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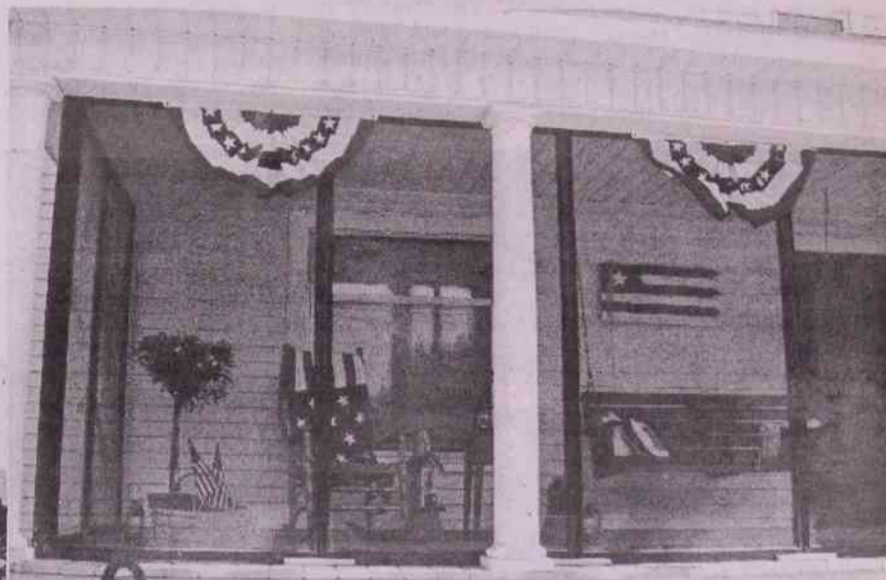
Vol. 130-No. 27 July 2, 2002

## Area displays patriotism



Buntings line the porch rail of this home on M-79 west of Nashville.

Homes and businesses throughout the Maple Valley area are decked out in red, white and blue in celebration of the Fourth of July and a show of patriotic support for American troops fighting in Afghanistan. These photographs offer a small sample of the "local color" to be found in Nashville and Vermontville this week.

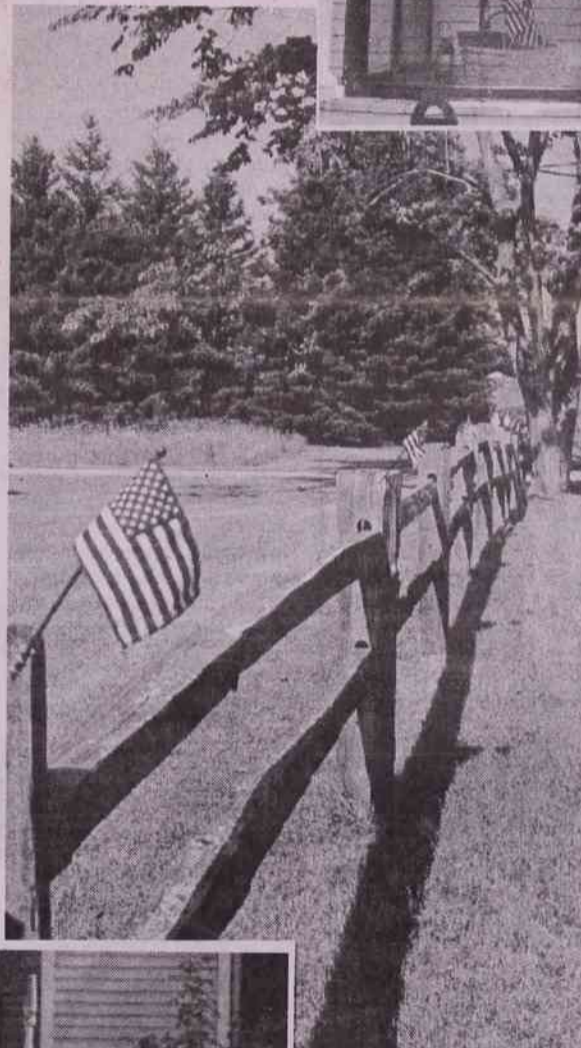


Miniature flags line this fence along Nashville Highway.

Buntings, flags and red, white and blue pillows, throws and other decor create a patriotic display on the front porch of this home on Sherman Street in Nashville.



Flags adorn the G.A.R. Memorial in downtown Vermontville.



### Tool trailer targeted by burglars

A 500-watt Honda generator and a Dewalt chop saw were stolen from a tool trailer left padlocked on East M-79 and Swift roads in Castleton Township between June 12 and June 13, according to the Michigan State Police.

Troopers said the trailer belongs to C&K Plumbing, which had left the trailer on the property overnight.

The padlock was missing from the trailer and police have no suspects.

## Maple Valley school board approves budget

by Sandra Ponsetto  
Staff Writer

The Maple Valley Board of Education approved final budgets for the 2000-01 school year and proposed budgets for the 2002-03 during a special meeting last week.

When asked later about the new budget, Maple Valley Schools Superintendent Clark Volz said, "We are increasing services and offerings for the kids, expanding programs and taking care of needed elements because the district has been running under tight financial restraints.

"We don't know what tomorrow will bring, so it is time to be cautious and deliberate on how we spend our funds.

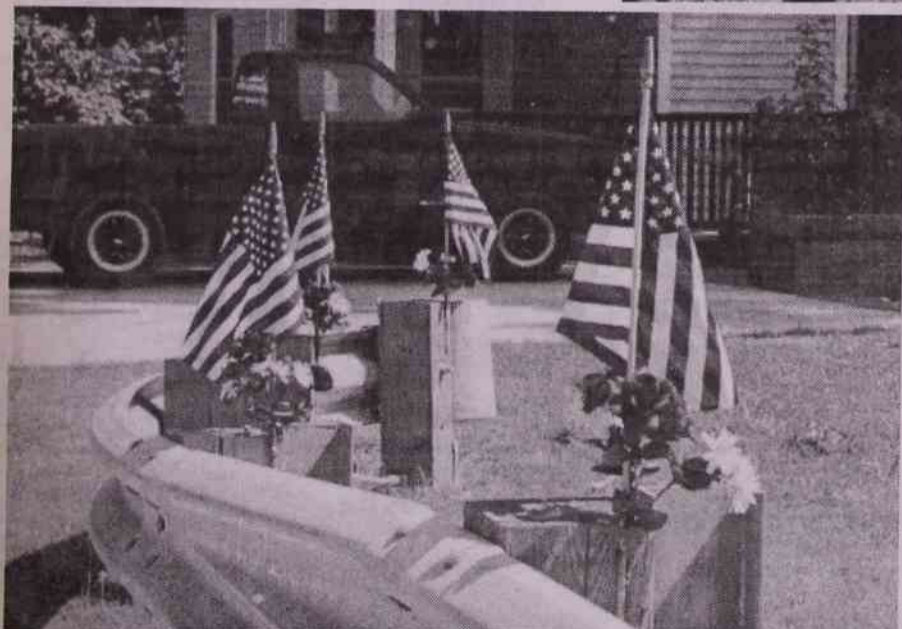
"I'm grateful the Board of Education has shouldered

the responsibility so well," added Volz. "They are a good group of public servants. They don't have personal agendas, they are committed to the community they serve and helping the district."

The board approved a general fund budget for 2002-03 with \$12,786,327 in expenditures, \$12,495,581 in revenues with a deficit of \$290,764 and an unreserved fund equity of \$2,476,889 (19.4% for expenditures).

The budget for the 2002-03 school year is based on a projected blended student population of 1,695 with \$6,700 allotted per pupil. The number reflects an esti-

See school board, pg. 2



Flags and red, white and blue flowers decorate the guardrail near this home on North Main Street in Nashville.

### In This Issue...

- Nashville seeks to fill vacant ZBA, council positions
- Nashville Assembly of God plans a "Day in the Sun"
- Nashville man gets probation on charge of drug delivery
- Two local women heading to Naironi, Kenya

## School board, continued from page 1

mated decrease of 30 students for the upcoming school year.

The district's final 2001-02 general fund budget was approved with revenues of \$12,605,444, expenditures of \$12,823,245 and a deficit of \$217,801 with an unreserved equity fund of \$2,797,635 with 21.6% to expenditures.

Last year's budget was based on a student population of 1,725 with \$6,500 allotted per pupil.

Volz said that the projected decrease of 30 students for the 2002-03 school year was, "not conservative." He later stated that it doesn't pay for a district to project a budget based on a certain student population

and then not have the enrollment to support it.

Volz also noted that the district is, "holding its own because of Schools of Choice." Last year, 106 students came to the district through the Schools of Choice program that allows parents to choose the school their student will attend from others nearby within the intermediate school district.

The athletic budget approved for next year projects \$388,088 in total expenditures, \$55,075 in revenue and a \$332,933 general fund transfer. The 2001-02 revised budget was approved, with \$259,455 in expenditures, \$53,404.45 in revenues and a general fund

transfer balance of \$206,050.55.

The 2002-03 food service budget projects \$450,390 in total revenues, \$439,199 in expenditures with a surplus of \$11,191. Last year's final budget was approved with revenues of \$450,390, expenditures of \$423,281 and a surplus of \$27,109.

The board approved an estimated 2002-03 budget for the junior/senior high school bookstore with \$600 in expenditures and revenues. Last year's revised budget was approved with \$584.66 in expenditures and revenue.

The revised Durant Fund budget for 2001-02 was approved with \$1,435 in revenues from interest and

\$78,478 in expenditures, which left a zero balance from the original lump sum payment received in 1998. This was part of the Durant litigation settlement dealing with special education funding. The \$20,000 per year for ten years portion of the Durant settlement has been earmarked by the district for upgrading technology.

In other business last

week, the board:

- Accepted a bid from Dell to replace computers in the high school media lab at a cost of \$998 per machine. The package consists of 25 work stations with PRW drive and a teacher's work station, for a total cost of \$25,983.64.
- Set Monday, July 8, as the date for the board's annual reorganizational meeting.

Discussed increasing board members' pay from \$20 to \$30 per meeting. The proposal will be put on the agenda of the next board meeting.

Witnessed the swearing in of new board member Mark Shoemaker.

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# Nashville seeks to fill ZBA, council positions

by Sandra Ponsetto  
Staff Writer

The Nashville Village Council is looking for citizens of the community to step forward and fill two openings, one on the Zoning Board of Appeals and the other on the council, which vacated by Chelsey Wetzel.

Wetzel was not present, so Village Council President Frank Dunham read her letter of resignation to the council. Wetzel, an emergency medical technician with the Nashville Ambulance Service and dispatcher for Barry County 911, cited a change in her working hours and long shifts as her reason for leaving the council and she expressed her regrets at having to do so.

"I work 12-hour shifts and that doesn't leave room for a whole lot more..." wrote Wetzel. "I have discussed this with Frank on two occasions earlier, and tried to come up with a resolution other than the one at hand, but unfortunately there were none."

The council accepted Wetzel's resignation with regrets and approved a motion to post the vacancies on the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Village Council.

To become a council member or assume a seat on

the ZBA, one must be a resident of the village and a registered voter. Council members are expected to attend meetings on the second and fourth Thursday of each month and serve on three committees. Dunham said after the meeting that he estimates the position requires a commitment of about 10 to 15 hours a month.

Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals attend one meeting a month on the third Thursday. The appeals board deals with zoning issues such as fences, buildings, non-compliance with zoning ordinances, property uses and other related topics.

Anyone interested in the positions should contact the village office during regular business hours.

In other business last week, the Village Council:

- Approved an amend-

ment to the village's 2002-2003 budget to combine the wages of the office manager and village clerk. The positions were combined when Cathy Lentz was appointed village clerk in May.

- Tabled a motion to clarify policy regarding the Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) for village employees.

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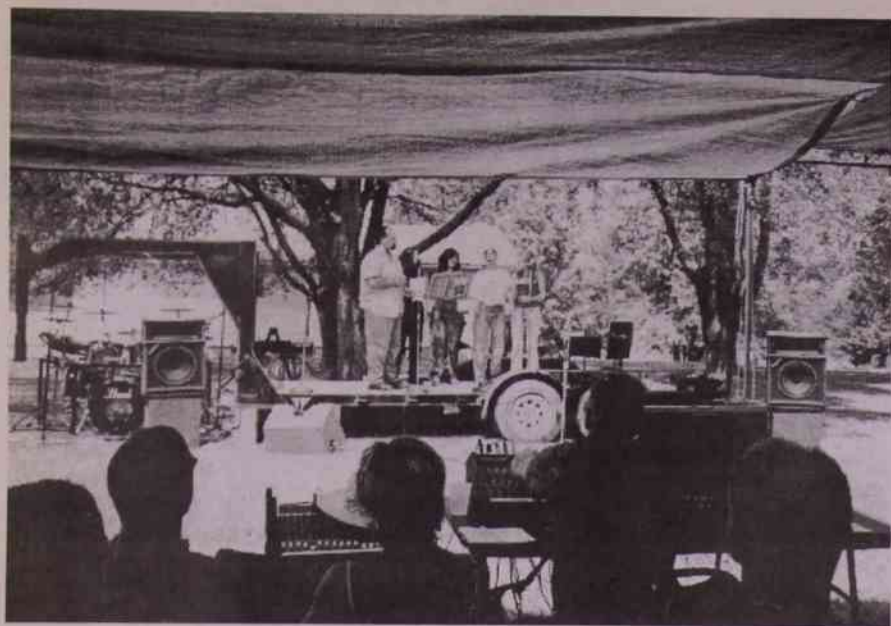
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# LOCAL CHURCH SCHEDULE

<p><b>ABUNDANT LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES</b> A Spirit-filled Church Meeting at the Maple Leaf Grange Hwy. M-66 south of Assyria Rd. Nashville, MI 49073 Sun. Praise &amp; Worship 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m.; Wed. 6:30 p.m. Jesus Club for boys &amp; girls ages 4-12. Pastors David &amp; Rose MacDonald. An oasis of God's love. "Where Everyone is Someone Special." For information call 1-616-731-5194 or 1-517-852-1806.</p> <p><b>ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH</b> 803 Reed St., Nashville Sunday School ..... 10 a.m. Sunday: A.M. Worship ..... 11 a.m. Evening Worship ..... 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening: Prayer Meeting ..... 7 p.m. PASTOR GLENN BRANHAM</p> <p><b>BASILINE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 9617 E. Baseline Rd. Corner of Baseline &amp; Church Roads (2 miles east of M-66 on Baseline) Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m. (Nursery Provided) Youth Groups, Bible Study and many other activities. Phone (616) 963-7710 REV. GLEN WEGNER</p>	<p><b>CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> 301 Fuller St., Nashville Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m. Sunday: A.M. Worship ..... 11 a.m. P.M. Worship ..... 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening: Worship ..... 7 p.m. REV. ALAN METTLER</p> <p><b>CHESTER GOSPEL CHURCH</b> 3744 W. Vermontville Hwy. Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship ..... 11 a.m. Evening Worship ..... 6 p.m. Wednesday Family Night Service ..... 6:45 p.m. PASTOR MARC S. LIVINGSTON Phone: 543-5488</p> <p><b>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH</b> 110 S. Main, Vermontville Morning Worship ..... 11 a.m. Church School ..... 10 a.m. Fellowship Time After Worship REV. ERIC LISON</p>	<p><b>SOUTH KALAMO CHURCH</b> Corner of Kalamo Highway &amp; Ionla Rd. Sunday A.M. Worship ..... 10:30 a.m. Evening Worship ..... 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening at 7 p.m.: Children's Classes Youth Group • Adult Worship PASTOR JEFF SWIFT</p> <p><b>GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> Meeting at Maple Valley High School Morning Celebration ..... 10 a.m. Contemporary Service, Relevant Practical Teaching, Nursery, Children's Classes, Youth Group, Adult Small Groups, Leadership Training PASTORS: DON ROSCOE and ROB VAN ENGEN Phone: (517) 852-9228</p> <p><b>GRESHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> One mile N. of Vermontville Hwy. on Mulliken Road Church Service ..... 9:30 a.m. Sunday School ..... 10 a.m. Fellowship Time ..... 10:30 a.m. Adult Class ..... 10:50 a.m. PASTOR JEFF BOWMAN</p>	<p><b>NORTH KALAMO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Worship Service ..... 9:30 a.m. PASTOR MARK THOMPSON</p> <p><b>MAPLE GROVE BIBLE CHURCH</b> 8593 Cloverdale Road (1/2 mile East of M-66, 5 mi. south of Nashville) Sunday School ..... 10 a.m. A.M. Service ..... 11:15 a.m. P.M. Service ..... 6 p.m. PASTOR GEORGE GAY</p> <p><b>NASHVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 304 Phillips St., Nashville Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m. A.M. Service ..... 11 a.m. P.M. Service ..... 7 p.m. Wed. Service ..... 7 p.m. PASTOR LESTER DeGROOT PASTOR DEANO LAMPHERE PASTOR MATT ROHDE</p> <p><b>NASHVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Located on the corner of State and Washington streets Worship Service ..... 9:45 a.m. Sunday School ..... 11:15 a.m. PASTOR DIANNE BOWDEN At Home: 852-0685 Church Phone: 852-2043</p>	<p><b>PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARRYVILLE</b> 6043 SCOTT RD. (M-79) Worship ..... 9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School 9:45 a.m. PASTOR SUSAN TROWBRIDGE (517) 852-1993</p> <p><b>QUIMBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> M-79 West Sunday School ..... 10 a.m. Worship ..... 11 a.m. PASTOR KENNETH VAUGHT (616) 945-9392</p> <p><b>ST. ANDREW &amp; MATTHIAS INDEPENDENT ANGLICAN CHURCH</b> 2415 McCann Road Sunday Services: 9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer ..... 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion For more information call 795-2370 or Rev. David T. Hustwick 948-9604 Traditional 1928 Book of Common Prayer used for all services. Affiliated with the Independent Anglican Church (Canada Synod).</p>	<p><b>ST. CYRIL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 203 N. State, Nashville Sunday Mass ..... 9:30 a.m. FATHER MIKE STAFFORD A mission of St. Rose Catholic Church, Hastings</p> <p><b>VERMONTVILLE BIBLE CHURCH</b> 250 N. Main St., Vermontville Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m. Worship Service ..... 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Service ..... 6 p.m. Wed. Evening Service ..... 7 p.m. AWANA ..... 7-8:30 p.m. Wed. PASTOR DANIEL E. SMITH</p> <p><b>VERMONTVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 108 N. Main, Vermontville Sunday School ..... 10 a.m. Church Service ..... 11 a.m. PASTOR JEFF BOWMAN</p> <p><b>MOST HOLY ROSARY CHURCH</b> Roman Catholic Latin Mass 314 Main, Middleville Sunday Mass ..... 9 a.m. 616-795-9030 FATHER PAUL ANDRADE</p>
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A scene from last week's "Day in the Son" celebration at the Nashville Assembly of God.

## Nashville Assembly of God plans a 'Day in the Son'

The fourth annual "Day in the Son" will take place Saturday, July 13, from noon until 4:30 p.m. at Nashville Assembly of God, 735 Reed St.

Shelly Polling of Battle Creek will sing and perform some of her own original music, along with other favorites. Andrew Drake will be back this year from Tulsa, Okla.

The Nashville band, Sealed, also will be playing. The group is made up of local students Maple Valley

and Charlotte, and a couple of home school girls. They perform a variety of contemporary Christian music.

Teresa Gaikema from Grand Rapids will be performing, as well as Brent McClain. Brent is from the popular Muskegon based McClain family singers. There will also be several local singers as well, Mary Jewell, Lori Raber, Will Allen, Debbie Allen, Patti Branham, and Christina Piper.

The public is invited to attend. There is plenty of free food, music and fun.

"We would love to have the community come out and enjoy the day. There is no obligation. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket, a hearty appetite, and enjoy a relaxing day," a church spokesperson said.

"There's plenty of events for the kids as well, including a penny pool, Frisbee, badminton, face stamping, etc."

## Childs to mark 90th birthday



The family of Marjorie Childs invite her friends and family to join her July 6th, from 1 to 4 p.m. at 9115 Bismark Highway in celebration of her 90th birthday. No gifts please.



## Bakers to celebrate 50th wedding anniversary

Elon and Janice Baker, former longtime Vermontville residents, are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married July 11, 1952 in Vermontville. They have four children - Sheila (Richard) Harper, Jodi Redfield, Tracy (Brian) Hummell, and Jeremy (Nicole) Baker; and 8 grandchildren. There will be an open house in their honor at 3964 136th Ave., Hamilton, Mich. on July 14th from 1 to 5 p.m. Questions, please call (616) 751-8587 or 751-4080.

## NEWEST CITIZENS

**BOY,** Brian and Lorraine (Wilcox) Benedict of Vermontville announce the birth of their son, Benjamin Raymond, born May 16. He weighed 4 lbs. 8 ozs. and was 17 1/2 inches long. His big brothers are David, Daniel, Joseph and Samuel. Grandparents are Harold Benedict, Raymond and Ardath Wilcox.

**BOY,** Hughston Michael Osborn, born at Spectrum Health-Blodgett Campus on May 7, 2002 at 8:17 a.m. to Rick and Karla Osborn of Nashville. Weighing 11 lbs. 1 oz. and 23 inches long. Proud grandparents are Mike and Brenda Hughes of Nashville and Charles and Beverly Osborn of Pittsford, MI.

**BOY,** Jakob Alan Baker was born June 6, 2002. He weighed 9 lb. 1 oz. The proud parents are Jeremy and Nicole (Wood) Baker and little brother Alex. Grandparents are Doug and Chris Wood and Elon and Janice Baker.

## Vermontville Historical Society has picnic in park

The Vermontville Historical Society held its annual picnic in the Vermontville Village Park Thursday evening.

Members brought dishes to pass and enjoyed listening to the Maple Valley and Ionia Community Band.

The family of Duane Hawkins made a donation in his memory to the society. With those funds new gutters and down spouts were put on the museum and another showcase to display memorabilia of Vermontville was purchased.

Virginia McCrimmon a descendent of Milton Lamb, who created the idea of the Maple Syrup Festival in 1940, donated a scrapbook to the museum containing news clipping and stories Vermontville area soldiers wrote during World War II.

Members will be on hand during the upcoming car show in the village to sell ice cream Sundays. The museum also will be open at that time. Watch the paper for more information of date and time.

The Vermontville Historical Society will resume its regular meetings in September. Encourage anyone in the community who has interest in preservation of the historical buildings and memorabilia to join for a potluck dinner, followed by an entertaining program.

## Class of 1982 reunion postponed

The Class of 1982 is postponing its July 13 class reunion for this summer, due to outside factors.

A class reunion for next year is being planned instead hoping that more time will allow a better reunion for all.

Anyone who would like to help with the planning or would like to share addresses may contact Cory Furlong at (517) 852-0888 or Julie Dormer at (517) 726-0970 or gjcs@ia4u.net.

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POWERPUFF GIRLS (PG)  
SHOWTIMES 7/01 - 7/02  
MR. DEEDS (PG-13)  
DIGITAL/STADIUM SEATING  
12:50, 2:55, 5:00, 7:20, 9:20  
MINORITY REPORT (PG-13)  
12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 9:50  
LILO & STITCH (PG)  
DIGITAL/STADIUM SEATING  
11:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:30, 9:30  
SCOOBY-DOO (PG)  
12:40, 2:45, 4:50, 7:10, 9:10

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**Maple Valley Class of 1987**  
Saturday, July 20, 2002  
4:00-? Eat at 5:00  
Place: 6570 Maple Grove Rd.  
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Pig roast and side dishes will be provided for \$10 a person. Bring a dish if you want. Adults only. Bring chairs, your own beverage, photo albums and memories.  
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## The Nashville Car Club would like to thank the following for their support on the 2nd Annual Classic and Antique Car Show this year! We had 220 cars.

- |                                |                            |                         |
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| Shirley's Chuckwagon Cafe      | Eagle Enterprizes          | Carol & Terry Kellogg   |
| Mussers Service                | Vermontville Hardware      | Wal Mart                |
| Morgan Auto Sales              | Kendra Hager               | Hastings 4 Theaters     |
| Reed Street Auto               | Gary Hager                 | MC Supply               |
| Kings Electronics & Appliances | Bill Seif                  | Curves for Women        |
| Good Time Pizza                | Auto Zone                  | Performance Plus        |
| Hastings Masonic #52           | Hastings Office Supply     | Plumbs                  |
| Freepart Elevator              | Barlows Florist            | Gavin Ford              |
| W&W Repair                     | Progressive Graphics       | Hastings City Bank      |
| Waitresses from Clay's         | Something Special by Kathy | Pennock H&W             |
| Johnson Lumber                 | Nashville Lumber           | Ultimate Spa            |
| Dreisback Motors               | Burger King                | Art Meade               |
| Hickey Electric                | Wheeler's Marine           | Barry Co. Sheriff       |
| Maple Valley Implement         | Kent Oil                   | Diane Rowlee            |
| Nashville Ambulance            | Arbys                      | Hastings National Bank  |
| Nashville VFW 8260             | MC Auto                    | Jerry's Tire            |
| Shell of Nashville             | Duane Hamilton             | Grace Community Church  |
| The Reminder                   | Beacons Auto               | United Methodist Church |
| Denton Insurance               | Vermontville Grocery       | Kelly & Jerry Aiken     |
| Newton Vending                 | Cassandra Hager            | Mike's Screen Printing  |
| Thompson Excavating            | Steve Joppie Builder       |                         |
| Barry Automotive               | McDonald's                 |                         |
|                                | Felpausch Foods            |                         |

Thank You!

# Lightening Bolts ready for Barry County Fair

by Sandra Ponsetto  
Staff Writer  
It's a busy time for the Maple Valley Lightening Bolts, a new 4-H club based in Nashville. All members and leaders are hard at work,

making last minute preparations for the club's first appearance at the Barry County Fair July 13-20. Alicia White is preparing the posters and written requirements for her rabbit en-

try, her neighbor, Jorden, is busy finishing up her sewing project, other club members are putting the final touches on knitting and craft projects and still more are practicing their target shooting skills.

When the club was formed last September, there were only three families. Now the ranks have swelled to include 13 families, with 36 members and leaders. The 4-Hers and Clovers range in age from 5 to 19 years and come from Nashville, Vermontville, Hastings, Freeport, Woodland and Charlotte.

The Lightening Bolts are a family and variety club which means that all family

Robbin Glass, a gardening leader with the Maple Valley Lightening Bolts, looks on as a club member and his mother plant a pizza garden at the Barry County Expo Center.



Tom Peck Jr., club leader Bonnie White, Shelly Barry and Nichelle Curtis, work on signs for the Nashville Lightning Bolt's booth at the Barry County Fair.

members are welcomed and encouraged to participate, and it offers a wide variety of activities for its members.

"We wanted a club that would allow the kids to do whatever they wanted to do and where we could have regular meetings and grow," said Bonnie White of Nashville, a founding member and general leader of the club. "A lot of the other clubs are specialty clubs, like a dog club or a horse club."

White's nine year-old daughter, Alicia, wanted to show goats and rabbits and that meant she had to belong to two separate clubs and travel to different areas of the county to participate.

Plus, White's 8-year-old son, Dale, wanted to participate in the Young Clovers. That is what prompted White to form the Lightening Bolts.

White said that she has received a lot of positive feedback about their club format.

The club has a general meeting once a month that is run like a business meeting, with a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, sergeant-at-arms and historian. After the meeting there are often activities for club members to try. A recent meeting featured a choice of either cake decorating or watching a shooting sports video.

"We like to give the kids a chance to see or try something new to see if it is something they would like to get into," said White.

Club members are also encouraged to try projects on their own. If they are interested in something, they can check the club library to see if there is a book that will help them further their interest or help them complete a project.



Members of the Nashville Masonic Lodge 225 present the gun club with three new BB guns.



Brandon DeMars practices his aim with a BB gun during a recent meeting of the Lightening Bolt's gun club.

"We've started a library that has books on a variety of subjects," said White.

Shooting sports is one of the largest areas of the Lightening Bolts, and the one that has gained the most community support.

"The Masonic lodges in Nashville and Middleville have donated BB guns, Hunter's Haven has let us practice archery there and Wal-Mart has donated money for us to buy supplies," said White.

"Right now we have eight BB guns and two right-hand bows and we borrow one left-hand bow," she added. "It's nice to have these

Continued next page



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Stately older home with many recent renovations. Great master suite, formal dining room, fenced backyard, corner lot, good option for "no down" financing. Call Nyle to explore the options. (N-163)



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Secluded setting, 3 bedroom manufactured home. 3 years old, full basement, fireplace, master bedroom with bath. Must see to appreciate. Call Homer for more "Info". LISTED AT \$125,000! Assumable mortgage (CH-127)



**VERMONTVILLE CLOSE TO STORES**

2 bedroom, 1990 single wide mobile home with cathedral ceiling, large master bedroom, shows well on large corner lot. Call Nyle. (V-158)



**NASHVILLE - CLOSE TO STORES**

4 bedroom newer ranch on corner lot. Full basement, one block from downtown. Great starter or retirement home. Listed at \$89,900. Call Jerry or Homer for more details. (N-162)



**IN NASHVILLE ON 1.7 ACRES**

4 or 5 bedroom, 2 story house with 5+ car garage on huge shaded 1.7 acre lot. Newer roof, updated electric service workshop, enclosed porch, all major appliances included. All yours for \$89,900. Call Jerry. (N-164)



**IN NASHVILLE ON 4+ ACRES W/POND.**

24x32 pole barn, 3 car garage, 3 bedrooms, kitchen-dining room, appliances included, 2 decks. Central air. Occupancy at close. Call Homer (N-160)

**VACANT LAND:**

**BUILDING LOT IN VERMONTVILLE!**

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Guest speaker Todd Becktel gives a demonstration to the gun club.

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**From previous page**

available for the kids who want to participate but don't own their own guns or bows."

Not only is shooting sports the largest section of the club, it is also the newest. White said that they had to wait until April to get started while the leaders completed their training. However, the shooting sports people will be the first to compete for awards at Barry County Fair. Last Saturday, the club members attended a shooting event at the Barry County Conservation Club in Hastings. The targets used during that event will be put on display and judged at the fair.

Besides shooting sports the club currently offers rabbits, goats, pigs, rockets, sewing, knitting, crafts, cooking and gardening.

"It used to be perceived that 4-H was for country



Nichelle Curtis and Alicia White mix use the food processor during a meeting of the cooking club.

kids. But now with clubs like public speaking and sewing, cooking and the other non-livestock or small livestock events like cats and dogs, everyone can be involved," said White.

White herself participated in 4-H as a child growing up in Charlotte. She did knitting and sewing under the direction of her mother, Francis Vandlen, a 20-year 4-H leader, who is now serving as the knitting and sewing leader for the Lightning Bolts.

All club members are participating in at least one event at the fair and some are entering more. But, everyone it seems is pitching in to help put together the club's booth which will feature over 100 items produced by the club. There will be a handmade gun, crafts such as snowmen made from terra cotta pots, bird feeders, sewing, knitting and more.

The club also will have five garden plots at the fair this year, one is a flower

"pizza garden," another is a flower and vegetable "pizza garden," then there is a hummingbird and butterfly garden, a vegetable garden and a gourd tunnel.

The Lightning Bolts are also busy planning ahead for activities after the fair. There are plans for an "after the fair party," with fun and

games for the whole family. Plus, they are making plans for their annual fund-raiser and a Christmas party.

"We are a very community-minded club," said White. "We meet in Putnam Park. We try to do at least one community service project a year. In February we helped pack the cookie

boxes for the whole family. Plus, they are making plans for their annual fund-raiser and a Christmas party.

"We are an open club, so everyone is invited to come to our meetings, join or become a leader," she added. "It's a real fun time."

For more information about the Maple Valley Lightning Bolts, call White at (517) 852-9189.

**Obituary**

**Shirley Ann Willison**

CHARLOTTE - Shirley Ann Willison, age 65, of Charlotte, Mich., died Monday, June 24, 2002.

Mrs. Willison was born by July 2, 1936, in Ionia, Mich., the daughter of Jesse and Myrtle (Richards) King.

Mrs. Willison attended Nashville Baptist Church.

Shirley is survived by her husband of 42 years John "Jack" Willison; son, Mike (Judy) Willison of Charlotte; daughters, Lori (Tim) Gerard of Lowell, Karen Willison of Charlotte; four grandchildren, Chris, Kevin, Josh, and Kari; brothers, Bob King of Grand Rapids, and Kenny (Pat) King of Alto.

Funeral services were held Thursday, June 27, 2002 at Nashville Baptist Church. Pastor Lester DeGroot officiated. Interment was in Perry Cemetery in Brookfield Township.

If desired, memorial contributions may be made to Nashville Baptist Church or the American Diabetes Association.

Further information available at [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com).

Arrangements were made by Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

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# Nashville paramedic trains search, rescue dog

by Sandra Ponsetto  
Staff Writer

An air conditioned house, a 5,000-calorie a day diet, the occasional ride in a fire truck with her ears flapping in the wind, garbage cans to forage through and toilets to drink out of, it really is a dog's life for Roo, a two-year old female red bloodhound owned by Rob Fisk of Lake Odessa.

But, it's not all play and no work for Roo. Fisk, who works part-time as a medic with Nashville Ambulance and volunteers with the Lake Odessa Fire Department, is training Roo to become a search and rescue dog.

"She's all nose," Fisk said of Roo, who got her name from the sound of a bloodhound's distinctive howl. "A hound takes in about 80% of its information through its nose... they don't have real good vision or hearing."

It is a bloodhound's acute sense of smell that makes it

a good choice for use as a search and rescue dog, according to Fisk.

"Police dogs are trained first and foremost to be a partner to their handler, and some are trained to sniff drugs, but they're not that good at tracking," said Fisk.

He said that hounds and their handlers are often called by schools and nursing homes to help find children or patients who have wandered away. Police departments will often use them when they need assistance with a search and rescue.

Fisk adopted Roo from an animal rescue agency and started training her about five months ago.

"At first I was thinking about getting a puppy to train for search and rescue, but there are so many hounds at shelters that I decided to go with a full-grown dog," said Fisk. "A lot of people don't realize that a hound doesn't make



Rob Fisk, a paramedic with the Nashville Ambulance Service, poses with Roo, a two-year-old red bloodhound he is training for search and rescue.

puppy and now Fisk is training her to obey voice commands.

"She can't see hand signals out in the field and I've been using a backpack with a two-way radio to talk to her when she's out there," he said.

Fisk said that he hopes to have Roo trained by the time she is three years old.

"I hope to have her com-

pletely trained by the fall and winter," he said. "I may seek advanced training for her at that time."

Until then Roo will be enjoying the dog days of summer, hanging around Nashville Ambulance and the Lake Odessa Fire Department, enjoying a cool cement floor on a hot day, the smell of the wind and an occasional ride in a fire truck.

## Gideon speaker plans to visit Chester Gospel

Conference and Gideon speaker Sterling Gatling will be speaking at the Chester Gospel Church Sunday, July 7.

Sterling will be speaking in the morning service (11 a.m.) and at a mid-afternoon (2 p.m.) service. There will be a picnic lunch following

the 11 a.m. service.

Visitors are welcome. The church is located at 3744 W. Vermontville Highway, Charlotte, (near the corner of Vermontville Highway and Chester Road.)

Further information can be had by calling the church at 517-543-5488.

## Commission on Aging Schedule of Events

**Hearty Meals**  
**Wednesday, July 3**

Roast turkey w/gravy, stuffing, sweet potatoes, green beans, pudding.

**Thursday, July 4**  
Independence Day. No meal delivery.

**Friday, July 5**  
Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, peaches, white bread.

**Monday, July 8**  
Shredded chicken, BBQ, baked beans, fruit crisp, cole slaw, bun.

**Tuesday, July 9**  
Chef's special.

**Events**  
Wednesday, July 3 -

Hastings, 4th of July party, crafts, nails; Nashville, exercise; Woodland, July 4th party; Delton, blood pressure day.

Thursday, July 4 - Happy 4th of July. All sites closed.

Friday, July 5 - Hastings, bingo; Nashville, popcorn; Woodland, bingo.

Monday, July 8 - Hastings, music, Mrs. Burd; Nashville, game day; Woodland, game day; Delton, exercise.

Tuesday, July 9 - Hastings, exercise, walk, Our Kids, Kinship Care, 7:00; Nashville, Grandmas Kids, crafts.

### NOTICE

Attention Nashville residents the Nashville Village Council has one open position for Trustee and the Zoning Board of Appeals has two open seats. Anyone interested in being a trustee or zoning board member please contact the Village office at 852-9544 or come into 206 N. Main St. by 5:00 pm on July 11, 2002. To apply for the Trustee position you must be a registered voter of the Village.

Cathy Lentz  
Village Clerk

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### PUBLIC HEARING

THE VILLAGE OF NASHVILLE COUNCIL WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON JULY 11, 2002, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

SUBJECT: MULBERRY ESTATES PHASE I CONDOMINIUM PROJECT PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN & PUD REZONING OF PROPERTY INVOLVED ON KELLOGG STREET. IF UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING ANY COMMENTS ON THIS PUD REZONING OR PRELIMINARY SITE PLANS CAN BE SENT IN WRITING TO THE VILLAGE OF NASHVILLE, 206 N. MAIN, NASHVILLE, MI 49073 BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEARING.

NASHVILLE VILLAGE COUNCIL

107

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real good house pet. They're big animals; Roo weighs about 105 pounds. A hound thinks it's their house and you just live there. You can't stop them from going through the garbage or drinking out of the toilet."

Blood hounds are bred largely in Tennessee and Kentucky, where they have traditionally been used for hunting.

Fisk said that he was fortunate that Roo had not been trained for hunting. One of the first things he trained her to do was not to pay attention to the scent of animals like squirrels and cats, but only to humans.

Fisk, who lives within Lake Odessa's village limits, said he has very tolerant neighbors; because, while Roo doesn't bark at animals, she does welcome all human visitors to their home with

loud baying.

"I have four teen-agers, so there are a lot of people in and out," said Fisk.

Fisk said that despite their loud bark, hounds are gentle creatures.

"If they find you, they'll just lick and slobber on you."

Fisk said that Roo spends a lot of time at the Nashville ambulance and fire department, where he works 24- to 36-hour shifts and the Lake Odessa Fire Department, where he says she has become something of a mascot.

His friends at the Lake Odessa Fire Department often lend a hand, or even a child, to help train Roo.

"I have a child, about 6 to 10 years old, go out in a field along a path I've mapped out ahead of time. That gives me an idea of whether or not Roo's on the right trail as I'm watching her," said Fisk. "Then I let her smell the child's pillow case and track them through the field."

Fisk said that four times out of five Roo finds the child.

"Her training is coming along real well," he said. "Right now what we're doing basic training to see if she's got an aptitude and is cut out for it."

Right now Fisk works with Roo about five or six hours a week, but when it gets cooler he plans to step it up to about 20 hours.

"That's how you keep them fresh," said Fisk. "A lot of search and rescue dogs can go their entire life without finding a lost person. This (training) keeps them excited."

Roo is very, "food oriented" according to Fisk, and he rewards her food whenever she finds the person she is tracking.

Roo was trained to obey hand-signals when she was

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## REGISTRATION NOTICE FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2002

To the qualified electors of Vermontville Township Eaton County, State of Michigan.

Please take notice that a Primary Election will be held in Vermontville Township on Tuesday, August 6, 2002. The **LAST DAY** for receiving registrations for the Primary Election will be **MONDAY, JULY 8, 2002**. Persons residing in Vermontville Township registering after 5:00 p.m. on Monday, July 8, 2002, will not be eligible to vote at the Primary Election.

I will be at the Vermontville Township Fire Station, corners of First and S. Main Streets from 9 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:20 p.m.-3:30 p.m. for the purpose of receiving applications for registration of the qualified electors in Vermontville Township or by calling 517-726-0032 for an appointment.

Marcia F. Grant, Clerk  
Vermontville Township

106

# Nashville man gets probation on charge of drug delivery

by Shelly Sulser  
Staff Writer

One of two Nashville men arrested April 22 on suspicion of conspiracy to deliver and manufacture 15 pounds of marijuana received a three-month jail sentence June 20 in Barry County Circuit Court.

Jay Rice, 45, and his co-defendant, William John Parr, Jr., 48, of Nashville were arrested by the Tri-County Metro Drug Enforcement unit for conspiring to deliver marijuana in a Nashville home.

Rice pleaded guilty to one count of delivery and manufacture of five to 45 kilograms of marijuana, second offense, double penalty and was sentenced to six months in jail with credit for two days served, \$1,500 in court costs, \$60 crime victim fund fee, a \$60 DNA testing fee, plus two years on probation and the last three months of his jail term suspended if he is successful on probation.

Rice is also eligible for earned early release and for work release. His license to drive is suspended for six months.

"It's apparent to me that the defendant has a significant drug and alcohol problem," said Assistant Prosecutor David Banister.

In trying to keep Rice out of jail so he can work, defense attorney Bruce Lincoln told the court that Rice must pay \$2,200 a month for medication to treat his hepatitis C.

"Your attorney certainly negotiated a favorable resolution, given the amount of your involvement in this situation," said Judge James Fisher. "I can't imagine that smoking pot is doing your

health problems any good."

Parr has pleaded guilty to one count of delivery and manufacture of marijuana and is scheduled to be sentenced on the conviction Sept. 12 in Barry County Circuit Court.

In other recent court business, a 21-year-old Bellevue woman who invited a stranger she met in an Internet chat room to visit her for a sexual encounter at a Maple Grove Township home where she was babysitting April 4 was sentenced Thursday for filing a false police report of criminal sexual conduct.

Rebecca Manning had engaged in consensual, sexual activity with the man in the bathroom and in the man's car while the three children she was watching repeatedly interrupted because they feared for her safety.

"She told us 'a man who is a Christian is coming over,'" one of the children told police. "We were all excited to meet him. But when he got here and we looked at him, it freaked me out. We decided not to leave them alone so we kept spying on them and disturbing them."

The oldest child, 14, told police that she and her two younger siblings, 11 and 10, were frightened by the man's appearance.

Fearing she would lose her babysitting job over the incident, Manning reported that the man had touched her against her will, according to a report by the Barry County Sheriff's Department.

The man was stopped and questioned by a Barry County Sheriff's Deputy before the officer learned that the woman had fabricated

the story.

"I saw it (the car) northbound on M-37 and stopped it near Maple Grove Road," the officer reported.

The Grand Rapids man told Deputy Dar Leaf that he met the woman in an Internet chat room between 3 and 4 p.m. April 3 and that after talking for about 15 minutes, she gave him her phone number.

"He said he got out of work at 5 p.m., went home and called her at about 5:30 p.m. and talked for 15 minutes," Leaf reported. "He called her again at 8:30 p.m. and she invited him to come to where she was babysitting."

When he arrived, he told police, they walked around for a while holding hands inside the house and he became annoyed because the children were "always interrupting."

The babysitter asked the children several times to leave them alone for 10 to 15 minutes, he told police, "so they could talk."

Inside the bathroom together, the couple started "making out," Manning told police, adding that when they got out of the room, they made plans to continue on the back seat of his car.

"I realize I was wrong," Manning told Judge James Fisher. "It's something I'm not going to repeat."

Defense attorney Louise Herrick said the act was out of character for her client. "The crime you made a false report on is one of the most serious," said Fisher. "If the person you made the report on had been convicted, he could have been sent to prison for a very long time. That was a foolish thing you did."

Manning was placed on probation for a period of six months under the terms of the Holmes Youthful Trainee Act Status.

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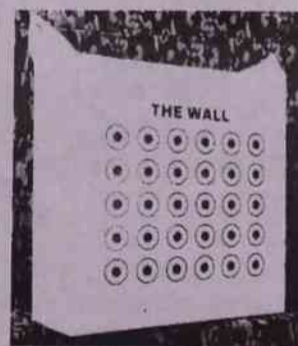
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TRAINING NOTICE  
PRIMARY ELECTION  
AUGUST 7, 2002

# Two local women heading to Nairobi



Members of the ministry team include Patti Branham (second from left, back row).



The Mathari Valley near Nairobi, Kenya.

Patti and Laura Branham this month will be making their way to Nairobi, Kenya, to spend 10 days working with children. They will be working with a group of ladies from Michigan who are going to help in an orphanage of 500

children, and in a daily program that feeds approximately 5,000 street children. The orphanage was started by a woman who had grown up in the Mathari Valley, a ghetto of more than a million people in the heart of Nairobi. She and her husband have worked hard to help the

homeless and poor children in the valley. They have asked this group of ladies, headed by Mike and Marigold Cheshier, to come and help them. The team will also be doing street crusades with singing, puppetry, skits and

stories. The Branhams are still collecting children's clothing, pencils, tablets of paper and erasers to take to the orphanage. Anyone wanting to donate items, may call (517) 852-9819, Nashville Assembly of God.

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**COUPON**

## VERMONTVILLE TWP. LIBRARY

Summer is officially here and that means it is time for summer reading programs to shift into high gear. This year's theme is "Join the Winners Circle." A program sign up sheet is available and all children who are interested are encouraged to sign it so that the library will have adequate supplies on hand. Starting Tuesday, July 16 and continuing each Tuesday through Aug. 6, a different activity will be offered at the library from 2 to 3 p.m. Parents of toddlers and preschool age children should also plan on attending.

Toddler Time, which is sponsored by the Early Childhood Connections of Eaton County, will continue Thursday mornings at 11 a.m. These programs are meant for children age 0-3. Questions should be directed to the library staff or Early Childhood Connections at (517) 645-4500. Ask for Liz or Merrill.

New Videos: The Saddle Club: The Adventures of Pine Hollow (NR); Annie (Disney) (G); Fast Times at

Ridgemont High (R); Outland (R), U-571 (PG-13); Frequency (PG-13); The Silence of the Lambs (4); Coyote Ugly (PG-13); The Clan of the Cave Bear (R) and Citizen Kane (PG).

New adult book titles: The Beach House by James Patterson and Hard Eight by Janet Evanovich are both in the large print format; Little Alters Everywhere by Rebecca Wells and Mount Vernon Love Story by Mary Higgins Clark are also new titles. These titles and any other of the libraries holdings can be reserved by phoning 726-1362.

Baby Back <b>Pork Ribs</b> \$3.59/lb	U.S.D.A. <b>Boneless Ribeyes</b> \$5.99/lb	U.S.D.A. <b>Top Sirloin</b> \$3.49/lb	Troyer <b>Bulk Bacon</b> \$1.89/lb	Frozen <b>Pork Spareribs</b> \$1.99/lb		
Sugar Dale Boneless <b>Whole Hams</b> \$1.89/lb	<b>Whole Strip Loin</b> \$3.99/lb <small>Call before 4 pm for cutting instructions</small> Lesser Amts. \$4.19/lb.		10 lb Bag <b>Chicken Leg 1/4's</b> 39¢/lb Lesser Amts. 49¢/lb.			
Gallon Bareman's <b>Whole Milk</b> \$2.39	12 Pk. Bareman's <b>Twin Popsicles</b> \$1.19	10 oz. Package Jet Puffed <b>Marshmallows</b> 79¢	20 lb. Bag Kingsford <b>Charcoal</b> \$4.99	8 oz. Parade <b>Cream Cheese</b> 99¢	Yoder's <b>Mac Salad or Potato Salad</b> 99¢/lb	
Asst. Flavors Bareman's <b>Fruit Drink</b> 99¢/gallon	1/2 Gal. Asst. Flavors Hudsonville <b>Ice Cream</b> \$2.89	Gallon Absopure <b>Spring Water</b> 88¢	28 oz. Can All Var. Bush's <b>Baked Beans</b> \$1.19	18 oz. Bottle Asst. Var. <b>Open Pit</b> 99¢	24 oz. Bottle Heinz <b>Ketchup</b> 99¢	5 lb. Container Yoder's <b>Mac Salad or Potato Salad</b> \$3.99

**OPEN JULY 4th**

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