



# CLARKSON VALLEY

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR  
THE RESIDENTS OF CLARKSON VALLEY

May 2017

# *Living*



MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS  
**The Waitkus Family**

Photographs taken by Kim Eichelberger of  
Eichelberger Photography



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For More Info please go to [www.clarksonvalley.org/cityOfficials.html](http://www.clarksonvalley.org/cityOfficials.html)

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 rsdoug@sbcglobal.net

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 danielking@sbcglobal.net

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**Lin Midyett**  
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**CLERK AND TREASURER**  
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 cvcityhall@charter.net

**DEPUTY CLERK AND COURT CLERK**  
**Susan Prichard**  
 (Work) 636-227-8607  
 cvsusan@charter.net

**CITY OF CLARKSON VALLEY**  
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 Ballwin, MO 63011 (In the Clarkson Executive Center)  
 cvcityhall@charter.net

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### EMERGENCY

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# Clarkson Valley Living's Trusted Vendor List

"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

## Spring Has Sprung!



Mayor Scott Douglass

Trees are springing to life, flowers budding, grass green, time for barbecues, kids and dogs (cats) playing in the yard. The joy of doing yard work (or perhaps the joy of watching others do it) or getting in the swimming pool or taking long walks through

your beautiful neighborhood. They all add up to fun in the sun. As you are enjoying your summer events, you may begin thinking of those plans you talked about during the winter. A new patio, new deck, expanding the family room or perhaps a kitchen remodeling, you may have already made the decision on what you want to do.

The City wants to assist in making it happen – how, why? An important element in your City's mission is protection of property values. City ordinance Chapter 405 Zoning Regulations covers the use of land. I won't quote this section; however, if you wish to check my following statements or read for more detailed information, the ordinance is on our Web page – Chapter 405 Zoning Regulations. The purpose of the ordinance is preservation of the characteristics of our City; i.e. lot sizes (minimum of one acre), building construction, size, etc. Each residential lot has a designated area for building construction. The area is defined by "Building Lines."

These lines are stated as follows:

1. Front yard shall be a depth of not less than 75 feet.
2. Side yard: There shall be a side yard on each side of a building of not less than 25 feet.
3. Rear yard: There shall be a rear yard having a depth of not less than 50 feet.

Any additions are to adhere to these dimensions.

So, let's assume this is the year to make that addition to your home. The zoning ordinance I just discussed may affect your decision. So you can see why it is necessary to have your plans reviewed before getting started. I hope it's obvious these provisions are to protect you and your neighbor's property values. If, as you get outside and survey your domicile and its surroundings, it seems there is always

something needing to be done. When this happens, before making final plans, check City Hall. Why? We have adopted the International Building Code with local modifications. A call might help you in determining specifics for what's needed. Next month I will be writing about "Why Clarkson Valley is a great place to live."

In the meantime, consider these remarks received from citizens a couple of years ago when answering the question: "List one or two things your city was most proud of":

"We have beautiful neighborhoods. With a minimum lot size of one acre, the beauty not only comes from the homes, but the well-manicured properties as well."

"Safety, secure, safe neighborhoods."

"Privacy, with green space."

"Peaceful, quiet and tranquil."

"Responsiveness! Actual people that answer the phone when you call City Hall."

"Lack of intrusive city government."

Nothing like tooting one's own horn!! Having said that, if you answer to the above question "not solving my problem" – call us and tell us the problem. We will respond – 636-227-8607.



**Clarkson Valley Recycling Results through March 2017**

March recycling tonnage: 21.52  
YTD tonnage: 63.89



from us to you

# SPRING IS HERE!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DEAR CLARKSON VALLEY LIVING!  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!**

Exactly two years ago, the very first issue of *Clarkson Valley Living* hit your mailboxes. Two years flies when you are having fun! Chris and I love bringing you *CVL* each month! Not only have we gotten to know a lot of amazing residents over the last 24 months, but we have made lifelong friends, too. It's because you are so willing to share your photos and stories that *CVL* is as loved as it is in the community.

Please make sure to say "thank you" to all our business partners – they are amazing, just like each of you! You can find a list of all the fantastic businesses who make this publication possible each month on pages 6 and 7 (titled Index of Neighborhood Sponsors). Our partners love the Clarkson Valley community, and they want to support your fabulous neighborhood. Make sure to give them a chance to earn your business should you need a product or service.

As always, if you have any stories about your family, a friend, or a neighbor, please send them our way or to Kristy, *CVL's* content manager.

**Chris and Deanna  
Co-Publishers  
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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](mailto:Deanna.Ley@N2Pub.com) for more info!



# Coffee Break



## Fun Facts

- 80% of millionaires drive used cars.
- Americans spend more than 5.4 billion dollars on their pets each year!
- Each day, more than \$40 Trillion Dollars changes hands worldwide.
- It costs about 3 cents to make a \$1 bill in the United States.
- Oil tycoon, John D. Rockefeller, was the world's first billionaire.
- On average, the life span of an American dollar bill is eighteen months.
- The Mint once considered producing doughnut-shaped coins!

23				102
		43		99
	17		2	105
		11	24	81
				115
115	135	102	48	99

## Fill in the missing numbers!

Missing numbers are integers between 0 & 50. Numbers in each row add up to totals to the right. Numbers in each column add up to the totals along the bottom. Diagonal lines also add up to the totals to the right.

Z W U T W A U D P T B Z M T P L M J P P  
 P G G D K C I P S B O W L K G G Y N A R  
 E L F L F C A R X O G T R I F F U Y R T  
 E Z C F C X E M F Y Z M D E L O P Y A M  
 V T H S I R R O N O B P G W M E U O D M  
 N I L K N S Y T C Y R A T I L I M A E E  
 C A N I C S T H Q Y E C E H C I R L Y A  
 B F N T O M E E R B W D E C D M O K A K  
 S C U X D X F R X R N L G Q E Y X O D T  
 E E M W E N A S A E M M M D W V H V L Y  
 N V H L M C S D A D Y D F Z I A O N A H  
 I P Q F A T E A K Y S O D N N N P D I T  
 R X U A Y O K Y W K R G J H P R I N R V  
 A E O I O Q I H N C Z Q Q P R L Y X O W  
 M V P J Z Y B W E U Y S X S O V Y I M V  
 N Z W T M T X S X T B O U H T S J G E I  
 N U T R T C D Z X N P I Z Q M A Z A M G  
 J O A L H A Z K A E R E I D L O S L M O  
 J H F I Y Q F K Z K N E B Q Z H V F B Q  
 P C M F M R X L D R I Z K H O U X K S C

## May is Here!

Search the puzzle for themed words.

Words may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forward and backward.

- AIR FORCE
- ARMED FORCES DAY
- ARMY
- BIKE SAFETY
- CINCO DE MAYO
- FLAG
- HOLIDAY
- KENTUCKY DERBY
- MARINES
- MAY POLE
- MEMORIAL DAY
- MILITARY
- MOTHERS DAY
- NAVY
- PARADE
- SOLDIER

# Help Support Clarkson Valley's YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS!

## 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.

**Leah Forst** - 15 yrs old, Sophomore  
**Service:** Babysitter  
**Phone:** 314.614.0034  
**Email:** rforst@rachelsgrove.com (mom, Rachel)

**Aidan Kline** - 14 years old, Eighth Grade  
**Services:** Dog Walking / Pet Sitting  
**Phone:** 702-321-5365 (mom, Joylin)  
**Email:** joylinkline3@yahoo.com

**Cathryn Rosa** -15 yrs old, Sophomore  
**Services:** Babysitter, Dog Walker  
**Phone:** 860-389-7220 (mom Carol)  
**Email:** rosafab5@sbcglobal.net (mom, Carol)



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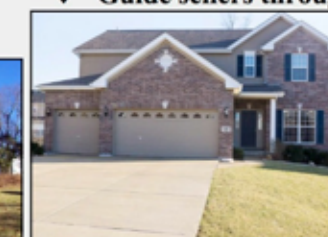
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# News You Can Use

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

WELCOME

Welcome, New Clarkson Valley Living  
Business Partner



If you have any great businesses that you have worked with that you want to introduce to your neighbors, email their info to Deanna at [Deanna.Ley@N2Pub.com](mailto:Deanna.Ley@N2Pub.com).

## Make Sure Your Graduate's Info Is Included!

THE DEADLINE IS FAST APPROACHING!

Our July "All About The Grads" issue is not that far away! We are in the process of reaching out to graduating seniors so we can make sure we have all of their information and photos to include in it.

Please contact Kristy at [Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com](mailto:Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com) if you have a graduating high school senior or know of one who lives in Clarkson Valley.



## We Need Your Pictures And Stories!



Hey, Clarkson Valley! We are always looking for stories and pics to add to the publication. Here's a sampling of what we are looking for:

**Generation Conversation** – A fun way to share a generational chat

between a grandparent and grandchild.

**Living Spaces** – Spotlights a home remodel or favorite room (professional photos taken by CVL's photographer).

**Meet Your Neighbors** – Need to update your family photos? What better way to do so than through this article! (Free photo shoot and print included.)

**Outdoor Oasis** – Spotlights your outdoor living space or yard project

## Want To Win A Gift Card To Walnut Grill?

We are giving away several gift cards to Walnut Grill! All you need to do is email Deanna the name of a local business or two (or 12) that you have used in the past to be entered into our monthly **REFERRAL GIVEAWAY!** We are always looking for great businesses to partner with us in the publication, and companies you already work with are a great place for use to start! Email the name of any great local businesses to [Deanna.Ley@N2Pub.com](mailto:Deanna.Ley@N2Pub.com).

around town

# Happy 2nd Birthday, Clarkson Valley Living!



This May issue is the 2nd birthday edition for Clarkson Valley Living. To celebrate, we asked some residents what they love most about receiving the publication each month.

Here's what they had to say:

"What I love most about Clarkson Valley Living is... the GREAT PICTURES AND ARTICLES about the WONDERFUL PEOPLE and THINGS TO DO in CLARKSON VALLEY! Thanks for CLV every month!"

– Teresa Hoy

"I LOVE Clarkson Valley Living because they helped me to spread the word about the great work that the Kingdom House does to help our neighbors in St Louis City."

– Joan Bender

"I like the articles about the families and what they are involved in. I think spotlighting any awards our residents receive is important. THANKS!"

– Becky Boes

"The entire magazine gets better with each publication, but my husband Bill and I have always especially enjoyed the 'Get to know your neighbors' family feature and also the 'Clarkson Valley Home' feature, which illustrates the beautiful and creative ways in which our neighbors have remodeled and decorated their homes. Keep up the great work. Hope to see you at the next Clarkson Valley get together!!"

– Susan Holthaus

"Factual, friendly and fun stories every month. It is very rewarding to read about your neighbors and other CV residents."

– Colonel Bill Hammerschmidt

"I like the Meet Your Neighbors section. Because the houses are so far apart, it's difficult to get to know your neighbors."

– Frances Babb

"I love that it focuses on families in our community!"

– Anne Randall

"I love the local business reviews!"

– Rebecca Hoffman



# the Waitkus Family

Jeff, Kristina, Eli, Asher, and Grayson

## meet your neighbors

Article written by **Jeff Waitkus** and **Kristy Howard**, and sponsored by **Kehrs Mill Dental Arts**



*Hi! We are the Waitkus family of five and reside on Richborough Road in the Westhampton subdivision. Kristina and I, Jeff, have three children, Eli, 12, Asher, 10, and Grayson, 7. Our family has recently relocated to Clarkson Valley from Albuquerque, NM, where I finished my Active Duty commitment to the Air Force. All three of our children were born there, and still talk about the climate and beauty the southwest has to offer. A unique job opportunity with Boeing brought our family to this wonderful area of Clarkson Valley.*

Kristina and I have been married for 16 years after meeting in college at Marquette University. I am a former Air Force Officer and now work on Aerospace development programs in the Test and Evaluation group at Boeing. Kristina is a physical therapist and is employed at Missouri Baptist Hospital. She is also a health and fitness enthusiast!

Keeping up with three active boys' schedules is a full-time job unto itself – balancing basketball, baseball, soccer, and Boy Scout schedules have been a challenge to say the least. We have a great rescue dog, Duke, who plays with the boys as if he were their little brother – a great supplement to the family that we added after arriving here in Clarkson Valley. Eli plays CYC basketball and baseball, and is active in Boy Scouts. Asher plays on select and CYC soccer teams, and also plays baseball and basketball. Grayson enjoys playing CYC basketball and baseball.

We love doing things together as a family. The boys and I enjoy going to the driving range for a fun evening activity. I love golf and look forward to playing with the boys for years to come. The St. Clare basketball gym is where the Waitkus boys can be found most nights during the winter. Grayson loves to compete against Eli and Asher at basketball, and, well, just about anything else! In addition, Chesterfield baseball fields or West County Lanes are two other places we love to frequent. As for vacation, we have fallen in love with week-long getaways to the Branson area,

providing great shows and Table Rock Lake for fun family boating activities. At home, us boys have some favorite TV shows. Our sons love *The Flash* and *Arrow*, and I watch *Sherlock*, *Elementary*, and just finished the *Justified* series.

Kristina is a great cook and enjoys finding new, tasty, super healthy menus in whatever spare time (what's that?) she can find. Her electronic books have rekindled her love of reading as well. Our favorite family dinners, though, are her homemade pizza and build-your-own taco buffet. Kristina also volunteers at St. Clare as a lunchroom aide and is an avid contributor to the baking committee! She and Eli attended 21 Pilots concert this past year at Scottrade Center and are now hooked!

I am a long-time, long-suffering, but now ecstatic Cubs fan; my boys quickly turned on me upon moving to the magical land of the Cardinals! Our family rabidly roots for the Green Bay Packers as well. I also serve on the St. Clare school board and was the campaign lead for the parish's Beyond Sunday Campaign. I have served in numerous assistant coaching roles with my boys' baseball and soccer teams as well.

Our family has yet to find true staple restaurants in St. Louis... suggestions welcome! For date night, Kristina and I enjoy going to Edgewild. We love this area for the wide open, big yard layouts and our neighborhood lake. The lake offers plenty of distractions for young boys to go fishing, frogging, or just skipping rocks.

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We live on a large circle drive, and it is great for the boys to walk their dog, Duke, or ride bikes, scooters, or roller-skates without traffic concerns. The neighborhood has wonderful, friendly folks, and we felt right at home immediately upon moving in.

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The Waitkus 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 and 16x24 print from photographer Kim Eichelberger of Eichelberger Photography. Contact Kristy at [Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com](mailto:Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com).



## Winter Pear, Pomegranate and Swiss Salad

with Poppy Seed Dressing



### delicious dish

From the kitchen of **Ann Randall** and sponsored by **Just Around The Corner Flooring**

*I found this recipe on a food blog (House of Nash Eats), and it is delicious. The ingredients compliment each other very well!*

### Ingredients

#### Dressing:

- 1 cup sugar
- 2 tsp. dry mustard
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2/3 cup apple cider vinegar
- 2 cups vegetable oil
- 3 Tbsp. grated onion
- 2 Tbsp. poppy seeds

#### Salad:

- 1 head Romaine lettuce, washed and dried
- 1 pomegranate
- 1 pear (Bartlett or D'Anjou)
- 1/2 cup pecans
- 1 cup grated Swiss cheese

### Directions

#### Dressing:

In a medium pot, combine the sugar, dry mustard, salt, and apple cider vinegar over medium heat. Cook for 4-5 minutes, stirring occasionally, just until the sugar completely dissolves, then remove from heat.

Slowly pour the two cups of oil into the cider mixture, whisking constantly while adding. Add the grated onion and poppy seed to the warm dressing, and whisk well.

Pour into a large jar or divide among multiple small jars and refrigerate until chilled. Shake well before serving.

#### Salad:

Slice the pear into thin slices and remove the pomegranate seeds from the skin of the pomegranate.

Coarsely chop the lettuce and pecans, and then grate the Swiss cheese.

Combine all salad ingredients in a bowl, and then toss or plate each salad individually.

Serve with the poppyseed dressing, and enjoy!



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

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# The ROSS HOME, Reinvented

living spaces  
Article written by Lauren Ross and sponsored by DiPasquale Painting

We are the Ross family, including my husband, Evan; me (Lauren); sons Liam, 8, and Anderson, 5. We moved from Chicago to our home in Clarkson Valley four years ago, and purchased an older home with the intent of remodeling and restyling most of the rooms in the house. We thought the house had good bones and interesting architectural details, so we knew a little paint and imagination would really bring out the beauty of this home.

Our home in Chicago was smaller, so we needed to add furniture to fill the rooms. At the time, I was learning about painting, staining and rehabbing older furniture, and started going to estate sales and consignment shops on the hunt for pieces for my house. I found that this became a passion of mine and began a business called Hello Again Furniture.

We did a big push to remodel when we moved in and put in a new kitchen, redid most of the floors, painted every wall, installed new windows, and remodeled most bathrooms. We're saving some rooms for later! Sal's Construction remodeled the kitchen and upstairs bathroom, Steve's Flooring installed wood floors, and Certa-Pro painters stripped wallpaper and did the painting.

My favorite room is our dining room because it has a clean, modern, and simple vibe with unexpected angles and a fireplace, which we love. It is a space free of clutter and has lots of natural lighting coming through the windows. Omitting curtains here keeps the modern feel and maximizes light. I repainted and restyled all the furniture in this room; the dining tables and chairs were some of the first pieces I re-did. This started a fun adventure, and I have now re-done over 100 pieces! The strong whites, blacks and greys, with just a pop of color, are meant to be a contrast to the more important things in the room – the people at the table. If we're lucky, they bring the color!

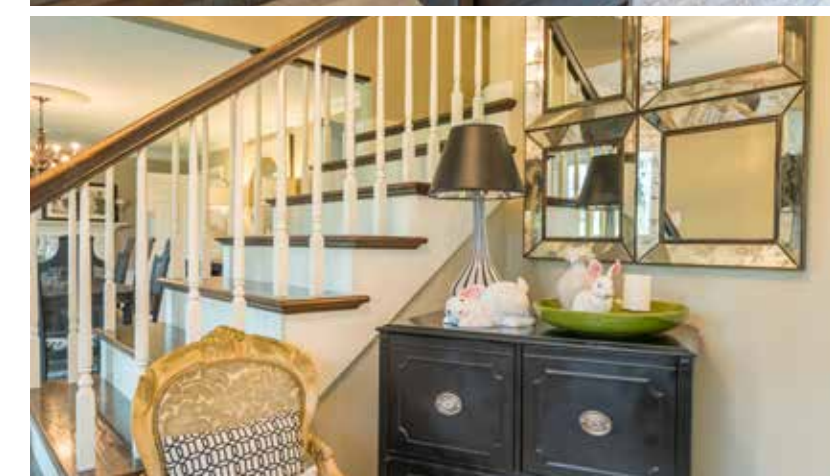


Photos taken by Kim Eichelberger of Eichelberger Photography



We are so happy with our home now. My advice to you is, don't be afraid of consignment shops or vintage furniture. It is usually higher quality and can be completely transformed with some imagination. No need to buy matching sets; show your personality by throwing in that random chair or painting you love. Let your home be yours!

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.Howard@N2Pub.com](mailto:Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com) to be featured.



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Crusaders basketball team (Payton second from left)



# Meet Payton Fisher



**amazing athlete**

Article written by Payton herself with a little help from her mom, Amy, and sponsored by **Ries Orthodontics**

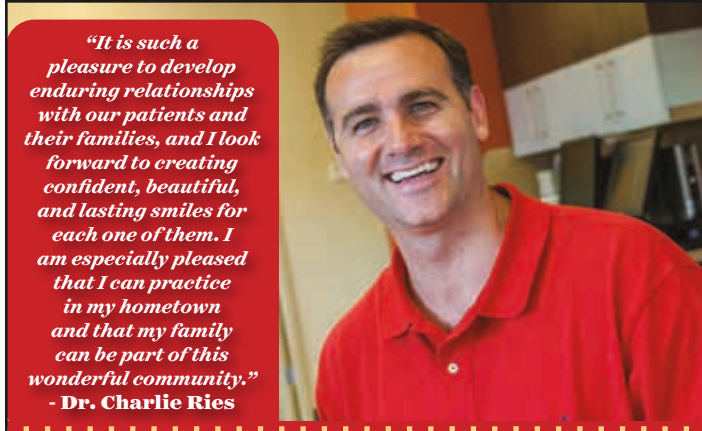
Payton Fisher, 12, daughter of Matt and Amy Fisher of Kehrs Mill Trail, attends Assumption and plays on the St. Louis Scott Gallagher's U13 Pre ECNL Elite team, as well as her Assumption CYC team. She also has an older sister, Malia, that attends St. Joseph Academy and an older brother, Brayden, who attends DeSmet.

Payton has been playing soccer since she was 4 and specializes in playing Midfield Wing. Her SLSG Elite team won the Missouri State Cup Championship in 2016, and her Assumption CYC team were the 2016 CYC Champions. Her favorite 2016 soccer moments were winning the Missouri State Cup with her SLSG Elite team and when she kicked a goal from the 18-yard line to guarantee the win for her Assumption team to become the CYC Champions.

Not only does Payton play soccer, but she has played basketball since age 9 as a guard for Crusaders Basketball, where, in 2015, her team was the CNR Champions. Clearly Payton is very busy with her soccer career and hopes to play in high school where she plans to attend St. Joseph Academy. Her hopes are to continue playing soccer in college. In her "free" time she enjoys socializing with friends and love any kind of competition! Payton's advice to other kids in Clarkson Valley is to "find something you are passionate about and go after it with everything you have!"

**Congratulations, Payton, to all your successes! Clarkson Valley will be rooting for you along your future path!**

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](mailto:Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com) to be featured.



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## kids will be kids

Article written by Harper himself with a little help from his mom

# Meet the Very Spunky HARPER CASH!

**Mom:** Tell our Clarkson Valley neighbors a bit about yourself.

**Harper:** I am 8. Not really, Mom... I'm 4. I just say I'm 8. I go to Ellisville Weekday Preschool.

**What's your favorite movie?**

My favorite movies are *Star Wars* and *Wreck it Ralph*.

**What's your favorite music?**

Jazz and Joy FM

**Do you play any sports?**

I play soccer, baseball, and football.

**Do you play any musical instruments?**

None yet, but I want to learn pinano (*piano*), drums, kuitar (*guitar*).

**What are your hobbies?**

I play football, cook with Mom, make cookies, play football on the X-Box, go fishing, paint.

**What are your favorite vacation spots?**

Boca (*Boca Raton*), Disney World, Football Game (?)

**Do you have any upcoming challenges?**

The government is complicated. I want to learn to ride a bike. I want to play football with my brother without him always intercepting it.

**Tell us something else about you that's unique.**

I have a brother and a sister. I love to do things with my family.



**What do you want to be when you grow up?**

I want to be a baseball player, a football player, or Darth Vader... but a good Darth Vader.

**Anything else you want to share?**

I want a puppy that looks like a little teddy bear.



**Hey kids – do you want to be the superstar of the neighborhood?**

Do you want to share with the neighborhood any and all things that are important to kids your age? All you have to do is ask your parents to email Kristy at [Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com](mailto:Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com).



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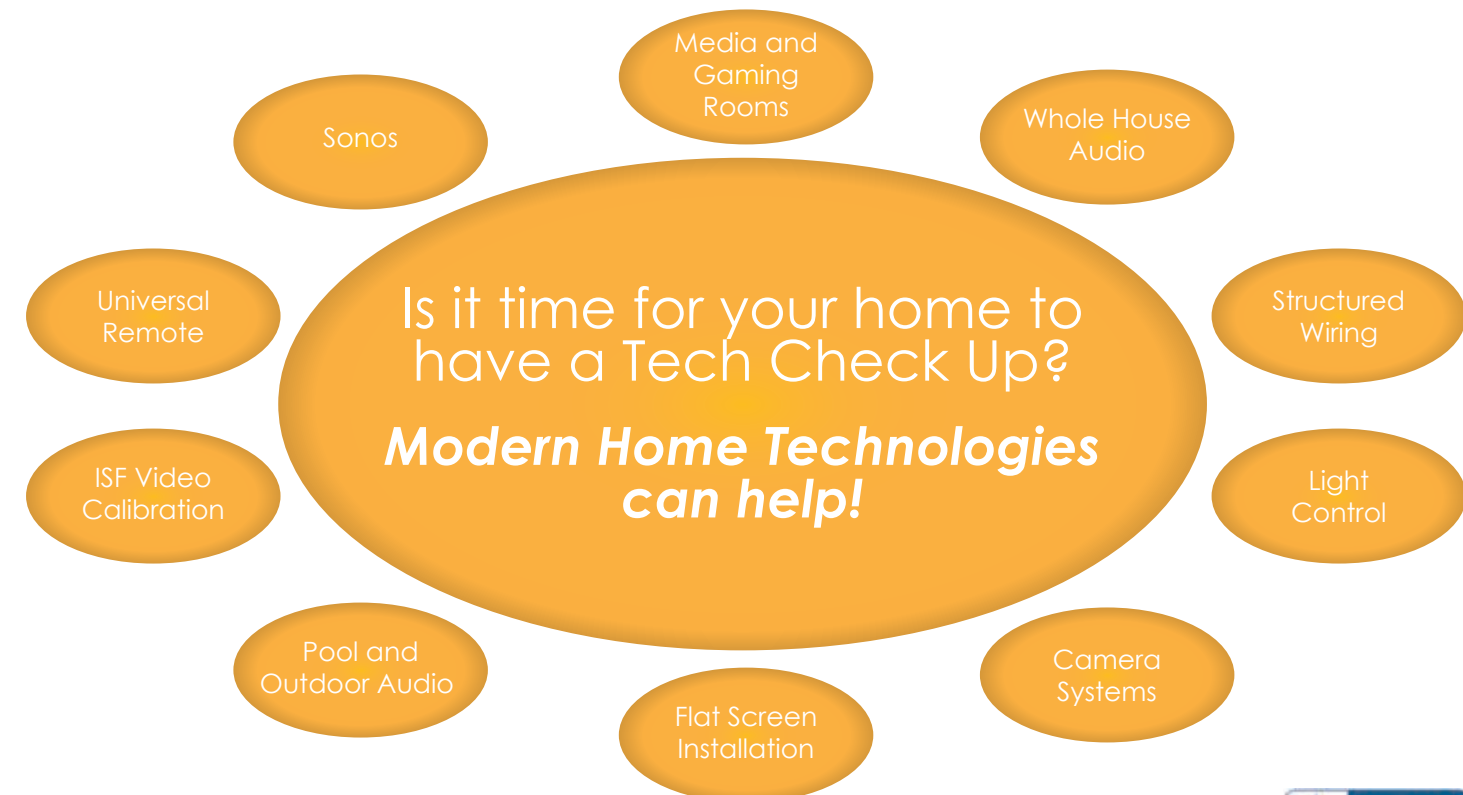
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## A CONVERSATION BETWEEN GRANDPA JOE AND GRANDSON NATHAN

### generation conversation

Article written by resident **Joe Salerno** and his grandson **Nathan**, and sponsored by **Darnell Construction**.

Joe Salerno has been a long-time resident of Clarkson Valley. His grandson Nathan is 10 years old and is in fourth grade. Both very much enjoyed interviewing each other!

#### What makes you happy?

*Papa:* My family of six kids, 19 grandkids and nine great-grandkids makes me happy. I love when my family is near me. I love being with you, Nathan.

*Nathan:* Playing Minecraft because it gives me inspiration.

#### What do you want to be when you grow up and why?

*Papa:* At your age I wanted to be a professional football player. I played football in college and was captain of the team.

*Nathan:* I want to be a physicist because I love physics.

#### What's one way the world is/was different when you were my age?

*Papa:* There are so many differences. All the kids in the neighborhood played together in the street. We played football and baseball while our parents helped each other. If someone had a fence that needed repair, everyone helped to get it done. If a baby was sick, the ladies in the neighborhood would care for the other children or make meals for the family. Someone was always helping someone. We did life together.

*Nathan:* I think the world will be very high-tech.

#### QUESTIONS PAPA ASKED NATHAN

##### What's your favorite family tradition?

My favorite family tradition is Christmas with the family celebrating the birth of Jesus, which is very important.

#### What kind of chores do you do at home? What are you saving money to buy?

I sweep, take out the trash, do my own laundry on Mondays and read to my little sister. Although that is not much of a chore because it is kind of fun. I am saving to buy a game called No Man's Sky.

#### What's your favorite thing to do with me?

I like to be with you. I like when we watch the news, sports, stocks, and debate politics. I like that you sometimes watch *Ninjago* with me. I like how you tell me that is your favorite show. I love sharing ice cream with you.

#### Who is your hero? Why?

My mom is my hero because she is my mother and I always look up to her.

#### QUESTIONS NATHAN ASKED PAPA

##### Is there a story behind the name I call you? What is it?

*Papa:* Papa is a family tradition which comes from Italy. My parents were born in Salerno, Italy.

#### What's your favorite memory of your own grandfather or grandmother?

*Papa:* Every Sunday we had to be at my grandmother's house for Sunday Pasta. My dad was the oldest of nine kids. There were six boys and three girls and many cousins. We were a big family. We had a great time because everyone in the family was there every Sunday.

#### Can you tell me about the first time we ever met?

That was a very special day. I went and bought 18 big blue balloons with your name on them and came over to your house with Nanie. We were so excited to hold you and meet you. You are our 18th grandchild.

#### What's your favorite part of having grandchildren?

Papa: My favorite thing about having grandchildren is when everyone is over. Seeing everyone happy and well is a blessing to me. That makes me happy.

#### What was Mom/Dad like when they were my age? Do I remind you of them in any ways?

Your mother was very adventurous. She loved playing in the woods and exploring. It wasn't uncommon for her to come home with muddy shoes, some smooth stones and a happy face. She had a beautiful singing voice; she still does. She had her own business singing in weddings that she began when she was 14 years old. She did this for many years and was very successful. She was always helping your Nanie. She was very, very smart. You remind me of your mother because you both love science. You are both very smart. And you are both adventurous.



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](mailto:Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com).

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precious pets

Article written by Percy with the help of his human mom, Jill Krogan, and sponsored by English Sweep.



Meet Buddy & Percy Krogan

Percy on left, Buddy on right

They say that old dogs can't learn new tricks, but we can make new friends! I'm Buddy, and my owners brought me to Dunhill last year because they love the homes, large lots, nice neighbors and the dog-friendly environment. Then, after nearly 12 years as a one-dog family, my owners adopted a new dog. His name is Percy, and he is an 8-year-old Blue Heeler.

Percy is a country dog from Cabool, MO. I am a suburban dog adopted in Phoenix, AZ, and I spent a summer in California, five years in northern New Jersey, and now call MO my home. I like the deer here a lot better than the bears in New Jersey!

Percy's family moved and left him behind, so he needed a lot of attention when he came to our house. He needed two baths right away because he had lived outside for months. Once he smelled better, I noticed that my family started petting him a lot. At first I was worried that I would miss out on affection, but then I remembered that I am part Chow, which makes me super soft, so people still want to pet me all the time! Percy is a gentle and sweet guy, and he knows that I'm in charge. The only thing I don't like is that he won't let me steal his treats from him! I share my bed, my toys and my owners without a problem so I don't know what the big deal is!

Because we are a little older, my family jokes that we live in a retirement home for dogs. We take three short walks a day and lots of naps (as seen in the photo!). Neither of us are learning any new tricks, but we all love our home in Dunhill and the fantastic new friendships we've made!

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](mailto:Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com) to have them featured in an upcoming issue.



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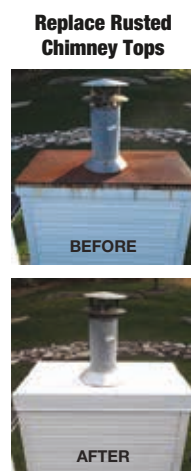


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Brian Darnell literally grew up around woodworking. His great-grandfather and grandfather operated a lumberyard in rural Kansas, and Brian's earliest memories are of time spent there with them. His grandfather taught him woodworking skills, and his passion for excellence and quality in construction began.

After graduating from high school, Brian began working as an apprentice for a homebuilder. There he learned about the business and how quality homes were built. He then went on to work with a master craftsman who produced high-quality cabinetry and furniture. Again, learning that excellence was the goal of each project they produced.

This desire for excellence was instilled in Brian from an early age, and he was fortunate to work for two companies that solidified these values. Brian knew that when he started out on his own, in 1997, that excellence was the goal in all things related to the work he would perform for his clients.

"I have never had this goal of doing an incredible volume of business," Brian shared. "I would rather work intimately with the homeowners and help bring their vision to life as opposed to having so many projects going that I cannot control the quality of work." Quality is the highest priority for Brian. In fact, he insists on a clean work environment and organization for all the projects he works on.

"I have acquired jobs, one in Clarkson Valley in particular, simply because of the attention to detail I put into the bidding process." He went on. "I strive to make the experience different for the client from the beginning. I am not the cheapest, certainly not the most expensive, but I always show the client that I take this

very serious and that starts with being organized and emphasize quality from the start."

With more than 30 years of experience in the construction industry, Brian has used his experience and skills to bring beautiful designs to life. "I had a great experience and was also one of my favorite clients to work for, which was also a project in Clarkson Valley. The husband was very focused on the numbers and appreciated my approach, and the wife had a vision of the kitchen island she wanted and simply could not find someone who could grasp her ideas." As Brian listened to her, he was then able to sketch a concept of what she wanted, and when she saw the drawing, she said, "That's it!" Not only did he create the custom island for her she always wanted, he went on to remodel the rest of their home because he showed them that collaborating with them and bringing amazing quality was his strength. "It is experiences like this that bring me joy." Brian shared. "I truly enjoy being able to bring a client's vision to life."

"I enjoy the design process quite a bit. I have experience in mechanical and architectural drawing, and use CAD software and even old-school paper and pencil to help clients design what they are looking for." Brian said, "And for me, what is hidden behind the sheetrock is just as important as to what is on the surface that the homeowners see every day." This attention to detail is what sets Brian apart from his competitors.

If you are considering a kitchen or bath remodel, finishing a basement, adding a room addition or building your dream home – Brian brings to your project the experience and expertise that you expect. He can be reached at 636-928-4002, and you can see some of his work as well and read testimonials at [www.DarnellSTL.com](http://www.DarnellSTL.com).



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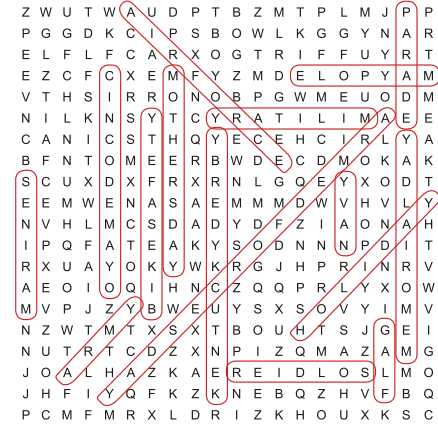
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## EATS & TREATS



**Welcome to our Eats & Treats Guide!**

Here you will find local restaurants, bakeries, eateries, cafés, drinking establishments, and other great places to enjoy your time out!

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

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The Harrell ladies with preschool children. The lesson was reading *The Hungry Frog* (La Rana Goltana), which included a fun frog craft, complete with a noisemaker tongue!



## making a difference

Article written by Julie Harrell  
and sponsored by Allen Roofing and Siding



In rural areas, it is even more difficult for children to continue their education, as parents need the children to work in order to earn money in the coffee fields. Six villages came together to create a weaving co-op, where the women sell textiles to tourists, and the money goes to educating the children. Julie Harrell being fitted.



# A TRIP WITH A Purpose

The Harrell family has found themselves immeasurably enriched by the people of Guatemala and by the organization Common Hope. The family of five has resided in Clarkson Valley since 2009, and includes husband, Kent, wife, Julie, daughters Eva and Vivien, (both attend Marquette High School), and son, Charlie, who attends Crestview Middle School.



The Harrells spend time in the warehouse packing emergency food bags for families in need. Students are often only one crisis away from dropping out of school and going to work to support the family. When these emergency food bags are provided to a family in crisis, students can stay in school.

About 15 years ago, the Harrell family began to sponsor children in Guatemala through Common Hope. Common Hope's Mission is to promote hope and opportunity in Guatemala, partnering with children, families, and communities who want to participate in a process of development to improve their lives through education, health care, and housing. Sponsorship entails several things: building a relationship with the student either by writing or visiting, with the ultimate goal of encouraging the child to continue in his or her studies. It also includes being a financial resource; the small amount of \$360.00 per year goes a long way toward paying for the family's education and clothing. The Harrells have sponsored two children who have gone on to graduate from high school. Their third sponsored student will graduate in November.

In 2014, after Eva had been studying Spanish for three years, Julie decided it was time to join a Vision Team and meet their sponsored children. Julie, Eva and Julie's sister-in-law, Kim, went on the first trip. They found the people of Guatemala to be beautiful and kind, but they also encountered inordinate poverty. Common Hope is located in Antigua, which is a beautiful, colonial city surrounded by breathtaking volcanoes and coffee fields. Many people still dress in the traditional woven clothing of the Mayan people.

This trip was such an amazing experience that they returned again in 2016, and this time the trip included Julie, Eva, Vivien, Charlie, and their Aunt Kim. The family learned a lot from the people of Guatemala and hopefully had something to offer the people there as well. The whole family worked on their Spanish skills and got ready to interact in a variety of ways, perhaps most



As part of the Vision Team Experience, participants visit a local elementary school. Julie and Vivien Harrell played tag and soccer with these tireless students!

importantly by building a home with a family who had worked sweat equity hours to earn it. Vision team activities also included a sponsored child visit, house building, a preschool activity, a social work visit, *A Day in the Life* visit, food bank work, an elementary school visit, and a co-op experience and a tour of the city. The experience has been life-changing for the Harrell family.

If you are interested in learning more, or would like to sponsor a child, please visit [www.commonhope.org](http://www.commonhope.org).



Do you have a fun or interesting hobby, collection or talent, or do you volunteer for a great organization? If so, please contact Kristy at [Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com](mailto:Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com) to set up a time for your interview.

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# MOD Pizza, Salads and More

On Tuesday, March 28, families from Clarkson Valley gathered at MOD Pizza, located at 15809 Fountain Plaza Dr., to enjoy fresh, fact pizzas and salads.

MOD is the original superfast pizza experience. The artisan-style pizzas and salads are individually sized, made on demand, and ready in just minutes. You can choose from over 30 toppings, and the price stays the same!

Many of the residents had never dined at MOD before, and were impressed with the speed and the serving sizes. We all want to thank Rob McDonald (GM) and the staff for taking such good care of us!

**Here is what some of the residents had to say:**

*"We enjoyed the thin crust, and the ingredients were very fresh. It appears to be a very good value"* – Carol and Gary P.

*"I love the 'make your own' pizza. Love the freshness."* – Carol R.

*"I would recommend – huge serving for the price!"* – Cliff W.

*"The pizza was fresh and hot, the salad had a great variety of toppings. We would recommend MOD because you get to choose what you want!"* – Teresa and Randy H.

*"The seating and atmosphere are great. Very speedy and great variety of toppings."* – Rebecca H.

*"I really enjoyed 'The Tristan' pizza because of the thin crust and the pesto finish. It's a great place for a quick bite with friends!"* – Cathryn R.

If you are looking for a great place to eat out with the kids that is fast, clean and super fast, take a quick run over to MOD and have a great evening out for a great value!

To learn more, check out MOD at [www.MODPizza.com](http://www.MODPizza.com).

**DISCLAIMER:** The business reviewed in this section provided products and/or services free of charge in exchange for this review.



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### lawn & garden

By N2 Staff Writer Amy Lynne Howlett

too; many flowers and herbs do well in window boxes. Vines and flowering plants make the most of vertical space naturally. A trellis adorned with a clematis adds beauty, color and fragrance to your patio and also makes an attractive privacy barrier to ward off your nosy neighbor!

#### Go mini

Dwarf plants have become increasingly popular and for good reason: they offer the benefits of full-sized plants but are compact enough for small space gardening. Dwarf breeds are available in most plant groups including vegetables, flowering shrubs and fruit trees. Planting dwarf varieties is an economical use of space and broadens the scope of what you can plant in a confined area. Do you love hydrangeas but don't have 4 square feet to spare? The dwarf variety is mature at a modest 1½-2 feet. Dwarf forsythia provides a vibrant splash of color, yet only stands 1½-2½ feet tall. Even gardeners without space restrictions are interested in dwarf varieties because their smaller size makes them easier to maintain and fit into landscape designs. As with any garden selection, consider the plant's rate of growth, mature size and light requirements before purchasing.

With thoughtful planning and a little creativity, you can transform an empty, small space into a charming garden with the capability and variety of those twice its size. Think vertically, select your plants strategically, and take your garden from bitty to bountiful!

## small gardens

*From Bitty To Bountiful!*

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 63 percent of the U.S. population live in cities that cumulatively comprise a mere 3.5 percent of U.S. land. As the number of urban dwellers continues to rise, innovative gardening methods have made it possible to add lush beauty amid a sea of city concrete and enjoy the luxury of fresh produce in metropolitan and other cramped areas. To successfully garden in small spaces, gardeners have to adapt by thinking vertically and selecting plants wisely.

#### Go vertical

When you can no longer expand, then it's time to go up. Think beyond your neighbors' ordinary hanging baskets; to grow a wide variety or large quantity of plants, consider a garden tower; a large soil-filled cylinder with numerous pockets cut around the outside for planting. Multi-pot wall planters, which resemble a set of stairs with a pot on each step, are especially convenient for apartment balconies. Make use of your windowsills and railings,

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The beds should be free of weeds, leaves, and debris before raking them smooth.

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2048 Kingspointe Dr.	Kingspointe	\$775,000	\$739,000	1/19/17	4	4.5	4510	3
10 Kehrs Mill Glen	Kehrs Mill Glen	\$699,500	\$610,000	12/8/16	5	6	4257	3
1 Forest Club Dr.	Forest Hills Club Estates	\$595,000	\$585,000	10/14/16	4	4	2976	2
16747 Kehrs Mill Estates Dr.	Kehrs Mill Estates	\$595,000	\$580,000	11/15/16	6	4	3034	3
2259 Whitby Rd.	Westhampton	\$559,900	\$540,000	9/28/16	5	5	3378	2
1 Greenbank Dr.	Forest Hills	\$575,000	\$537,500	2/10/17	3	3.5	3093	2
16720 Kehrs Grove Dr.	Kehrs Mill Estates	\$525,000	\$5,070,500	3/8/17	4	3.5	2911	2
122 Highgrove Lane	Forest Hills	\$499,900	\$495,000	10/3/16	5	4	2958	2
2 Clarkson Farm Dr.	Clarkson Farm Estates	\$439,900	\$430,000	12/16/16	4	4	2999	3
15973 Kettington Rd.	Westhampton	\$459,000	\$420,000	12/12/16	4	2.5	2594	2
2319 Richborough Rd.	West Hampton	\$449,900	\$420,000	3/17/17	4	2.5	2625	2
241 Fox Chapel Ln.	Forest Hills Club Estates	\$425,000	\$375,000	11/18/16	4	3	2902	2

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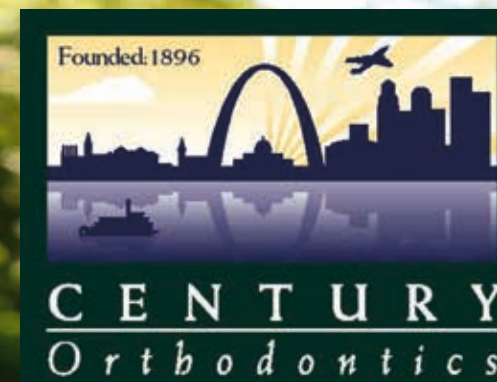
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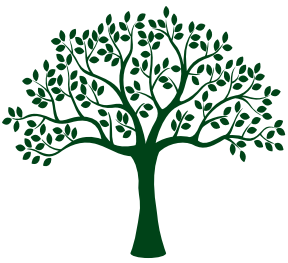
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