



Neighborhood News



Winter 2010

P.O. Box 511366, Livonia, MI 48151

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www.clementscircle.org



A Death in the Family *Matthew May*



Marcus delivering package to Evan Tasdemir

Anyone who lives in our neighborhood knew when the mail was about to arrive when Marcus was on his route. Marcus has been our regular letter carrier for the last couple of years. Built like a tank, he indeed played some

college football at Mississippi State, served in the Marines Corps, too. The furthest thing from stoic, Marcus always signaled his arrival with booming laughter and animated conversations with the residents of the neighborhood or whoever had the pleasure of being on the other end of the Blue Tooth device seemingly stapled to his ear.

But we won't be seeing Marcus around the neighborhood anymore. Marcus was murdered last week. He often went to Detroit to check on his mother, who still resided there. In the course of attempting to stop a burglary in his mother's home early Wednesday morning, he was shot in the back and killed.

It is a good rule of thumb to avoid using the terms "always" and "never" as much as possible. But never could anyone catch Marcus in a bad mood on his mail route. He always had a smile, a wave, and more likely his signature baritone laugh accompanying his smiling greeting and a shake of the hand.

Letter from the President *John Tasdemir*



Its been a long and cold winter, but the thaw is near and spring will warm our homes for a great year in 2010. CCCA has many activities planned for everyone in the community. So please read this

newsletter to learn what our your neighborhood association has planned throughout the year. The first event planned is the ever important General Assembly held March 29, for a new Board will be

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Special points of interest:

- **Meet the Neighbors** see page 2.
- **Don't forget to pay your 2010 CCCA Dues!**



WANTED: WELCOMERS

Dear Neighbors,

The Welcoming Committee is looking for additional volunteers to help meet and greet new residents in our neighborhood. If you are interested in joining the committee (or perhaps taking over as committee chair), please send me your contact information.

As a committee member, your duties include:

Receiving monthly updates with a list of new sales in our neighborhood from the Welcome Chair.

Volunteering to welcome one or two houses per month.

Receiving welcome packets from the Welcome Chair.

Delivering the welcome packets to the houses that you volunteer for.

As the Welcome Chair, you would be responsible for:

Receiving a monthly e-mail from a local realtor with the new sales in our neighborhood.

Distributing the sale list to your committee members and asking for volunteers.

Picking up welcome packets from the Chamber of Commerce office (typically done once every 3-4 months).

Updating the welcome packets with folders containing information about the CCCA.

Distributing welcome packets to the volunteers as needed.

The duties of both the Welcome Chair and committee members only require about one day of effort per month. It's a great way to meet your surrounding neighbors while getting more involved in the CCCA organization. If you'd like to join the committee, please contact me and I will add you to my volunteer distribution list. Finally, I'd like to say a huge THANK YOU to realtor Kim Lindsay of Remerica Country Place for providing the list of new sales in our neighborhood each month. This has made the job of tracking home sales much easier and ensures that we're greeting as many of our new neighbors as possible.

Thanks,

Heather Penzenstadler, Welcome Committee Chair

penzenst@gmail.com

Meet the Neighbors

Jillian Schoenborn



Shayla and her husband, Zak, moved into the neighborhood in October 2007. They are new to Livonia and were excited to find just what they were looking for in our neighborhood! Shayla is often seen around the neighborhood walking her puggle/lab dog named Hank.

Shayla recently started her own catering company called Camden Street Casseroles. She delivers all meals free within a 15 mile radius! The casseroles look so yummy, check out her website www.CamdenStreetCasseroles.com and order your dinner today!

President's Letter continued

elected to continue bringing our neighborhood a community where everyone calls home. This will be my last message to the community after 2 year of being president and 4 years on the board of CCCA. This will also be my last issue as a member of the community, for my wife and I have decided to move after 7 years in our home. We have met many wonderful people and made great friends that we will never forget. This neighborhood has truly become a part of our family, and we only hope our next neighborhood will be as half as great as Clements Circle. Please continue making this a fantastic place to live by supporting CCCA by renewing or becoming a member this year.

Sincerely, John Tasdemir

2010 Calendar of Events

- 29 March - General Assembly Meeting, Emerson Middle School @ 7pm
- 31 July - Annual CCCA Neighborhood Picnic Celebration
- 3 April - Easter Egg Hunt, Wilson Barn @ 11am
- 18 October - Fall General Assembly Meeting & Candidate's Night
- 1 May - Clements Circle Park Cleanup, Take Pride in Livonia @ 10 am
- 11 December - Christmas Celebration, Wilson Barn
- 5 June - Neighborhood Garage Sale, All Day

Please visit www.ClementsCircle.org for all the latest event information.

2010 CCCA General Assembly on March 29 (Monday) @ 7pm

Heather Penzenstadler

At the General Election on **March 29th**, the CCCA will be holding elections for officer positions. Nominations for all positions will be taken at the general meeting and you must be present to be nominated and/or vote in the election. The meeting will be held at the **Emerson Middle School at 7pm**, so please mark your calendars and plan on attending the most important meeting for everyone in the community. Everyone is welcome!

The following is a list of the officer positions and examples of typical duties. All officers are considered CCCA Board Members. The Board meets on a monthly basis to discuss matters pertaining to the neighborhood, such as upcoming social events, and to oversee the activities of all sub-committees. Board members are expected to attend at least 9 board meetings throughout the year. In addition, each Board member is encouraged to chair one special event.

- ✦ **President** – Represents the organization and executes decisions reached by the Board.
 - Leads monthly Board meetings.
 - Acts as a neighborhood representative in dealings with City government.
 - Sets the Calendar of Events, along with input from Board Members.
 - Oversees the printing and distribution of the quarterly newsletter.
- ✦ **Vice President** – Carry out the duties of President in the event of vacancy.
 - Performs tasks as assigned by the Board.
 - Fills in for the President when necessary.
- ✦ **Secretary** – Records and maintains written correspondence.
 - Records meeting minutes at each Board meeting.
 - Distributes meeting minutes to Board members.
 - Maintains a record of all meeting minutes and general correspondence.
- ✦ **Treasurer** – Keeps financial records for the association.
 - Collects and deposits membership dues.
 - Collects and deposits advertising fees.
 - Writes checks as agreed upon by the Board.
 - Provides a monthly status report of the budget to the Board
- ✦ **Directors** – 5 positions, Govern the organization by policies and objectives
 - Assign priorities and ensure the organization's capacity to carry out programs by continually reviewing its work

In addition to the officers, there are several special committees that need additional volunteers and chairpersons. These are not elected positions, and can be staffed on an as-needed basis. If you would like to volunteer for any of these duties, please contact the CCCA President.

- ✦ **Special Event Volunteers** – Provide assistance in organizing or conducting activities in relation to special events.
 - Purchase food and/or decorations for events.
 - Solicit donations from local businesses.
 - Reserve the Barn, pavilion, or alternate meeting locations as needed.
 - Distribute signs around the neighborhood to announce upcoming events.
 - Help with setup, such as sweeping, cleaning tables, arranging furniture, etc.
 - Run games and distribute prizes.
 - Help with clean up, sweeping, throwing away trash, etc.
- ✦ **Welcome Committee** – Welcomes new residents into the Clements Circle neighborhood.
 - Gather welcome packets from City Hall and insert additional information about the CCCA.
 - Distribute the completed welcome packets to all welcome committee members.
 - Track and maintain a list of recently sold homes in the neighborhood.
 - Organize volunteers to welcome the new neighbors.

A Death in the Family (continued)

Even when he was visibly fatigued on an oppressively hot day or admitted with a wink he had been out a little late the night before, he never failed to mention how blessed he was and how God was looking out for him. He was never in too much of a hurry to finish his route to stop and chat. He had the endearing habit of alternating the colloquial "What's up today, brother?" with "How you doing, Mr. May?" - despite repeated pleas to cease with the formal.

More importantly than his interaction with the homeowners along his route, Marcus laughed with our children, exchanged fives, mimicked their dancing, and lifted them up in the air when returning their hugs. They trusted him implicitly. Just last week, our four year-old daughter was discussing plans to help make up a box of Christmas cookies especially for Marcus, so fond of an impression he had made on her. Marcus was a pied piper with a mail satchel.

The weapon used to end the life of Marcus is immaterial. The killer could have had a knife or wielded a machete. The salient aspect of his murder is the culture of death and destruction that has been eroding the city of Detroit for decades. Do not speak of the "root causes" of such violence unless you intend to speak of the corruption, greed, and avarice of those who have been "serving" the city for those same decades.

Such avarice breeds contempt and, really, evil. The motivation behind the action of taking another's life in pursuit of a few material things for temporary gain is not that of the desperation caused by Detroit's economy, but that of the rotting souls of human beings who have consigned themselves through their choices, their actions, and their votes to live and act as barbarians.

Oh, is that too harsh? As the orator Edward Everett said, "In grave matters it is best to call things by their right names."

Marcus didn't live in our neighborhood. But he was as much a fixture as any mom with a stroller or the familiar faces walking to school every morning. The bullets that ended his life ripped a gaping hole in our neighborhood. The sadness is palpable. No matter what good news may be within, receiving the mail around here will never be as joyful and bright. Never.

Clements Circle Civic Association · CCCA · 2010 Membership \$10

HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION:

Member First name

Last name

Spouse First name

Last name

Mailing address

City/State/Zip

Phone # Home

Phone # Mobile

Primary Email

Secondary Email

Children: Name

Age Group (circle)

0 - 5 6 - 12 13 +

0 - 5 6 - 12 13 +

0 - 5 6- 12 13+

Are you a New CCCA member?

Y N

Are you interested in becoming involved in CCCA Board activities

Y N

Please list your interests: Event Planning Youth Activities Newsletter Welcomer

How many individuals live in your household? _____

Membership Fee is Only \$10 per Household

Make \$10 Check Payable to: CCCA

Method of Payment (Check circle one): Personal Check Cash Money Order

Mail this form to: CCCA P.O. Box 511366, Livonia, MI 48151

Any membership questions can be directed to: membership@clementscircle.org or 734.237.3606

You can also join on-line by going to: www.Clementcircle.org/join