



CLARKSON VALLEY

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR
THE RESIDENTS OF CLARKSON VALLEY

April 2017

Living



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DEPUTY CLERK AND COURT CLERK	Susan Prichard (Work) 636-227-8607 cvsusan@charter.net
CITY OF CLARKSON VALLEY	636-227-8607 www.ClarksonValley.org 15933 Clayton Rd, Suite 105 Ballwin, MO 63011 (In the Clarkson Executive Center) cvcityhall@charter.net

This newsletter should be considered "unofficial communication" and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the City of Clarkson Valley. An official position of the City shall only be communicated in letter form using City letterhead.

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"If a business is listed here, we have met with each owner face-to-face and determined that they are a great fit as a partner in the publication and for the community." ~ Chris and Deanna Ley, your CVL publishers



This section has been created to give you easier access when searching for a trusted neighborhood vendor to use. Take a minute to familiarize yourself with the businesses sponsoring your Clarkson Valley Living newsletter.

These local businesses are proud to partner with you and make this newsletter possible. Please support these businesses and thank them for supporting Clarkson Valley!

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Clarkson Valley Mayor's Corner

April – Tax Time!



Mayor Scott Douglass

Last month I talked about March, the transition month. Wow! I didn't realize snow was to be included! April showers bring May flowers! I assume you and Uncle Sam reached an amiable agreement on your income tax. So, let's stay in the tax mode. Why not take time to review your St. Louis County Real Estate and Personal Property taxes. Do you know who gets these dollars? How is it calculated? Perhaps you know, however, a review can be a good thing. With your County Real Property tax bill, a detail of the distribution of the dollars is included.

If you have yours handy, take a look or you can go on-line to: <http://revenue.stlouisco.com/collection/yourtaxrates.aspx>, Rockwood Schools, sub codes: D for Monarch District or K for Metro West. This shows the percentage that makes up the total County Real Estate rate of 8.3383%. To arrive at an individual Real Estate tax bill, the following calculation is necessary:

Residents home market value X 19% = assessment value
Assessment value X the tax rate (8.3383%*) = amount of tax due

Your Personal Property tax is calculated by applying 33 ½% to your declaration. The money is distributed using the same list as in the Real Estate tax.

*The following subdivisions are in Metro West Fire District: Clarkson Farm and Westhampton. The following Lanes in Forest Hills Club Estates are in Metro West: Fox Chapel, Pennington and Whiting. There are a few addresses on Forest Club Drive, Highgrove Lane and Herworth Drive that are in Metro West, as well as two addresses in the Clarkson Mill Subdivision. There is a difference in the tax rate between the Metro West and Monarch Fire Districts – Metro West 1.0110%; & Monarch .08050% making the rate 8.5443% for those in Metro West. All other residents are in the Monarch Fire Protection District.

Let's look at the list of those receiving money. Most are self-explanatory, i.e. school, road and bridges, Zoo, etc. (You will note Clarkson Valley Real Estate tax is approximately 1.5% of the total you pay, i.e. a home valued at \$450,000 equates to a City tax of \$109.00.) However, as I read, there were two categories that do not necessarily identify who or what they do, they are:

Sheltered Workshop

There are many non-profit organizations under this heading. They are like a business employing adults with developmental disabilities. They provide adults with a structured environment, steady work week and opportunities to learn basic and some advanced employment skills. These organizations are supported by private money, also. To find who and where these organizations exist, go to: www.canterburyinc.org

Sewer Lateral

This levy of \$28 was approved by Clarkson Valley voters on November 6, 2001 and became effective January 1, 2002. This levy election was authorized by State law for the repair of lateral sewer lines on residential property (like insurance). If and/or when you have a problem with your sewer line, call City Hall for how this 'insurance' can help you.

I hope this was informative. Now, let's look forward to more pleasant things like – bar-b-que, golf, baseball, deck parties. It's the beginning of another wonderful time of the year. ENJOY!!!



Clarkson Valley Recycling Results through February 2017

February recycling tonnage: 17.05
YTD tonnage: 42.37



from us to you

SPRING IS HERE!

Spring is finally here! Are you enjoying the blooming flowers, leaves on trees, and the sunshine as much as we are!?! Even the rain can be enjoyable. April showers do bring May flowers after all, don't they?

We have added 2 new articles this month - *Generation Conversation* and *Perspectives from the Past*. We just know you are going to love it! Take a look and tell us what you think – and if you'd like to be featured, simply email Kristy at Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com.

As we add sponsors to support the production of the publication, we are also able to add new articles. Our goal is to grow the publication's content, so we appreciate your help in being a part of the publica-

tion with your stories and pics, as well as by recommending to us the fantastic businesses you use for your goods and services.

Speaking of fantastic businesses, have you used one of our amazing *Clarkson Valley Living* Business Partners lately (or in the past)? If so, email Deanna at Deanna.Ley@N2Pub.com a brief testimonial about your experience, and you will be rewarded with a gift card to **Walnut Grill**.

As always, please allow the sponsors the opportunity to earn your busi-

ness. We have worked hard to find a good group of local businesses that want to do a great job for you!

Last, but not least, if your child is interested in the Junior Writer program, please reach out to me (Deanna). It is a wonderful way for kids to get plugged into the neighborhood and a get great writing experience, too!

Thank you so much to those of you who are contributing to *Clarkson Valley Living*. We are always excited to meet and hear ideas from the residents, no matter how small the contribution.

Your Clarkson Valley Living Team

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RESIDENT ARTICLE CONTRIBUTORS



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WANT TO JOIN THE TEAM?

We are always looking for volunteers who want to be a part of making *Clarkson Valley Living* the best it can be for the community. We are looking for Resident Article Contributors and Junior Writers (kids who want to get involved!) to join the team. Email Deanna.Ley@N2Pub.com for more info!

BECAUSE WE CAN; BECAUSE WE SHOULD



N2 Publishing has been “turning neighborhoods into communities” for more than twelve years. These years are full of revenue benchmarks and big awards. But, this isn’t what N2 is all about. It’s the love N2’s founders have for community. It’s their impact on residents, advertising partners, and hundreds of team members. And, now, it’s their global impact.

By Tracy LaFon

This love of community -- and the people that make it up -- meant the team at N2 couldn't look the other way. They couldn't ignore the epidemic creeping into every city across our country. There is a truth that people rarely acknowledge: human trafficking. Making money by enslaving human beings. It's prevalent, has destroyed millions of lives, and often unfolds closer to home than most think.

Leveraging the success of N2 Publishing, they decided to take action. N2GIVES, the philanthropic arm of N2 Publishing, was born.

A small team assembled to vet groups fighting human trafficking across the world. Many months of research narrowed the list of hundreds of potential organizations to a few dozen. Each partner actively rescues the victims of trafficking and assists with their healing. They also prosecute the offenders, educate those that can intercept, and increase awareness of the problem.

The 34 partner organizations received more than two million dollars from N2GIVES in 2016.

Shortly thereafter, N2GIVES.com launched. This is the concrete foundation of N2's commitment to provide help and hope. This site highlights the stories and photos of the organizations working in the trenches of this war. There are videos giving a first-hand account of why these leaders continue the fight. There are links to follow N2GIVES on Facebook and Twitter, too.

Consider joining in the effort with N2GIVES. No action or contribution is too small. Pass on the information to friends and neighbors. Talk to groups in your community. Give money, time, or ideas. Prove to the world that there is help for the helpless and hope for the hopeless. People should care and people do care.



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Clarkson Valley's
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helping hands

Please reach out to the following Clarkson Valley teens if you are in need of a Helping Hand. If you have an entrepreneurial teenager who would like to be featured, please contact Clarkson Valley resident Carol Rosa at rosafab5@sbcglobal.net with their (or your) contact info, age/grade and services offered.

<p>Leah Forst - 15 yrs old, Sophomore Service: Babysitter Phone: 312.612.0032 Email: rforst@rachelsgrove.com (mom, Rachel)</p>	<p>Phone: 702-321-5365 (mom, Joylin) Email: joylinkline3@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Aidan Kline - 14 years old, Eighth Grade Services: Dog Walking / Pet Sitting</p>	<p>Cathryn Rosa -15 yrs old, Sophomore Services: Babysitter, Dog Walker Phone: 860-389-7220 (mom Carol) Email: rosafab5@sbcglobal.net (mom, Carol)</p>

News You Can Use

Want To Be The First To Know?
Get Connected Here!

THE GRADUATE ISSUE IS COMING!

Our July "All About The Grads" issue is not that far away! We are already starting to reach out to graduating seniors so we can make sure we have all of their information and photos to include in it. Please reach out to Kristy at Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com if you have a graduating high school senior or know of one who lives in Clarkson Valley.



Does Your Kiddo Like To Write?

CVL is looking for kids and teens to join our Junior Writer program. If your kiddo likes to write and would like to be a member of the CVL team, email Deanna at Deanna.Ley@N2Pub.com.



WELCOME

Welcome, New Clarkson Valley Living Business Partner
The Davey Tree Expert Company

...and Welcome Back as a Business Partner in our
**New Eats & Treats Guide
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As with all business partners, please give them a chance to earn your business! They are committed to supporting your community – please support their business! If you have any great businesses that you have worked with that you want to introduce to your neighbors, email their info to Chris at Chris.Ley@N2Pub.com.

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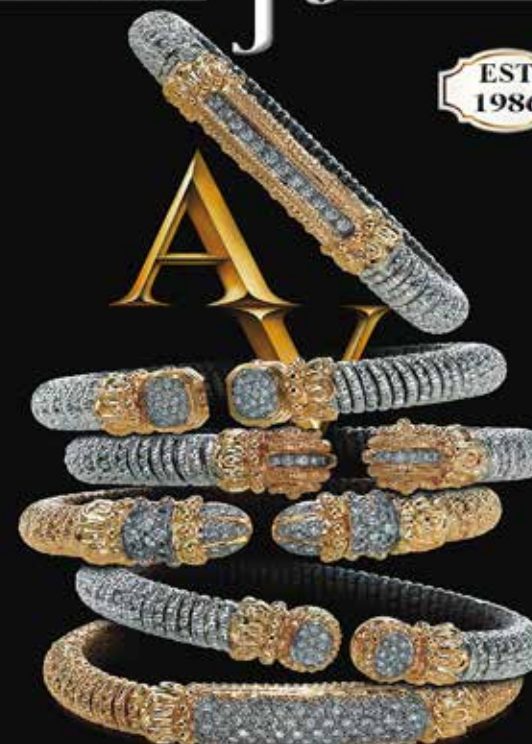


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the BENDL FAMILY

Tom, Stacy, Rachel & Ashley

meet your neighbors

Photography By **Kim Eichelberger**, Co-Owner of Eichelberger Photography
 Article written by **Tom Bendl** and **Kristy Howard**
 & Sponsored by **Kehrs Mill Dental Arts**

Hi! We are the Bendl family of four -- Stacy and Tom, and our two children, Ashley, a 15-year-old sophomore at Marquette, and Rachel, 23 years old. Rachel graduated from Appalachian State University with a degree in accounting and now works for Bank of America at their corporate headquarters in Charlotte, NC. After many moves in the past 20 years, we landed in Forest Hills on Fox Chapel Lane in March of 2015. Our 5 previous years were spent living in Avon, OH (suburb of Cleveland) and before that, 8 years in Greensboro, NC. We have also lived in Sheffield Lake, OH, and Maryville, MO.

Stacy grew up on a cattle ranch in northwestern North Dakota, and I (Tom) grew up in upstate New York in a suburb outside of Albany. We met while we both worked at Energizer over 20 years ago. I am currently Vice President of Operations with Energizer and am based out of their corporate headquarters in Town and Country. Stacy had a long successful career with Energizer as a Staff Quality Assurance Engineer but recently retired from Energizer upon our relocation to the St. Louis area. Our careers with Energizer provided us opportunities to live in many different communities and to see many parts of the world. We are very happy to now make Clarkson Valley / Forest Hills home and look forward to being here for a long while.

Our family loves to travel all around the world. Both Stacy and I traveled internationally regularly as part of our roles with Energizer but we mostly enjoy traveling as a family. Together

we have had the opportunity to visit many different countries throughout Europe and Asia, as well as Australia together. When not traveling, we enjoy working on projects inside and outside of our home, especially redecorating and remodeling. It's rewarding and exciting to see the progress and improvements we can make working together.

Spending time in the backyard and enjoy our pool is a favorite pastime. St. Louis provides plenty of warm weather to spend a long season relaxing in the back! When cold, we enjoy downhill skiing and our favorite ski destination is Val Thorens in the French Alps. We will be visiting there again in March.

After living in Cleveland for five years, we all became fans of the Cleveland Cavaliers. We were thrilled to see Cleveland finally win a sports title after 50+ years. I am also a fan of the Seattle Seahawks.



We all love to watch HGTV to give us ideas for projects in our own home. All of us love music and enjoy attending live concerts. We are avid fans of Rock and Alternative music. Our all-time favorite bands are Pearl Jam (whom we've seen nearly a dozen times in concert), U2, REM, and Green Day. Ashley is a big fan of the musical Hamilton. Stacy and Ashley had the opportunity to see the show on Broadway last summer. Ashley is also a key member of the Marquette Debate team. She competes in the Policy event. Last summer, Ashley and her debate partner attended a month-long training program at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

Our family loves the great balance of privacy plus the convenience of being close to so many things. It's great to have privacy, but not have to drive 20 minutes to the grocery store. The schools are also outstanding. We feel very fortunate to live in Forest Hills and the city of Clarkson Valley!

The Bendl family's photos were taken by Clarkson Valley Living's Meet Your Neighbors photographer Kim Eichelberger, who co-owns and operates Eichelberger Photography ~ EichPhoto.com ~ 636-734-1486 ~ KevinAndKim@EichPhoto.com



Get to know your neighbors better by having your family featured in the next available issue and receive a free photo shoot & 16x24 print from photographer, Kim Eichelberger of Eichelberger Photography. Contact Kristy at Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com.



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Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Using the tip of a sharp knife, cut slits all over the tenderloin and insert garlic slivers in them.
 2. Brush the tenderloin with olive oil and rub it all over with the pepper and thyme. Sprinkle with salt.
 3. Place tenderloin on a rack in a shallow roasting pan and roast it for 15 minutes. Then, **REDUCE** oven temp. to 350 degrees and roast for 20 minutes for medium-rare meat (roast 5 minutes longer for medium).
- ** VERY IMPORTANT: LET THE TENDERLOIN REST FOR 15 MINUTES BEFORE CARVING! ****
4. Slice the tenderloin ½ inch thick and arrange on a platter. Serve with Mustard Horseradish Cream Sauce.

Mustard Horseradish Cream Sauce

Wisk together:

- 1/3 cup Dijon mustard
- 1/3 cup mayonnaise
- 1/3 cup sour cream
- 1 Tbsp (or more) horseradish



Would you like to have a favorite family recipe featured in *Clarkson Valley Living*? Simply email Kristy Howard at Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com to have your recipe featured in the next available issue.

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Beef TENDERLOIN

delicious dish

From the Kitchen of **Michael Izsak** & Sponsored by **Just Around The Corner Flooring**

Clarkson Valley resident Michael Izsak shares a family favorite and a crowd-pleaser in this month's Delicious Dish.

Ingredients:

- 1 beef tenderloin (about 3 ¾ pounds)
- 1-2 Tbsp Olive oil
- 1 Tbsp coarsely ground black pepper
- 1 Tbsp chopped fresh thyme or 1 tsp dried thyme
- Coarse salt to taste
- Mustard Horseradish Cream Sauce (see recipe below), for serving

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living spaces
 Photography By Kim Eichelberger, Co-Owner Of Eichelberger Photography & Sponsored by DiPasquale Painting

A Gorgeous Kitchen Remodel in Kehrs Mill Estates West

As original owners of our home in Kehrs Mill Estates (West), we decided we wanted to stay after the kids moved out, but knew the whole house needed updating. All remodeling begins innocuously enough: you know, buy some new couch cushions, and the rest, as they say, is history. Remodeling is always a challenge, but unless you can completely move out of the house, doing one room at a time offers the opportunity to develop lots of new friendships, especially with your contractors and their workers.

The kitchen has been our biggest project to date and is our favorite space. We all love to cook and wanted a room that accommodates several cooks simultaneously, as well as lots of guests. It's a great space for this. We included some features that we love and use often, including a 6-burner gas range, a warming drawer, pot filler, extra refrigerator drawers and an ice maker.

Most recently, we finished off our Lower Level; after a long military career, Sam wanted a nice bar to display some of the interesting things he's acquired. We also added a bed/bathroom and great wine cellar (remember what I said earlier about purchasing those cushions?!).

Our traditional style uses good, quality materials and we also received great guidance from our vendors, who have each assisted us on repeat projects: Rich Terbrock Construction, Marc Christian Fine Cabinets, Ellen Kurtz Interiors, Lamp Wine Cellars, The Sound Room

Our advice for remodeling:

Establish a budget, and plan to blow it. Make a wish-list of the features you want/need/expect to be included in your project.

Double your budget.

If you don't have a contractor with whom you're already comfortable, talk to at least 3 vendors and provide each with the same criteria, including start and finish dates. Educating yourself by talking to several professionals will allow you to be a better customer, and you will have a much more successful project if everyone starts out with clear time and budget expectations. The highest bid doesn't guarantee the best work but you may find that a cheap bid is more expensive.

Have patience and a sense of humor; no matter how far out you start, it's not going to be finished when anyone plans for it to be!



We've featured some great homes in Clarkson Valley and would love to share yours, as well. Have you recently remodeled, redecorated or built on an addition, a man cave or a new wine cellar? Simply contact Kristy at [Kristy](mailto:Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com). Howard@N2Pub.com to be featured.

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Meet
Star-Of-The-Show
Kirby
The Quaker Parrot
And His Sidekick
Cusco
The Cockatiel

I am Kirby, a Quaker Parrot, and am the BOSS-bird of the house! I am gender-challenged because it is not possible to tell the gender of a Quaker Parrot through mere observation. My owners don't know either, so they gave me a gender-neutral name. I really don't care anyway!

I am two years old and was bred locally and purchased (I hate that word; I prefer "adopted"!!!) from Varieties Bird Shop as a hand-fed baby. I was purchased as a birthday present for my awesome owner, Joshua, two years ago in December.

RIGHT:

Kirby stealing food from Joshua's plate



precious pets

Article written by Kirby & Sponsored by Oxi Fresh Carpet Cleaning



LEFT:

Joshua's brother, Evan, with Cusco

I am a chatterbox, but I do not like talking about the "other" bird that lives in the same house as me. His name is Cusco the Cockatiel, but this is MY article, so all that I have to say about him is that he can whistle and I can't. He is getting good at the theme to the Indiana Jones movies. (Whatever!)

What do I think about all day? Food, food, food! I live for food! I eat the usual...bird seeds and nuts but I love people food! Tortilla chips, salmon, cheese, macaroni, and did I mention tortilla chips? I just help myself to Joshua's plate! I know how to get the goods...I say my name over and over, annoying them enough to give me some! They won't allow me to have onions, mushrooms, avocados, or caffeine, but that's ok 'cuz that stuff is gross!

I am a very polite bird but I talk a lot. I talk a lot. I talk a lot. I say my name a lot. I say lots of other words a lot. I say "Peek a Boo!" and "Give me a kiss!", and when you "Kiss me", I say "Thank You!". I will also thank you if you give me your food.

I live with dogs and love to copy them. When my owners ask: "Kirby, are you a dog?", I bark in response! Pretty impressive, if I do say so myself! I am not scared of those dogs; they are scared of me.

I am spoiled, too. If Josh doesn't take me out to play, I scream until I get my way. I love hanging out with Josh and his friends on their shoulders while they play computer games. Bye now! Kirby wants a cracker!



Do you have a pet and would like to share his/her story? Dogs, cats, horses, fish and any other types of animals are welcome! Email Kristy Howard at Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com to have them featured in an upcoming issue.

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Coffee Break



Did you Know?

- Peppers with 3 bumps on the bottom are sweeter and better for eating. Peppers with 4 bumps on the bottom are firmer and better for cooking.
- Add a teaspoon of water when frying ground beef. It will help pull the grease away from the meat while cooking.
- Add garlic to a recipe immediately if you want a light taste, add it at the end if you want a stronger taste of garlic.
- Use a wet cotton ball or Q-tip to pick up the small shards of broken glass you can't easily see.

Sudoku

9						5	1
5					9	2	3
		1	2	3		7	
	8		9				6
		5	4		7		2
	2		3				
8							
	9	7					
	4	3			8	1	7

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusive.



Jeff Lottmann

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"From my home to yours, I take great pride in helping out my fellow Clarkson Valley neighbors with all of their real estate needs."
- Jeff Lottmann, Forest Hills Resident & Realtor



Can you solve these word puzzles?

**REST
YOUR**

A.

**J K
A264G9C QL**

B.

SHOW

C.

PHROMATE

D.

**B
R
BREED
E
D**

E.

**SK8
IIII**

F.

**MARY
+ MARY**

G.

**HSAC
HSAC
BONUS**

H.

**EVER EVER
24 HOURS
EVER EVER**

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A CONVERSATION BETWEEN GRANDPA BILL AND GRANDSON LUKE

generation conversation

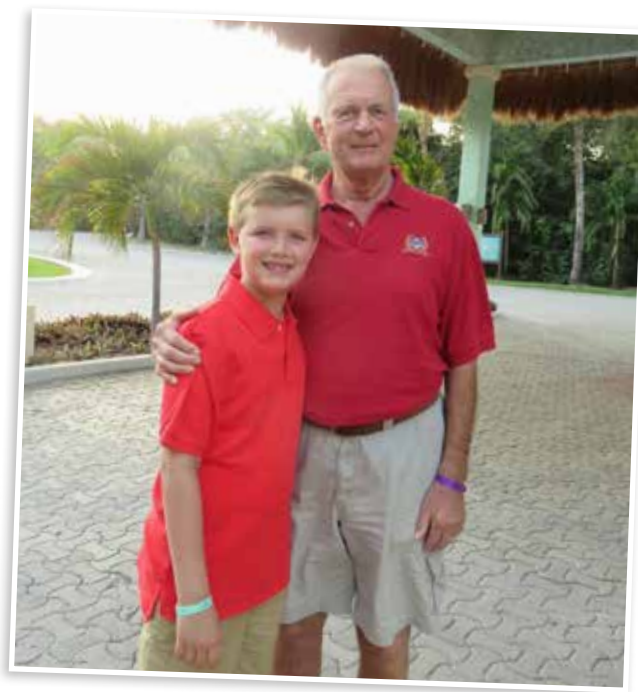
Article written by **Colonel Bill Hammerschmidt** and his Grandson **Luke** & Sponsored by **Darnell Construction**

Generation Conversation is a new article where a grandparent and grandchild get the chance to spend time together and learn more about each other. It's also a chance to discover ways in which the world has changed and stayed the same.

Grandpa Bill Hammerschmidt, a Clarkson Valley Resident, recently had a chance to catch up with his grandson Luke for a conversation. Luke lives in Los Angeles, CA, is 10 years old and in the fourth grade.

Luke: Hey Grandpa, What do you want to be when you grow up?
Grandpa Bill (recalling when he was 10): My goal was to be an auto mechanic to work on fast cars. Then I wanted to be able to go to race at the drag races with my fast car!

Grandpa Bill: What is your favorite family tradition?
Luke: My favorite tradition is going to Aunt Cin's house for Christ-




mas Eve and playing a game, having dinner together, opening presents, and being with my family. What is yours, Grandpa?

Grandpa Bill: When I was 10, there were only two other children in our family, my brother, Tom, and my sister, Mary. It was our tradition for our family to gather on Sunday evenings with our two aunts who lived about a mile away. We had a 6:00 p.m. dinner and everyone helped my mom with preparation. My job was to usually peel the potatoes.


Luke: When you were my age, what made you happy?
Grandpa Bill: When I was your age? I got to watch TV at my neighbor's house! My favorite shows were Howdy Doody and Texas Bruce western. What about you, Luke - what makes you happy?
Luke: I feel happiest when I am with my family, my friends, and pets. Other things that make me happy are playing baseball and basketball. Oh, and playing video games too, especially Clash Royale!

Grandpa Bill: If you could change one thing about the world, what would it be?
Luke: If I could change one thing, I would stop pollution so I could protect our mountains, air, water, oceans, rivers and forests. I would start a group that doesn't get paid, they would pick up trash wherever they see it and come up with ideas on how to make the world cleaner.

Luke: Who was your hero when you were younger, Grandpa?
Grandpa Bill: My hero was Joseph Paul "Joe" DiMaggio of the New York Yankees. He was a great baseball player and was a soldier in the Army in WWII. He retired in 1951 after 11 years. What about you, Luke?
Luke: My hero is my Mom. She's my hero because she loves me, takes care of me, is generous, is funny, works hard, and does so many things all the time. She's like you, Grandpa!

 Generation Conversation is a way for a grandparent and grandchild to learn more about each other and how the world has both changed and stayed the same. To be featured, email Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com.

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Meet Sophie Coco

amazing athlete

Article written by **Kristy Howard** and **Sophie Coco**
& Sponsored by **Ries Orthodontics**

Meet Sophie Coco, daughter Tony and Jill Coco, and sister of Matt, age 16. Sophie has resided with her family in the Kehrs Mill Estates West since 2005. She is a freshman at Nerinx Hall. This past year, she played on the field hockey team as a mid-fielder and was also chosen to be one of the captains. She not only fell in love with the sport but says “the best part of being on the team was meeting new friends and learning to work together.”

As a freshman, Sophie didn't know anyone on the team when she started, but found it was a great way to become familiar with her school while in her first year and find new friends that share a common interest. Prior to field hockey, she swam for the Parkway Swim Club for five years. Although swim team requires an enor-



mous amount of stamina, field hockey requires a lot of conditioning that differs from swim team. Her team had the opportunity to travel to Kansas City and play in a tournament, staying with host families. Sophie says, “It was a great experience and we finished our season 14-2!”

In addition to field hockey, Sophie cheered for SLUH JV Hockey this season. The season just wrapped up with a city-wide hockey cheerleader competition at the end of February where SLUH JV took third place for the chant competition and second place for the cheer competition. She hopes to remain on the squad all four years. She also swam for the Nerinx Hall swim team this year and made the lacrosse team for this spring! It is clear that Sophie is a multi-talented athlete and has taken advantage of her first year at a new school!



“When it comes to trying something new, you just have to go for it.”

- Sophie Coco

“When it comes to trying something new, you just have to go for it. I've never cheered before and only played field hockey recreationally and I made both teams! It's hard to put yourself out there but if you never try, you'll never know!”

Good luck to all of your numerous endeavors now and in the future, Sophie!



Call athletes of all ages! Do you play a sport you are passionate about? Whether it's football, cheerleading, skateboarding, skiing, soccer or any sport in between, we want your story! Just email Kristy at Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com to be featured.

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- Dr. Charlie Ries

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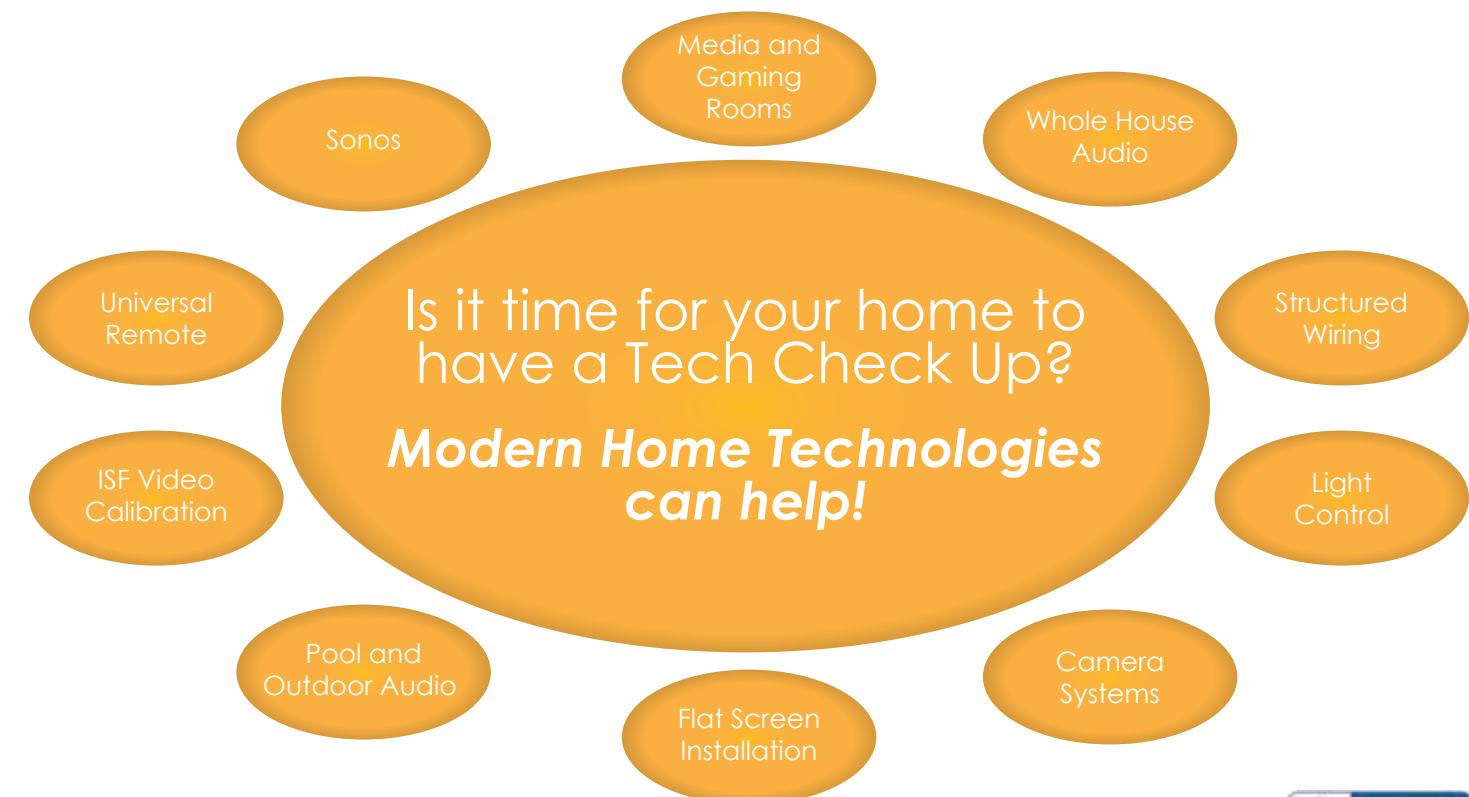
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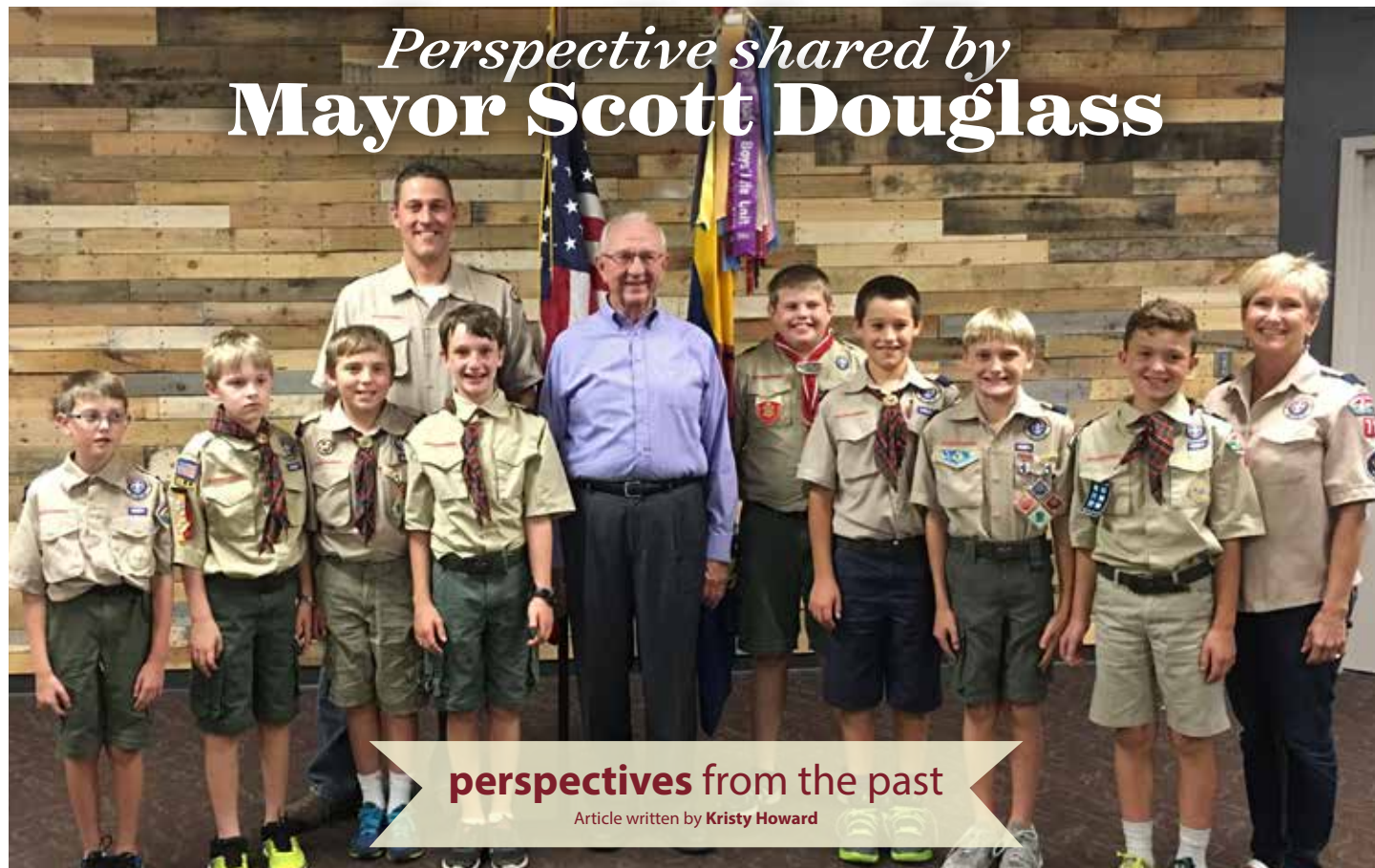


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Perspective shared by Mayor Scott Douglass



perspectives from the past

Article written by **Kristy Howard**

Mayor Douglass sharing words of wisdom with Webelos 2 from Pack 782

In this new article, “Perspectives from the Past”, we will be spotlighting residents who have words of wisdom to share with their fellow Clarkson Valley neighbors. We are honored to have Mayor Scott Douglass debut this article.

At every stage of life, we look back at where we’ve been, re-evaluate what we’ve done, and gain a new perspective for the future.

Most of our residents know our Mayor, Scott Douglass, but, for the new residents who have recently moved in, we would like you to know what an honor it is to have Mayor Douglass serving the community of Clarkson Valley. Very few municipalities have had a Mayor that has been in office for nearly 30 years! Mayor Douglass has been kind enough to share with Clarkson Valley his perspective on life as he looks back on past experiences.

Mayor Douglass has lived in Clarkson Valley with his wife June since 1983. He and June have three grown daughters with two being twins, 10 grandkids and six great grandkids with another on the way.

He continues to have a very happy and prosperous life after retiring. He was born and raised in Columbia, MO, and attended Mizzou where he received a BS degree (Business). He then spent the next two years in the Air Force, but, unfortunately, his eyes did not cooperate for a flying career, so he then went to the University of Oklahoma to get his MBA. Mayor Douglass spent the next 30 years at AT&T, retiring in St. Louis as a Vice President. After a while, he decided to go back to work as a financial planner for Ameriprise where he stayed for 13 years. Mr. Douglass was elected a trustee in 1987 for the village of Clarkson Valley. Early in 1989, he petitioned a change to a city of the fourth class

with success. He was elected as our first Mayor in 1989. He has continued to be elected every four years to date.

Not only serving as Mayor, he is on the executive Board of the Municipal League of Metropolitan St. Louis, continues as an Elder at Community Christian Church and has served on the Board for Caring Solutions, an organization which provides assistance for children and adults with developmental disabilities. In addition, he served as President of Board of Echo Children’s Home for teens. He has been involved in charitable organizations all of his adult life.

Our Mayor has had such varied experience in his life, so *Clarkson Valley Living* has asked him to share what his perspective is now on what he has learned through his past.

He says, “You need to dream! Visualize what you want to be and have an understanding of your God-given talents. Then have the discipline to reach your goals that you have developed from your dreams. Do that so you can enjoy the successes and overcome the setbacks. Your journey will involve other people, directly or indirectly, so your goals need to be based on a caring attitude with respect for others. These are the secrets to enjoying life!”

As a teen, Mayor Douglass achieved the honored rank of Life Scout in Boy Scouts. He says “the Scout Oath and Scout Law” are a realistic guide for anyone, whether they are a scout or not, to



achieve success. Now in his life, he values his close-knit family, his faith, and the faith that holds them together.

He also says, “In this ‘me’ centered culture, people need to be more of a ‘we’ centered culture where we impress upon our chil-

“You need to dream!”
- Mayor Scott Douglass

dren to have concern for others (i.e. volunteering to help others and serving the community).”

Mayor Douglass has two years left in his term. He wants to let all the residents know it has been a great pleasure serving Clarkson Valley, and he will continue if it is in his future.

SCOUT OATH

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

SCOUT LAW

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.



Do you have words of wisdom, great life lessons or fabulous stories of your youth that you’d like to share with your neighbors? If so, email **Kristy Howard@N2Pub.com** for more details.

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making a difference
 Article written by residents Justin and Kristen Akin and Kristy Howard

The Matthew And Andrew Akin FOUNDATION

We are Kristin and Justin Akin and have lived in Forest Hills for the past three years. In 2010, we started the Matthew and Andrew Akin Foundation after losing our two sons, Matthew and Andrew, to Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (HLH), which is an immune deficiency disorder. Our hope, in starting this foundation, is to help the newly diagnosed HLH families that are unfortunately following in our footsteps.

Our youngest son Andrew passed in September of 2009, and his older brother passed in May of 2010 from HLH. HLH is often misdiagnosed and is considered an orphan disease, which means it receives no funding from the federal government. After spending three years in three different pediatric hospitals, we learned how critical it is to seek HLH experts right away. The most experienced facility in the nation in treating HLH is the HLH Center of Excellence at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC). They have assembled a team of physicians and

researchers that are passionate about HLH and treat more cases yearly than any other hospital in the US. Ultimately, children and young adults who have HLH based on known genetic defects will require a hematopoietic cell transplant (bone marrow transplant) to cure them. We encourage anyone who is willing to get on the **BE THE MATCH** bone marrow registry. All that is required is a simple swab of the cheek. A perfect match is very rare for those diagnosed with HLH so the more donors on the list will increase the chances for each patient.



Matthew Akin




Andrew Akin

The mission of The Matthew and Andrew Akin foundation is to:
INFORM: provide the latest information on treatment, research trials, and overall HLH education.
INVEST: continue to raise funds not only for education and awareness but to help assist HLH families transfer their care to the world-renowned experts at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.
INSPIRE: by organizing and hosting events, we hope to inspire families and friends to help in the fight against HLH. Our foundation hosts and organizes several events every year including an annual Trivia/Silent Auction night, 700 Miles to Hope bicycle ride, and annual spring and fall blood drives. Justin and I are also bone marrow couriers for the Be The Match and transport marrow between donors and recipients around the country. Our foundation annually awards 3 scholarships for HLH survivors, provides financial support to HLH families at CCHMC with lodging, transportation, etc., and supports the Ronald McDonald House charities in both St. Louis and Cincinnati.

We are honored to do this work in our sons' names. Matthew passed away at the age of 5½ and Andrew passed away at 27 months. They accomplished more in their short lives than we ever could. We want people to know that even when the worst happens, in our case twice, you cannot only survive but thrive.

Please feel free to read more about our story, donate, events, and find out about upcoming events at www.matthewandandrew.org.

 Do you volunteer at a fantastic charitable organization that deserves to be spotlighted? If so, reach out to Kristy Howard at Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com to share more.

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The Infinite Signs & Graphics Team (L to R) Jamey, Michelle, Dan and Andy

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Chances are that as you tool around St. Louis you have seen the work that Infinite Signs & Graphics has completed. At your Dr.'s office, in a lobby, next to a vehicle a company wraps to share their brand or even exteriors signs like at the St. Louis Area Food Bank - Infinite can do it all and has been a leader in the industry by being innovative, affordable and offering step-by-step customer care before, during and after their projects.

Dan and Michelle Martino are the owners and operators of Infinite Signs & Graphics. I recently sat with Dan to learn more about the company and just how they have been so successful in helping so many St. Louis area businesses share their brand as well as create a comfortable office space with their wall graphics.

"I had been working with construction companies for over thirty years and Michelle had been working in commercial real estate for over 25 years," Dan shared. "We both are very creative and we saw a real need for business owners to have a company that they could

trust and that would have a high level of client service."

Together, they both left corporate America to launch Infinite Signs & Graphics with the thought that they would fill this need and build a business that they enjoy and know if needed by companies everywhere.

"With our experience in our previous professions, we ran into companies that simply did not do as they promised when it came to meeting customer needs for branding their business in signage and office decorations." Dan stated. "We knew that we could do a better job and built our business on the premise that we would team up with our customers to create their vision, offer some real solutions, execute that vision and then be there to watch their business grow so we could help meet future needs."

Dan knows that communication is the key to their success. "Far too often, clients have been let down by other companies purely because they didn't communicate properly. We communicate about everything that is going on - where are we in the process, are we ahead or behind schedule for what-



ever reason, do we need more input and decisions from the client. We believe that there is no such thing as over-communicating."

I asked Dan what he enjoyed most about his business and he shared, "I cannot begin to tell you how wonderful that moment is when a business sees the work we have created for them the first time. Whether it is their office signage, their interior wall graphics work or their vehicle wraps nothing beats that smile and that joy they have when they see it all come to life. That is why we do what we do - that moment!"

Infinite has a wide variety of services that they can provide for their clients. Here is a partial list:

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The creativity and craftsmanship of what Infinite can produce is second to none. They have the latest cutting edge equipment from 3M and a design team that can take your vision, or help you create one, and bring it to life both on-time and on-budget. They even make sure that all our signage meets



Wall art that is completely customizable for your home or office - Infinite does that!

local permit standards before they create them to allow for ease of mind. I know people say it all the time, but Infinite Signs & Graphics truly is a one-stop shop for all things sign related.

"The core team consists of myself and Michelle (they oversee every project and work one-on-one with every client), Andy (sign maker, install pro) and Jamey (designer and installer)," Dan went on. "We have an amazing team and that is because we all share the same vision of exceeding our client's expectations."

The future is now at Infinite Signs & Graphics. They have a product now that is a paper type material

that can easily be placed and removed without damaging walls. This product is ideal for both business that like to change up their interior look by having fresh massages as well as the homeowner who has an incredible picture of their favorite trip to Tuscany, or even their favorite sports experience, and they want that to be part of their wine cellar or man cave decorations.

If you are a business owner and you want to create or freshen your look at attract more customers, Infinite has the solutions for you! If you are

a homeowner and you want creative ways to decorate your home, Infinite has the solutions for you!

You can learn more about the awesome services they provide by going to www.Infinite-Signs.com or you can call and talk to Dan at 636-220-1791. He will be more than happy to share with you how Infinite Signs & Graphics can meet your needs!



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If you, or someone you know, owns an Eats & Treats establishment and would like to have your/their business features here, contact Chris at Chris.Ley@N2Pub.com, and we will share how to be a part of the Eats & Treats Guide!

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lawn & garden
By N2 Staff Writer, Amy Lynne Howlett

straw bale GARDENING

Would you like to garden but don't have the time, space or expertise to get started? An increasingly popular trend – straw bale gardening – may be your ticket to a green thumb!

the perks

Straw bale gardening has many advantages over traditional gardening, as it requires no special tools or equipment, is suitable for most climates, and provides an alternate growing medium in areas with rocky terrain or poor soil. The only space required is enough room for the bales themselves; your garden could be as compact as one bale on your patio. Weeds, insects and other pests are unlikely to travel up through the bale – saving you time and effort – and the raised surface makes straw bale gardening a good option for those with physical limitations.

the prep

Start with a compressed straw bale, cut side up, with its strings on the sides. Before planting, the bale must be "conditioned," a process in which the straw begins to break down, creating a decomposed organic material for planting. To initiate the conditioning process, thoroughly soak the bale, until drenched, for several days. Then add a half-cup of a nitrogen-rich fertilizer every day for a week to encourage the growth of the bale's naturally occurring bacteria. Poking holes in the top of the bale and watering it after each application will help the fertilizer penetrate through the straw. Allow the bale to sit for two weeks, watering occasionally, to give the microbes enough time to multiply and consume the bale. Once the bale is sufficiently colonized by bacteria, the result is a rich soil containing micronutrients and trace elements from the original stalks. Meanwhile, the outside edges of the bale develop a crust in the sun and wind, creating a sturdy vessel for planting. Don't be alarmed if you find fungus or mold on your bale; it is actually a positive sign of microbial proliferation.

the process

Once the bale is conditioned, the rest is easy! Simply use a garden trowel to dig a wedge into the bale, insert your seedling and close the straw around it. If sowing seeds, dig a hole, sprinkle in

just enough topsoil to hold the seed in place, insert the seed, and cover with the conditioned straw matter.

If you have a few square feet of space outdoors and a straw bale, you too can become a gardener and enjoy the fruits of your minimal labor, money and time!

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- B. Hijacking
- C. Sideshow
- D. Mixed metaphor
- E. Crossbreed
- F. Skate on thin ice
- G. Summary
- H. Double cash back bonus
- I. Forever and a day

Sudoku Solution

9	3	2	8	7	6	5	4	1
5	7	8	1	4	9	2	6	3
4	6	1	2	3	5	7	9	8
7	8	4	9	5	2	3	1	6
3	1	5	4	6	7	8	2	9
6	2	9	3	8	1	4	7	5
8	5	6	7	1	4	9	3	2
1	9	7	5	2	3	6	8	4
2	4	3	6	9	8	1	5	7



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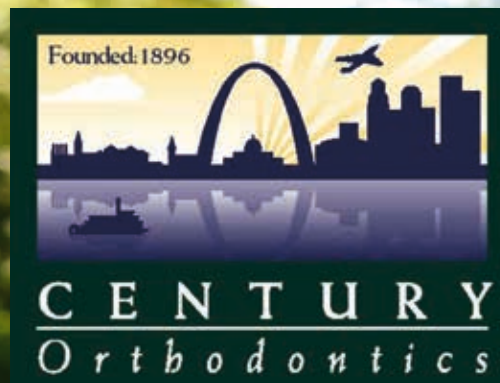
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298 Herworth Dr.	Forest Hills Club Estates	\$825,000	\$790,000	08/03/16	4	6	3,458	3
2171 Kehrs Ridge Dr.	Kehrs Mill Estates	\$740,000	\$740,000	08/22/16	4	5	3,683	3
2048 Kingspointe Dr.	Kingspointe	\$775,000	\$739,000	01/19/17	4	4.5	4,510	3
30 Crown Manor Dr.	Forest Hills Club Estates	\$711,000	\$711,000	08/15/16	5	6	3,837	3
10 Kehrs Mill Glen	Kehrs Mill Glen	\$699,500	\$610,000	12/08/16	5	6	4,257	3
1 Forest Club Dr.	Forest Hills Club Estates	\$595,000	\$585,000	10/14/16	4	4	2,976	2
16747 Kehrs Mill Est. Dr.	Kehrs Mill Estates	\$595,000	\$580,000	11/15/16	6	4	3,034	3
2333 Kettington Rd.	Westhampton	\$599,000	\$565,000	09/09/16	4	4	3,356	2
2259 Whitby Rd.	Westhampton	\$559,900	\$540,000	09/28/16	5	5	3,378	2
1 Greenbank Dr.	Forest Hills	\$575,000	\$537,500	02/10/17	3	3.5	3,093	2
122 Highgrove Lane	Forest Hills	\$499,900	\$495,000	10/03/16	5	4	2,958	2
2208 Kehrsgrrove Ct.	Kehrs Mill Estates	\$439,900	\$447,500	08/10/16	4	4	2,647	4
2 Clarkson Farm Dr.	Clarkson Farm Estates	\$439,900	\$430,000	12/16/16	4	4	2,999	3
15973 Kettington Rd.	Westhampton	\$459,000	\$420,000	12/12/16	4	2.5	2,594	2
241 Fox Chaple Lane	Forest Hills Club Estates	\$425,000	\$375,000	11/18/16	4	3	2,902	2



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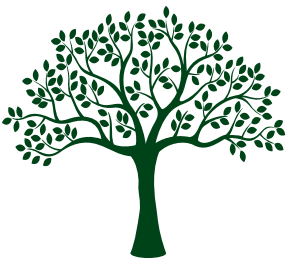
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