting.

Young went on to ask where she and park program director

See Park page 3

Arrest may be tied to several Culver-area thefts

By Lois Tomaszewski



LAPAZ — A man found sleeping in a vehicle at McDonald's in LaPaz is a suspect in a series of burglaries that occurred in Culver over the weekend.

According to information provided by the Marshall County Sheriff's office, Russell A. Prosser, Jr., 43, of South Bend, was taken into custody at approximately 4:31 a.m. Monday.

He has been charged initially with unlawful possession of a firearm by a serious violent felon. An investigation is ongoing.

According to the scenario outlined in the police report, Marshall County patrolman Nicholas Laffoon discovered Prosser in a vehicle parked in the LaPaz restaurant parking lot. The vehicle was possibly linked to one used in previous thefts in the Culver area earlier in the year and incidents of theft in Culver on Sunday evening, Dec. 8. During this incident an officer from the Culver Police Department had chased a suspect who had fled the area on foot. Ultimately the Culver officer was unable to locate the suspect after the foot chase. It was later determined that the suspect had apparently fled the area in a vehicle, later identified as the vehicle Laffoon located.

Culver Police confirmed that a number of items had been taken from unlocked vehicles and buildings in Culver.

Culver Town Marshal Wayne Bean said Prosser was arrested approximately two years ago for petty theft in Culver and Argos. Bean said the investigation in Culver is still underway and a press release about the incidents there is expected to be released in the near future.

He did emphasize, in connection with these incidents, the importance of locking vehicles and buildings, even in a small town like Culver. All of the thefts from Sunday night took place in unlocked vehicles and buildings, and had they occurred in locked spaces would have amounted to breaking and entering, rather

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PHOTO/TONY STRAW

Winter watcher



LEFT: Bald eagle sightings on Lake Maxinkuckee in the winter are becoming more and more common, but these up-close shots Culver resident Tony Straw captured in the Indian Trails last week are unusual in their proximity and quality. Tony was able to snap several photos before the bird took off in flight. A handful of eagle couples have been spotted this winter, often feeding on fish or lake-dwelling coot birds.

Additional park board member debated at council hearing

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

Culver's town council last week moved forward in its endeavor to add a seventh member to Culver's parks and recreation board, though the move was not without debate.

Following the opening of the public hearing on the matter, audience member Patty Stallings said adding a seventh member would strengthen the park board and would alleviate its workload. Audience member Tom Kearns, part of a policy committee established by the park, agreed, emphasizing the hope that a new park board member would help that board attain a quorum.

Park board president Tammy Shaffer, also in the audience, concurred, noting she has taken off work to attend to park board matters and would appreciate spreading the workload to more people.

Audience member Janette Surrisi, however, suggested a seven-member board wouldn't necessarily help foster a quorum, citing the nine-member plan commission on which she served, and the difficulty it had attaining a quorum. She added that the State of Indiana-recognized Home Rule -- which had been cited by town attorney Jim Cleavenger as the basis for the town's adding a new member -- wouldn't properly allow the room.

Explaining the basis for the move, council president Sally Ricciardi said two park board members recently resigned and their positions were up for replacement, but that the public hearing pertained to adding a new member.

This could be accomplished, she noted, by taking away one of the slots voluntarily given up by the town some years ago to Union Township, but that the council wished to allow the township to retain representation on the park board, since township funds feed into the park. Instead, by exercising the Home Rule, the town can choose to add a fourth representative to its existing appointees, thus increasing the number to seven.

Cleavenger, responding to Surrisi, said the Home Rule

is "pretty specific that a town may express powers when (they are) not excepted by the Indiana constitution or by statute. There is nothing in the statute that prohibits adding a seventh member."

He went on to explain that the park board's statutory makeup allows for four appointments by the town and one "ex officio" appointment each by the school and library boards.

Surrisi, who said she had read the court case from Cedar Lake, Indiana, which forms the basis of the Home Rule matter, disagreed with Cleavenger's interpretation, suggesting instead that "there's a specific legislative scheme set up for six park board members...I believe all it establishes is that you can make or get rid of a park board. But it doesn't address that you have to go by the rules set."

Audience member Bill Cleavenger asked the council why concerns expressed by the plan commission regarding its difficulty in attaining a quorum had not been addressed, but the park board's is.

Council member Ginny Munroe replied that the matter is partly "simple math," adding the park board only needs four members to attain a quorum whether its total membership is six or seven. She also pushed back against Cleavenger's assertion that plan commission representatives "came repeatedly" to the council to ask for membership help, something she said she didn't recall taking place.

Munroe also said she proposed paying board members a stipend as an incentive to gain more attentive members, but the proposal gained no ground in the council.

Council member Bill Githens agreed with Shaffer's comment that the park board has had too many problems in the recent past in attaining a quorum.

The council approved the ordinance to add a park board member on first reading.

It also voted to add John Halphrey to the park board as a replacement for Leroy Bean, a town appointee who recently resigned, and whose term has one year left to fill.

In response to a question from Shaffer, Ricciardi noted the other applicants for the position had been Flannery Posner, Tom Kearns, and Dave Beggs.

It was agreed the council should re-advertise for the other resignation-based vacancy, a township representative.

Surrisi, suggesting "people seem to be thinking more heads are better than less," asked if the council would place a referendum before voters at the next election to add another member to the town council.

Several council members responded that, while they had no inherent problem with a larger council, the need to do so seemed lacking since, as council member Ed Pinder pointed out, in the past ten years only once has the council failed to attain enough of a quorum to be able to meet.

Ricciardi also explained that the council had been only three members for many years, but a referendum several years ago added two more in order to "reduce political issues," according to audience member Russ Mason, bringing the council to its current five-member status.

In other actions, the council opted not to make an additional appropriation as initially requested by Culver EMS director Brandon Cooper, in order to fund \$12,865.30 for new monitors. Town clerk Karen Heim said she would prefer the additional \$12,000 not in the EMS' budget come from next year's budget rather than be handled as an additional appropriation.

The council opted to approve the department spending the \$50,000 it currently has in its budget and consider the additional appropriation at the end of the year.

Also approved was \$4,000 for training classes for five members of the EMS.

Two ordinances -- one establishing the option of online payment of town utilities and one salary ordinance for town employees -- were approved, the payment ordinance on all three readings and the salary on first reading only.

The council voted to establish town manager Dave Schoeff as the town representative on the newly-formed committee to steer the Culver visitor's center. It was also noted that Sue McInturff has been chosen by the Culver See Council page 3

Thefts from page 1

than theft.

The charges filed by Marshall County in relation to the firearm stem from a rifle found in the vehicle. Also inside the car were several items allegedly taken during the Sunday evening Culver thefts. At this time Mr. Prosser was detained at the scene, and ultimately transported to the Marshall County Jail. Marshall County was assisted by the Culver Police Department during this investigation.

The incident is still under investigation by both departments and formal charges are pending through the Marshall County Prosecutor's Office.

Culver Citizen editor Jeff Kenney assisted in writing this article.

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Park from page 1

Donna McKee would work during renovations, noting they share a computer at the beach lodge.

Shaffer said the board would take the matter under advisement, though she affirmed McKee could continue her work in the meeting room and maintain park programs at the lodge through Jan. 31.

Superintendent's job description revamped

Moving on, Shaffer said the board worked with Arndt to "tweak" and shore up the superintendent's job description, and would be doing the same with others in the park.

Reinhold said the board thus became aware it had not been operating according to state statute, which requires the superintendent to have a degree in parks and recreation management, something incorporated into the new description.

Arndt said most changes were grammatical, though one change put the onus on the board, rather than the superintendent, to prepare original drafts for ordinances; Young will instead take on more of an advisory role.

The board voted to adopt the new job description into effect Jan. 1, 2014.

"With that being voted on," said Shaffer, "at this current time the park superintendent now employed (does) not hold proper certifications. She will definitely be invited to reapply for the position."

Audience member Jean Rakich asked if Young was, as a result of the decision, "out of a job," though Shaffer responded this was not the case.

"Kelly has had a review process," continued Shaffer. "She's let us know where she's at as far as her education. That's all I can say (because) it was discussed during an executive session."

In response to Rakich's query whether Young would have "first choice" in the superintendent's position, Shaffer responded that "Nobody gets first choice; anybody who is qualified is welcome to apply."

Rakich went on to say the matter is "causing such an upheaval in Culver. We're such a small town; we should show a lot of brotherly love. This is not being handled well."

Reinhold emphasized the board was not making its decisions "out of some sort of malice," though Rakich said her concerns over the matter represented those of many in the audience who hadn't spoken up.

It was also noted that vacating the beach lodge apartment is a permanent decision, and that future superintendents would not reside in the apartment.

Some in the audience noted Young's residence there began as a security measure at the park.

Halphrey disagreed.

"The superintendent lived there for 27 years, rent free, as a possible deterrent to vandalism and theft. In those years, you had graffiti and costly vandalism and theft... (nowadays) the superintendent doesn't answer the phone or come to the door, even though her car is parked at the beach lodge. So have the citizens and renters received any benefit?"

Audience member response

Audience member Terri Baker countered its "ridiculous" to say Young's presence doesn't act as a crime deterrent at the park.

"This woman is there 100 hours a week," she added.

Reinhold said there are thousands of park superintendents not provided residence as part of their employment, and that doing so in fact is a rare thing.

"We're moving forward," said Reinhold. "That building needs revamped and we have to look at the community as a whole, and not just one person."

Audience member Ed Pinder asserted the park is in the strong financial shape it is due to Young.

"That's to be determined," said Shaffer.

Stallings acknowledged Young has been "dragged out in the middle of the night" to handle park problems many times, but suggested inexpensive security cameras installed on the park's buildings and monitored by the police department could replace the need for the superintendent's presence 24 hours per day.

Town marshal Wayne Bean suggested Young should be offered the opportunity to meet certification requirements while on the job, as other town employees have done, something Stallings said is "a very good possibility." Reinhold said some park superintendents have had their experience "grandfathered in" towards the necessary degree.

Reinhold also noted most public parks don't offer high salaries to degreed superintendents. Audience member Susie Mahler said she has friends in Illinois making less money as park superintendents, but running programs at their parks 12 months per year.

Audience member Betty Reinhold, explaining she's a member of a church which met for some years in the



CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

Giving Santa a hand...

LEFT: Arwen Kornblith, left, and Tiara Howard, Culver Elementary 2nd graders in Lisa Elliott's class, search for the perfect gift in the PTO-sponsored annual Santa's Workshop at the school.

The event, held during the weeks before Christmas, offers a variety of affordable gifts for students to purchase for family and friends, in rotating classroom visits.

beach lodge, said she would like to have a piano the church donated to the Golden Agers returned, in light of the board's decision.

She also encouraged the board to consider grandfathering Young into her current position. She also expressed sorrow at the dissent on the board, adding it "used to be very functional before people started moving in."

"If you haven't been here the full seven years I have (on the board)," replied Shaffer, "You may not get the full picture."

Audience member Sue McInturff offered a different perspective.

"I've been coming a number of years to (park board) meetings and I think they're as productive as they've ever been. I don't think there had been any real change for the good in years. I personally support what you're doing."

She added she has a problem with Young holding two full-time jobs (the second as an elementary school teacher in Culver), and that the superintendent position should be her only one.

Audience member Tim Yuhas praised the board for "stepping it up," creating committees, reaching a quorum of board members regularly, and "moving in a very positive direction."

Shaffer said she missed work the previous afternoon and again that morning, and has exhausted her vacation time.

"We have made mistakes, but we're doing our homework and have learned a lot. We have a great community to start out with...I think everybody in this room cares about what goes on in this community."

Holiday lights in the park

In other discussion, Tony Sellers addressed the board concerning holiday lighting his company, Sellers Services Inc., installed recently in the park, which board members said has received a great deal of positive response.

It was noted lights are yet to be added to the park's light house and forthcoming skating rink.

The board voted to allow Sellers to receive donations offered by several area entities and individuals towards offsetting the cost of the lights, which the park board purchased for use in future years. The total cost of the project to date is around \$9,500, said Sellers.

Board meetings will increase each month

Citing "quite a bit of work ahead of us," the park board voted to meet the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, rather than the single meeting currently held the first Wednesday of the month.

Point of Sale and committee reports

The board heard from Jeff Mansfield, who had volunteered to research the best computerized Point of Sale system for the park to adopt to handle its summer sales. Halphrey noted that Dave Beggs, former owner of Culver's hardware store, has offered to donate that store's POS system for use in the park, which Mansfield said he would look into.

The board was updated from members of each of its recently-formed sub-committees, including the policy, building, and finance committees. The board voted to appoint community member Jeff Paine to its finance com-

mittee, and citizens Russ Mason and Jeff Kutch to the building committee.

It was discussed that committee meetings could be held in public places such as the town hall or beach lodge, and announced ahead for those in the community wishing to attend.

Stallings, of the building committee, discussed searching for architects who can factor historic preservation of the park's buildings into their approach and said the committee hopes to have a recommendation by January for an architect.

Skating rink

Young said the park's new skating rink has arrived, and thanked utilities manager Bob Porter and the street department for unloading it. She said she has ordered safety pads for the basketball poles in the courts where the rink will be installed, which should take place in the next few weeks. Culver's fire department has agreed to help fill the rink with water.

Lengthy discussion took place as to the degree of monitoring to take place at the rink, with some in the audience questioning if having the rink monitored by volunteers or those not specially trained in safety and first aid could actually open the park up for further liability than leaving it unmonitored.

Young noted the park's insurance provided did not require monitoring of the rink, and McInturff pointed out Fort Wayne has a skating pond with a light indicating whether skating is allowed that day, but otherwise leaves the pond unmonitored.

Young said signage already on order designates that children 10 or under will need to be accompanied by an adult to skate.

Program director's report

In the absence of park program director Donna McKee, Shaffer made her report, detailing attendance at various programs.

A holiday tidings party for children Dec. 20 will include ornament making, a Santa toy shop, and gingerbread house snack box, Shaffer said.

Reinhold said she noticed youngsters from the Culver Boys & Girls Club seemed to be the primary attendees at many children's events, and added she has yet to see planning for older children. CBGC children, added Reinhold, are "already in a program. I have yet to see any original planning here."

Also approved was a fee schedule for attorney Arndt's work, which will be a flat payment of \$1,500 per quarter.

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Letter to the editor

Editor's note: In last week's edition of the Culver Citizen, a letter regarding snow removal on the sidewalk along Lake Shore Drive (between Fleet Parkway and Academy Road) was inadvertently printed with the letter writer's name omitted. The author of that letter was Kim Burdick of Culver. The editor apologizes for the error.

Detailing Park Board efforts

Dear Editor,
Over the last few months the Park Board has been working to fulfill the responsibilities and duties which the Indiana Code 36-10-3-10 has entrusted to us:
1. To exercise general supervision of and make rules for the department:
To accomplish this we have formed a Policy Committee made up of two Park Board members and three citizens. This committee has been in place for two months and plans to present to the Park Board a Policy Manual which the Board will study, refine and adopt. Our goal is to enhance and improve the lifestyle of residents and guests of Culver and Union Township. First and most important is

the safety and security of the visitors to the park.
2. To appoint the necessary administrative officers of the department and fix their duties.
We recently adopted a revised Superintendent Job Description, which makes that position full time, (40 hours per week). It is the goal of the Park Board to: enlarge the scope of the Superintendent's job in order to provide the services we think are necessary to our residents and guests with activities and programs requested, improve the maintenance of our buildings as we have found their condition unacceptable, and improve the professional supervision in the Park grounds and water front. For those reasons we have defined the Superintendent's "Experience and Education" to include a certification or an advanced degree in the field of Parks and Recreation as per the Indiana Code IC 36-10-3-13 (1) (2), and an up-to-date Water Safety Instructor Certification from the American Red Cross. In 1986, the Park Board mandated that the Park Superintendent's position be full time (40 hours per week) and included it in the Superintendent's contract. When that contract expired after one year, and since that time, the former Park Board has had no contract with the Superintendent. The operation of the Park was intended to

be a full-time position and it is the current Park Board's intention to reinstate that requirement.
The Park Board has created two other committees made up of two Park Board members and three citizens: a Building Committee to advise the Park Board on the conditions of our buildings and suggest possible solutions to their deterioration, and a Finance Committee to insure adequate Board level understanding of the Park's financial position and performance, to enhance Board level decisions regarding funding programs, human resources, facilities and infrastructure and to ensure Park Board accountability related to use of resources.
We understand that this shift in the processing of Park Board business has created animosity for some residents and relief for others. Our number one goal is to make our Park the safest in the state as well as the country, because our children and the community deserve it. This is a work in progress that will continue to be improved, and certainly, prompt and clear communication is a high priority.

Sincerely,
The Culver Park Board

The park board, staying informed, and being honest about 'Culver politics'

I've been contemplating writing this column for a bit now, though last week's park board meeting compelled me to charge ahead and do so, for a couple of reasons.
First, there were compelling (to me!) comments made during both the highly-charged park board meeting of Dec. 11, and the last town council meeting in November, among others. Secondly, there's the general direction of comments made in response to recent events, on the *Culver Citizen's* Facebook page.

Recently, as in past months and years, the opportunity for readers to interact via Facebook has provided some interesting insight into the feelings of Culver area readers -- although how much real insight is up for debate.

Why? First off, obviously Facebook discussion by its nature is limited to those readers versed in social media, which not all *Citizen* readers are, of course.

Second, there's been a fair amount of discussion lately, both in public meetings and "on the street," as it were, about the importance of residents being at least somewhat informed about their local government, in order to form reasonably valid opinions about matters at hand.

That's highly evident in the case of some of the discussion going on at Facebook. Without going into specifics, it's nakedly obvious that some readers are fairly new to the often-complex issues surrounding current matters of controversy, some of which presently revolve around Culver's park board and superintendent. In fact, some comments made in recent weeks suggest some readers are unfamiliar even with basics of municipal government in Culver established in some cases decades and decades ago.

Some council and audience members at the meeting in late November -- in which discussion of the park board was by far the hottest topic of the evening -- emphasized the importance of citizens taking at least some interest in being informed about the issues, especially before forming outraged opinions about any number of matters.

I have to take issue with a couple of remarks made, I think, in an offhand manner not intended to give offense, regarding this newspaper's coverage of public meetings in recent years. Specifically, a couple of board members, responding to audience opinions expressed, suggested that those receiving their information about public meetings only from the local newspaper, are missing some important angles to the issues at hand.

Now, what I suspect at least one person who made such a comment was referring to information not generally discussed outside of members of the board in question, and in that sense I've picked up enough to suspect there's some validity to that remark.

But even with that aside, I'd suggest that, if citizens regularly read the *Citizen's* coverage of public meetings -- be they park board or town council -- they'll be pretty well informed, especially about controversial matters over the years.

Further, I'm fairly certain those in the public square throwing out largely uninformed opinions probably by and large haven't been reading the *Citizen's* coverage of these meetings over the years.

That's not meant to be some sort of character assassination. I get it: we're all busy, and it's true that any number of meetings stay pretty mundane (and therefore don't necessarily make for exciting reading). And these articles are sometimes pretty long and might take several minutes to read.

However, I'm pretty dogged about pointing to the "hot" issues of any given meeting in the article headlines and



View from Main Street

By Jeff Kenney
Editor

opening paragraphs of the story. If you want to skip the parts about voting to fix sewer pump motors and paint park benches, I

think you can do so and not be much the worse off.

I've actually had a number of readers express appreciation that the *Citizen's* coverage of meetings overall is "almost like being there," though I do my best to make reporting of the duller, more business-as-usual discussions and votes at meetings pretty brief and concise.

But when it comes to coverage of controversial matters, I try to be extremely thorough.

This week's coverage of the Dec. 11 park board meeting is a case in point: it's almost certainly far longer than most news agencies would suggest (or even allow!), but it's as long as it is because I sought to accurately represent the views of both "sides" of the controversial issues, which I think is important, and generally receives positive response from readers.

New levels of incivility?

All of this brings me to the second main point here: fairly close attention to coverage of the park board, specifically, over the past several years, seems missing in some of the opinions expressed, both on Facebook and in person by some folks at the meetings.

One thing in particular I feel compelled to address is the assertion some have made that the current makeup of the park board is taking that board in a newly-contentious direction, as if there weren't plenty of contention on the board for years now.

Now, it's the week before Christmas in Culver, a time when brotherly love and charity seem particularly appropriate. I have a lot of nostalgic, warm feelings for the holidays in Culver -- not only my own fond memories, but looking back at the Yuletide traditions of our area in past, simpler times. And at least some of that nostalgia relates to the community spirit of Culver -- that is, it's people being neighbors and acting like it.

So I wish I could say that all those old editions of *The Culver Citizen* -- and more recent history I've witnessed myself -- painted a wistful picture of all of us, arm-in-arm, nothing but community spirit in our hearts, and that things just started to get ugly with the latest incarnation of the park board, but that's not exactly the picture history (including the recent past) paints.

To be clear, what I'm about to say isn't an endorsement or condemnation of either "side" of the current debate going on regarding recent park board decisions.

But it does seem we have short memories, sometimes, regarding the background to our current controversies, and of course we each bring to the table our own pre-conceived assumptions and expectations. But nonetheless....

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.

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Wed., Dec. 25: Closed for holiday.

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CMA staves off LaVille rally

By Dee Grenert
Staff Writer

LAKEVILLE — Devonte Campbell sits atop Culver Military Academy's free-throw shooting leaderboard in practice.

He backed up that status in a game Friday.

Campbell drilled a pair of charity tosses with 4.7 seconds left in the contest to sew up a 52-48 win and stave off a frenzied fourth-quarter LaVille rally at Dale E. Cox Gymnasium.

"We have a free-throw ladder in practice and (Campbell) is number one right now," CMA head coach Mark Galloway said. "For him to step up and make those at the end of a game is huge. It was a pressure situation, and he handled it. It's why you shoot free throws in practice. I'm proud of him."

For the game, Campbell, a 6-foot-6 senior forward, racked up a double-double with 21 points and 10 rebounds for the Eagles who saw a 13-point lead heading into the fourth quarter whittled down to two with 6.3 seconds left in the game.

"I like Campbell," LaVille head coach Michael Edison said. "I think he's a Division I player. I'm proud of our team for battling; our guys battled the entire game. I don't have a deep bench, but everyone we put in kept giving us good minutes."

Junior Blake Berger powered the LaVille surge with 19 of his game-high 25 points in the second half. The 6-foot guard completed a series of fourth-quarter drives to the hoop, the final one slicing CMA's lead to 50-48 with 6.3 ticks remaining.

After a LaVille timeout, CMA point guard Elijah Miller found Campbell open in the backcourt against the Lancers' full-court press.

"We got a little passive in the second half," Galloway said. "There's two things you can always control — the first is aggressiveness, the second is toughness. I think our guys showed some mental toughness tonight."

CMA built a 32-21 halftime lead, thanks in part to a number of transition opportunities. However, LaVille forced a slower, halfcourt-oriented pace with its motion offense after the break.

"LaVille is tough to get out and run against; they make you work for everything," Galloway said. "In the first half we pushed the tempo and built that lead. LaVille is very physical, don't let them fool you. They screen, and on defense they hold and grab you. They're always in position, and they're so well coached. (Assistant coach) Jack Edison is a Hall of Famer and Michael is a

See CMA page 6

Culver's Elliott an IBCA Player of the Week

CULVER — Culver Community's Trent Elliott was selected as one of three boys IBCA/ Subway Players of the Week for his work in a rout of Morgan Township Saturday, Dec. 7.

The 6-4 Elliott was the boys District 1 honoree after scoring 38 points in leading Culver Community (3-0) to an 84-58 win over Morgan Township in its only game of the week. The Fairmont State (W.Va.) recruit sank 14-of-20 shots from the field, including 6-of-8 3-pointers, plus 4-of-5 free throws. He also added seven rebounds, three assists and two steals in the contest.

Indianapolis Howe junior Harris Brown headlined the honorees, and he and Elliott are joined by Connersville sophomore Tyler Billups, Chesterton senior Caroline Puntillo, Tipton sophomore Macie Lively and Owen Valley senior Alicia Wilson as Week 4 winners in the program overseen by the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association.

This is the sixth season for the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association Player of the Week program and the second season it is presented by Subway Restaurants of Indiana, a banner sponsor of the IBCA.

Player of the Week winners are chosen each week from each of the IHSAA's three districts. Girls winners will be chosen from now through the week following March 8. Boys winners will be chosen from now through the week following March 29.

Boys basketball

CMA hands Tippy Valley 1st loss

Culver Military's basketball team handed Tippecanoe Valley its first loss of the season Tuesday, 57-42 in Akron.

Complete results from the game were unavailable, but the result pushes CMA to a 3-1 start with its second straight win following a 1-1 finish at the Western Reserve of Ohio Invitational last week.

• CULVER MILITARY 57, TIPPECANOE VALLEY 42

At Akron
Complete results unavailable.
JV score: Culver Military 46, Tippecanoe Valley 35.

Girls basketball

Bremen wins NSC opener with Culver

Bremen's girls basketball team handed Culver Community its second straight loss to win the two teams' Northern State Conference-opener 65-61 in Bremen Saturday.

Ashley Lucchese and

Lady Cavs survive turnovers, top CGA

By Dee Grenert
Staff Writer



PHOTO/PAUL PARÉ

ABOVE: Culver Comm. High School player Donna Zehner (center, in black uniform) was swarmed by defenders as she closed in on the Culver Girls Academy basket during a girls basketball game at Fleet Gymnasium last week, after which the loose ball scramble pictured here ensued. Also pictured, from left, Tori Styers (CGA #24), Margaret McKinnis (CGA #4), Victoria Christlieb (CGA #2), Grace Holzer (partly obscured, CGA #23).

Fleet Gymnasium.

"I'm glad we were able to get a win," Culver head coach Gina Hierlmeier, whose team lost starting point guard Tatum Schultz and sixth man Shakkira Harris to injuries recently, said. "It may not have been our best display of basketball, but I'm proud of the way we pulled through a rocky start and pulled

See Cavs page 6

CULVER — Culver Community's girls basketball team coughed up the ball 40 times Wednesday — and won. By double digits.

Then again, Culver Girls Academy turned the ball over 32 times itself and shot an ice-cold 29 percent from the field.

In the end, Kayla Shaffer and Mickella Hardy salvaged an otherwise choppy, sloppy contest to guide the visiting Cavs past their crosstown rivals, 51-39 at

Sports briefs

Sara Slabaugh both dropped 14 points, and Jasmine Schaffer finished with 10 for the Lady Lions, who move to 2-5 overall with a 1-0 NSC start. Michaela Box finished with nine points, Rachel Czarnecki scored eight, and Alexis Jennings notched seven in a balanced Bremen scoresheet.

Culver was powered by Kayla Shaffer's 34 points in the loss, which drops the team to 6-2 after a perfect 6-0 start to the season.

• BREMEN 65, CULVER COMMUNITY 61
At Bremen

See Sports page 6

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6th grade hoopsters

LEFT: Pictured are members of the Culver Elementary School's 6th grade basketball team, which plays its last game of the season this Weds., Dec. 18 at 5 p.m. in the school gymnasium.

Pictured, front row left to right, are Gabe Hissong, Grant Dexter, Colton Wynn, Owen Valiquet, and Hunter Manns. Back row: coach Levi Scroggs, Donavan Ziaja, Carter Stevens, Jacob Fisher, and Ryan Tompos.

Cavs from page 5

together for the win."

Shaffer just missed a double-double with 23 points and nine assists — both game highs — and also pilfered five CGA passes. Her work at the top of Culver's 2-3 zone disrupted the Eagles and helped the Cavs shrug off a sluggish start.

"We always want to put Kayla out front, when we can," Hierlmeier said. "With her long arms she's able to pressure teams, and tonight she got her hands on some passes and turned defense into layups. It gave us a boost."

Hardy patrolled the paint with 15 points, six boards, and five steals. The 5-foot-11 junior center scored six of her seven field goals off feeds from Shaffer, including a basket that handed the Cavs a 14-12 edge with 4:40 left in the first half as part of a 10-0 run that put Culver in command of a rock 'em, sock 'em battle.

"We try to get Mickella, Donna (Zehner) and Kayla going to the basket together," Hierlmeier said. "Mickella started diving a little better. As the defense was pulling out Kayla was able to get the ball to her."

"In general, girls basketball is becoming a more physical game," she added. "At the start of the game we shied away; we were not aggressive with the basketball. We started to match the physical play, and started to do the little things right. I think both teams got a little beat up."

Meanwhile, the Eagles' halfcourt zone and full-court zone press created 12 first-quarter turnovers but led to just a single basket — a Marie Steiner transition bucket off a steal and assist from senior forward Victoria Christlieb.

CGA misfired on a series of first-quarter bunnies, finishing the opening frame 4 of 16 from the field and deadlocked at 8-all.

"You can't press if you can't score; that's our Achilles' heel," CGA head coach Gary Christlieb said. "I'd wager we left 30 points on the floor that we just didn't get."

"Our issue was our inability to score in the first quarter when we had a chance to take control," he added. "After that it was an uphill battle."

After an 11-2 third-quarter stretch put the Cavs up 36-18, CGA trimmed its deficit to 10 — 38-28 with 4:23 left in the game — with a Tori Styers conventional 3-point play.

However, CGA turnovers and five charity tosses down the stretch from Zehner, who also collected nine caroms and five steals, sealed the Culver win.

"We started to make a run, got it to 10 with a chance to get to eight," the CGA skipper said. "This encapsulates the entire game — we turn it over. We had turnovers at inopportune times. We played like freshmen and sophomores tonight. We play well some nights, other nights we don't. Tonight we didn't."

Victoria Christlieb registered 13 points and nine rebounds for the Eagles, followed by 11 points from Steiner. Styers added nine points, four assists, and five steals.

Culver travels to Knox on Saturday, while CGA heads to South Bend Riley on Saturday.

• CULVER COMMUNITY 51,
• CULVER GIRLS ACADEMY 39
At Culver

Council from page 2

Chamber of Commerce to replace Francis Ellert as Culver's representative to the Marshall County tourism board.

During his town manager's report, Schoeff said it's hoped the storm water project on the west end of town will be completed by Dec. 31. He also noted he recently met with the group in charge of Culver's CVS Pharmacy, which may undergo renovation and add a drive-through window.

Approved by council was \$1,200 for a paint job, insurance deduction expense, and repair to the Culver fire department's pickup truck, which was in an accident; \$1,800 was allocated for new dive-related equipment for the department, since -- according to fire chief Terry Wakefield -- most of the current equipment is 20 years old and was originally intended only for recreational purposes.

Wakefield also said the extensive remodel at the fire station should be completed for an open house in January.

Approved following requests from clerk Heim were a

sewer refund of \$50.93 for David Lavin, \$18,529.20 to Phend and Brown \$9,606.80 to the project's retainage account in relation to the aforementioned storm water project.

Heim reminded the audience that the council's Dec. 24 regular meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 30.

Keep up with the latest Culver news online at
www.culvercitizen.com
and
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PHOTO/DEANNA L. GREBERT

ABOVE: CMA's Devonte Campbell pulls up for a shot over LaVille's Kyle Kopetski during a game at Dale E. Xox Gymnasium Friday.

CMA from page 5

great coach. That has to be the best coaching combination in the state."

Also for the Eagles, senior guard Nick Zalduendo chipped in 11 points with a trio of first-half treys and a pair of key free throws in the concluding minute of the evening. Junior forward Lorenzo Ricks helped CMA to a 33-21 advantage on the glass with a game-leading 12 caroms, and Miller distributed six assists.

"Nick Zalduendo hit some 3s in the first half and hit two big free throws in the fourth quarter," Galloway said. "Nick is doing a nice job hitting shots. When Elijah Miller left the game we struggled. That shows how important our point guard is to us."

Sophomore Isaac Eash added 12 points — all from 3-point land — and dished out five assists for the Lancers, and Kyle Kopetski ripped down eight rebounds.

CMA welcomes West Lafayette tonight, while LaVille hosts South Bend Washington on Tuesday.

• CMA 52,
• LaVILLE 48
At Lakeville

Sports from page 5

Girls swimming

CGA beats Marian

The Culver Girls Academy swim team hosted Mishawaka Marian Saturday, and the Lady Eagles beat their guests by a 124-53 margin.

CGA saw standout performances from several swimmers at the meet. Among those, Rory Byrne was a winner in the backstroke, the 400 free relay and the medley relay. Josephine Schott won the 200 free and the 400 free relay, Anne-Marie Wright won the IM and the 400 free relay, and Maeve Kline was a winner in the medley relay and the 400 free relay.

• CULVER GIRLS ACADEMY 124, MISHAWAKA MARIAN 53
at Culver

Boys swimming

CMA wins

Culver Military beat visiting Mishawaka Marian 116-66 in a dual swim meet at the Academies over the weekend.

Nolan Kolden was a winner in the medley relay and the 400 free relay, Manuel Guerra won the backstroke and the IM, Grant Ralston was a dual winner in the 50 free and the 400 free relay, and Joe Bravo earned wins with the 200 free relay and the 400 free relay.

• CULVER MILITARY 116, MISHAWAKA MARIAN 66
at Culver

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Culver 1st graders' letters to Santa



ABOVE: Mrs. Kelly Dickerhoff's class. Front row, left to right: Reyonica Hunt, Brynn Berndt, David Hite, Macy Schoberg, Peyton Weist, Daniel McCray, Nicholas Mearna. Second row: Bethany DeLong, Tyra King, Madison Hartwell, Braiden Molebash, Bryce Personette, Connor Moon, Zoey Hunnicutt, Lilly Abair. Third row: Mrs. Kelly Dickerhoff (teacher), Emma Brown, Austin Hinsey, Korvin Westerhoff, Tyler Weiger, Kaden Herrera, Shiann Sabo, Melody Holstein, Leland Jernigan.



ABOVE: Mrs. April Jefferies' class. Olivia Woodward, Camran Whitworth, Kameron Clingler, Jake Conroy, Ethan Binion, Kristian Fairchild, Chloe Salyer. Second row: Jenna James, Timothy Woodcox, Chloe Kansch, Mason West, Isabelle Hunnicutt, Austin Sims, Cassidy Banks, Daniel Laba. Third row: Mrs. April Jefferies (teacher), Matthew Baker, Ashley Pugh, Rachel Pietsch, Noah Balchunas, Vanessa Cadle, Jocuelin Nystrom, Garrick Metz.



ABOVE: Mrs. Stephanie Smith's class. Front row, from left: Mackenzie Bauknecht, Tyler Siddall, Katie Marek, Cole Evans. Middle row: Mason Wagoner, Donavon Jefferies, Owen Manikowski, Logan Caudill, Amber Black, Kaylie Gibson, Jalynn Hopkins, Mady Hamilton. Back row: Zareck Dare, Adamariz Rojas-Mendoza, Annabell Slattery, Mrs. Stephanie Smith (teacher), Gage Long, Katie Schouten, Danielle Lloyd, Aiden Minix, Cory Winkler.

Mrs. Kelly Dickerhoff's class:

Lilly Abair: I would like a Barbie house, a Justin Bieber picture and Monster High lipstick. My favorite thing about Christmas is Christmas food.

Brynn Berndt: I would like The American Girl dolls named Sage and Chrissa and earrings for my Julie doll. My favorite thing about Christmas is Jesus' birthday.

Emma Brown: I would like a Ferby, a doll and a cat. My favorite thing about Christmas is presents.

Bethany De Long: I would like an American Girl doll, an Ipad and a bow and arrow. My favorite thing about Christmas is presents.

Madisen Hartwell: I would like a toy gun, a toy bow and arrow and a Barbie set. My favorite thing about Christmas is Santa and spending time with my family.

Kaden Herrera: I would like a new video game, a bone for my dog and a Barbie for my sister. My favorite thing about Christmas is presents.

Austin Hinsey: I would like a Monster High doll, an American Girl doll and Barbies. My favorite thing about Christmas is seeing Santa and getting presents.

David Hite: I would like a remote control tractor, a remote control car and a paintball gun. My favorite thing about Christmas is getting toys.

Zoey Hunnicutt: I would like Barbie dolls, a Barbie house and coloring books. My favorite thing about Christmas is celebrating Jesus' birthday.

Reyonica Hunt: I would like a puppy, an Ipad and a school kit. My favorite thing about Christmas is seeing my Uncle.

Tyra King: I would like glow in the dark lipstick, a Monster High doll and a bow and arrow. My favorite thing about Christmas is spending time with my family.

Nicholas Mearna: I would like a hawk toy, superhero toys and superhero tattoos. My favorite thing about Christmas is snow.

Daniel McCray: I would like a remote control dune buggy, a remote control tractor and a remote control truck. My favorite thing about Christmas is giving presents to my family.

Braiden Molebash: I would like a dart gun, a remote control truck and a shotgun for deer hunting. My favorite thing about Christmas is having my family at my house.

Connor Moon: I would like a Nerf gun, Cop Duty 5 for my DS and an Ipad. My favorite thing about Christmas is giving cookies to Santa.

Bryce Personette: I would like an Xbox, Lego guys

and a Playstation 4. My favorite thing about Christmas is opening presents.

Kyler Weiger: I would like a four in one table, a skateboard and a Hot Wheel wall track. My favorite thing about Christmas is being with my family and the presents.

Peyton Weist: I would like an Ipad, an Ipad and the new Zelda game for my DS. My favorite thing about Christmas is when Santa comes to my house.

Melody Holstein: I would like a Barbie doll, a Rapunzel doll and Cinderella doll. My favorite thing about Christmas is getting a candy canes and lots of stuff in my stocking.

Leland Jernigan: I would like Ninja Turtles, Lego guys and a Lego guy video game. My favorite thing about Christmas is listening to Christmas songs and getting presents.

Mrs. April Jefferies' class:

Matthew Baker: I would like a car, football and a DS. My favorite thing about Christmas is Santa Claus.

Mason West: I would like cop car, a cop, and a city game. My favorite thing about Christmas is getting presents!

Kameron Clingler: I would like moondough, How much stuff can you stuff into a Stuff, and a dart gun. My favorite thing about Christmas is getting presents because I get what I want!

Kristian Fairchild: I would like a remote control semi, candy, and an Elf On A Shelf. My favorite thing about Christmas is having snowball fights!

Camran Whitworth: I would like my two front teeth, Skylanders, and a PlayStation 4. My favorite thing about Christmas is getting presents!

Jocuelin Nystrom: I would like a Flutterby Fairy, a drum set and a piano. My favorite thing about Christmas is getting stuff. I like getting candy, too!

Isabelle Hunnicutt: I would like an Elf On A Shelf, a Flutterfly Fairy, and checkers. My favorite thing about Christmas is putting the star on top of the tree because I love getting to do it!

Garrick Metz: I would like a Mario game set, Hot Wheels, and a Zoomer dog robot. My favorite thing about Christmas is gifts and getting to open them.

Vanessa Cadle: I would like a cool, pink hat, a phone with earbuds, and a some Barbie doll clothes. My favorite thing about Christmas is Santa because he gives people presents and he is helpful.

Jake Conroy: I would like a remote control helicopter, a remote control airplane, and a Hot Wheel track. My favorite thing about Christmas is getting presents and opening them!

Daniel Laba: I would like a remote control car, play-dough, a coloring book with crayons. My favorite thing about Christmas is it is God's Birthday!

Ashley Pugh: I would like some fuzzy socks, tank tops, and a hunting jacket and pants. My favorite thing about Christmas is opening the presents because I am so excited to see what is inside of them!

Olivia Woodward: I would like a Skylanders game, my own Nook that I don't have to share, and an iPad. My favorite thing about Christmas is decorating the house.

Timothy Woodcox: I would like an iPad, a phone, and an Xbox 360. My favorite thing about Christmas is getting presents because I like getting new toys from Santa.

James VanEmburg: I would like an Xbox, a skateboard, and some new clothes. My favorite thing about Christmas is waking up to find all of my presents!

Rachel Pietsch: I would like a Monster High Doll, My Little Pony Equestrian Girls, and a Ferbie. My favorite thing about Christmas is Santa because he brings us presents!

See Santa page 8

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Santa from page 7

Chloe Kanschat: I would like a Glissey Globe, a big chubby ornament like we have in our classroom, and a Mooshka doll. My favorite thing about Christmas is the presents we get because I like to be surprised with new toys!

Noah Balchunas: I would like an Elf On A Shelf and a 3 DS. My favorite thing about Christmas is getting toys!

Chloe Salyer: I would like a Barbie Dream house, a real kitten, and a real puppy. My favorite thing about Christmas is getting presents because you get them and get to play with the toys.

Ethan Binion: I would like an Elf On a Shelf, a toy motorcycle, and toy dirt bike. My favorite thing about Christmas is that we get to open presents. I get to see all my new toys!

Kassidy Banks: I would like a real bunny, an Elf On A Shelf, and 3DS. My favorite thing about Christmas is opening presents because it is so much fun.

Mrs. Stephanie Smith's class:

Katie Marek: I would like a Littlest Pet Shop game for my Nintendo 2DS. My favorite thing about Christmas is

getting presents!

Annabell Slattery: I would like a Furby, some Barbie dolls and a dollhouse. My favorite thing about Christmas is we get presents!

Logan Caudill: I would like a Ninja Turtle Lair and a Ninja Turtle van. My favorite thing about Christmas is you get toys!

Danielle Lloyd: I would like a LaLa Loopsy doll and some new clothes. My favorite thing about Christmas is presents!

Zareck Dare: I would like video games and a skateboard. My favorite thing about Christmas is getting presents!

Cole Evans: I would like a toy snake and a toy motorcycle. My favorite thing about Christmas is getting presents!

Jalynn Hopkins: I would like an Ipad, Kindle Fire and a Furby Boom. My favorite thing about Christmas is unwrapping presents

Aiden Minix: I would like an Ipad. My favorite thing about Christmas is I get to have presents!

Tyler Siddall: I would like Legos and a remote control helicopter. My favorite thing about Christmas is we get

gifts!

Mason Wagoner: I would like an Ipad, a computer, an elf and a Kindle Fire. My favorite thing about Christmas is getting presents!

Donavon Jefferies: I would like snowballs, a hockey stick and a hockey puck. My favorite thing about Christmas is it has lots of presents!

Mackenzie Bauknecht: I would like Teardrop off of "Dream Island," an Elf on the Shelf, any dinosaurs, and all of the Swap Force characters. My favorite thing about Christmas is when I get presents on Christmas morning.

Maddie Hamilton: I would like a Monster High doll and a cell phone. My favorite thing about Christmas is when my mom puts the Christmas tree up

Kaylie Gibson: I would like dolls, nail polish and makeup. My favorite thing about Christmas is playing outside in the snow

Katie Schouten: I would like a DS and a pogo stick. My favorite thing about Christmas is it is Jesus' birthday.

Cory Winkler: I would like Xbox games My favorite thing about Christmas is when I get presents!

Briefs from page 1

AHS membership 2014 Citizen subscriptions

Those who are submitting calendar year 2014 membership applications to the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver (AHS) are reminded to please submit their applications before December 31 in order to receive all AHS subscription-related editions of The Culver Citizen.

Thrift shop days added in Dec.

The Culver United Methodist Women's thrift shop on Ohio Street will be open Wednesdays in December from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Shoppers are encouraged to come in and browse the Christmas merchandise and do some Christmas shopping. Proceeds go to a number of local charities and projects. The shop will be closed on Christmas.

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 10 p.m. Please note the Nov. 30 performance has been canceled. Performances include: Matt Miller (Dec. 21), Moneyshot (part of an "Ugly Sweater party," Dec. 28).

New Years Eve event at Lakehouse

The Lakehouse Grille, 620 E. Lake Shore Drive, will host its annual New Years' Eve party Tues., Dec. 31, with music provided by DJ Tim at 10 p.m. and a midnight toast.

'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 coffee and conversation. Topics include: Current events open forum/Q&A (Jan. 5); Catholicism and other Christian communities - similarities and differences (Jan. 12);

Catholicism and other religious traditions - similarities and differences (Jan. 19); War, pacifism and Christianity through a Catholic lens (Jan. 26); The male, celibate priesthood - does it need to be? (Feb. 2); The Church and same-sex marriage (Feb. 9); Education - public and private schools and the future of America (Feb. 16).

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 maximum 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.

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.

Best Loser 2014

FIGHT FOR FITNESS



Individual Weight Loss Contest

January 6-March 22

The individual who loses the most % of body weight will win \$500!

Everyone who enters will be placed on a Battle Team - Team Julie or Team Stephanie

Fee includes 6 Battle Nights where you can workout and talk with your team trainer at Fitness Forum



Only \$40 per person

Pre-Registration Deadline is December 31

Contest Runs January 6-March 22

Contest Regulations:

- \$40 entry fee per individual
- Each participant must sign a waiver & agree to the contest rules & regulations
- Participants under the age of 18 must have a parent or guardian sign the waiver
- Participants may not have had any type of weight loss surgery in the last year or currently be pregnant, or have been a past winner.

Contest Rules:

- The \$40 entry fee must be paid when you register
- Weights are taken without shoes and wearing a single layer of clothing
- All weigh-ins must take place at Fitness Forum during each of the two designated weigh-in periods
- We will only release the winners total percentage of weight lost

Contest Incentives:

- \$500 Cash Prize will be awarded to the person losing the greatest percentage of total weight
- Second Prize will be awarded a 1 week membership to Fitness Forum PLUS one year subscription to the Pilot News.
- Winners will be announced on Saturday, March 24th

Register today!

2014 Best Loser Fight For Fitness

Participant Name: _____

Contact Number: _____


Email: _____

Paid \$40: Cash Check Credit Card/Type: _____

Please turn your entry in at Fitness Forum, 2855 Miller Drive, Plymouth 936-2333







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View from page 4

ard -- the park board had become not only *dysfunctional* (that was old news!), but virtually *non-functional*.

One's opinions of the park board's direction of late should be irrelevant regarding that last point: a board often failing to make quorum when a number of citizens take an interest in its operation, and a board seemingly paralyzed by repeated tie votes and squabbling...is barely functional, plain and simple. That was something about which most members of the park board (though not necessarily all), regardless of their position on current issues of debate, seemed to agree.

Adding a seventh park board member -- which the town council is currently endeavoring to do -- was one proposed means of alleviating the problem without actually dissolving the park board, which had an even number of members (at six) who seemed for months on end to be so evenly divided on the issues, that several motions fell flat by way of tied votes.

When that wasn't the case, it was repeatedly impossible for the board to attain the needed four members to make the required quorum to vote at all.

Again, whether you agree or disagree with the current direction the park board is taking -- or even with the council's decision to address the frequent quorum issues by adding a new park board member -- we need to be honest enough not to be morally indignant when what we perceive as lack of charity and community unity rears its head at park board meetings. That's old hat. In fact, it's almost been the *norm*, rather than the exception, for years.

I think we also need to be honest enough not to oversimplify the issues by suggesting that a group of "outsiders" are the only contingency in Culver with concerns over the the issues surrounding the park in recent years.

If some tactics on the part of some folks -- on or off the board -- have been labeled as examples of "Chicago politics" (a phrase tossed around from time to time in the past few years), then the same type of behavior on the part of longtime locals apparently must be just as easily labeled "Culver politics."

Whether the current goings-on at the park board are examples of this is a matter of heated debate and division in Culver right now, of course -- and again, I'm not going to get into that matter in this column.

But whatever name we give them, when actions on the part of boards or community members lack charity and openness to dialog, they are what they are. We need to be honest enough to acknowledge that sort of thing is not new to our community or unique to "newcomers" or individuals from any one geographic area outside of Culver.

And if you don't personally recall some of the uglier behavior between one faction of life-long Culver natives

and another, don't worry -- I've got the vintage issues of *The Culver Citizen* to prove it...it's nothing new.

Where does this leave us in terms of the actual issues being debated regarding the park board nowadays? I'm not sure. But I do hope we can address the issues in all their complexity and nuance, and not simply disregard investigation of them out of a tendency to lump those we disagree with into a villainous contingency, while exhorting the sins of our own group, whether recent or distantly past.

Local funds benefit from 10% match this month

Recognizing the essential role nonprofits play in the economy and health of our community, the Marshall County Community Foundation is celebrating their good work with a 10 percent match for contributions received by Tuesday, Dec. 31. Donations to MCCF funds that support specific nonprofit organizations are eligible.

Donors can choose from existing funds or start a new one. There are over 300 funds at the Community Foundation and many qualify for the match. A complete list of eligible funds is available at www.marshallcountycf.org or by calling MCCF at 574.935.5159. So far, new funds have been started for 10 nonprofit organizations including Culver Boys and Girls Club and Culver Lions Club, among others.

PHOTO PROVIDED

H o l i d a y warmth, body and soul

LEFT: Members of Wesley United Methodist Church Susanna Quilt group delivered twenty five lap robes to Miller's Merry Manor nursing home in time for their Christmas party.

Pictured is resident Chuckie Strang (seated), a member of Wesley Church, along with (standing, from left) Rosalie Bonine, Elaine Averill, Sharon Hartz, Judy Patton, Stacy Kitts, Asst. Director of Life Enrichment, and Kay Tusing.



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