



# YOUR Life / YOUR Way

## Find it; Own it; Live it!

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

MARCH/APRIL, 2012

### From Our President - Chrissie McClure ...



Happy Springtime everyone! I hope that everyone is stopping to smell the roses and

listen to the birds, at least once in awhile.

I always find these President letters difficult to write. For those of you who know me, you may find it funny that I can actually be at a loss for words- EVER! I know that everyone (myself included) has been on edge awaiting the proposed cuts that will be

coming. The truth is, we have not been given any information yet except for the 3 elementary buildings that are closing at the end of this school year.

I would also like to remind everyone that we are a part of the collaborative effort with Ellen McWilliams and Carla Sibley for the Customer Service/Mentoring Program. This information was given to school secretaries during Opening School In-Service and given to everyone else after school started. This committee was designed to assist newly hired employees and people

who have had a major job change become familiar with APS procedures, staff and any other training that may need to be completed. It also addresses the Customer Service piece where concerns that are brought to someone's attention are addressed. If anyone needs further information or has any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Have a wonderful Spring & enjoy the sunshine!!

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### Harvest for Hunger and one of our own ...

They sang for someone else's supper. Actually, 36,748 suppers. That's how many meals will be bought with the \$9,187 raised Thursday night at the Akron Civic Theatre, where amateur singers and musicians used their talents to benefit the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank's annual Harvest for Hunger campaign.

In the fifth Hunger Idol competition, employees representing seven major food bank sponsors were judged by how much money the audience donated after hearing them sing. It's the opportunity to

help a good cause, and do it on the Akron Civic stage," said Beverly Woolridge, an Akron Public Schools administrative secretary who

sang Whitney Houston's The Greatest Love of All.

*Way to go Beverly!!!*

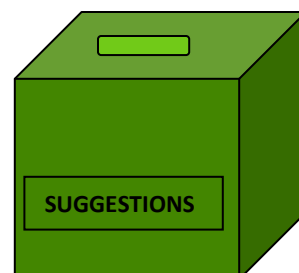


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#### NOTE:

- **HEY MEMBERS**—want to share some information with your AACP family?? Please email vbennett with your questions, trivia, something exciting you did, a recipe, a new addition to the family; a remedy you found to beat the flu bug; a way to get through the school day when you are struggling—just ask a member how to do something. Have any recommendations or comments on how to improve the newsletter—something you would like to see in the upcoming issues—PLEASE LET ME KNOW!! All suggestions welcome!



## Spotlight on .... Brenda White, Social Butterfly

I would like to introduce myself as the newly appointed "Social Butterfly" of our group. My name is **Brenda White**, I am the secretary at Seiberling. I have been in this same position since November 1998. I love my job and all the day to day changes that this position brings. I have been an APS employee since 1993, so I have been around for a long time and have been in many substitute positions over the years before I was finally able to get a "home". I have met many of the members that are at OTT and Administration buildings, however, I don't know many of our school secretaries or the newer employees. It would be wonderful to have a little more social time with our members, however, we all

have lives after 5:00 and it is very hard to get all of us together long enough to actually meet and greet.

As the "Social Butterfly", I have been asked to be the person to be "in the know" of those having serious illnesses or close family deaths, or any other extreme medical or personal issues that you don't mind sharing with the group. The purpose is so that we can "share your pain" and offer a little "good cheer" to brighten your day. Sometimes it is nice to know that someone else cares about what you are going through. If you have an experience that you would like us to know about, please let me know so I can share with our members.

If you don't feel this is something you would like to



do, please send me an e-mail to let me know NOT to share anything that may

For every minute you are angry, you lose 60 seconds of happiness!!



come down the "gossip" line so that we won't bother you in your time of sickness, sadness or need. We certainly would not want to add to any bad situation.

Have a great day.



## Spotlight on ... Dan Haidet



I was born and raised here in Akron, and attended Akron Public Schools, graduating from Garfield High School in 1984.

I took Business Graphics at Garfield which put me on the path that lead to

my great job in Printing Services. Two of my co-workers also graduated from the same program. I've been with the schools for over 21 years now.

I attend Grace Church in Norton. I have a beautiful daughter, Rebecca who is 21 years old and a full time student at the University of Toledo. She is studying Creative Writing and Journalism.

In my spare time I love to ride my motorcycle, travel, hunt, fish, watch NASCAR and football and read the Bible.

## Special Spotlight

....

This spotlight is for our own "Voice of Akron" Rhonda Black (Switchboard Operator) and proud parent of Garrick Black II who starred in THE WIZ playing at the Akron Civic Theatre. Garrick





## This & That about our AACP family ...

**Brenda White**, (Seiberling)

"The Class of '77 is preparing to celebrate our 35th year of being out of high school!" Garfield High School Graduates!!! Wow, can't believe it's been that long ago.

**Danielle Collinson**,

(Itinerant) is deathly afraid of "birds" ... Cheryl Johnston reports that while Danielle was working in Sp. Ed. at Ott a little bird flew in and landed on a spot next to where Danielle was sitting—yep, she lost it!!

**Vicki Bennett**, (Office of School Climate) I wanted to share what a wonderful great-nephew I have ... my little red-head (who is gifted) did a book of poems at his school

(Ritzman) and dedicated it to his uncle, my deceased husband! Love you Andrew!!

**Ramona Carroll**, (Case) Just took REIKI Level 1—way to go Ramona!! (and for those of you, like me, that have no idea what this is—Ramona shared this: *REIKI is energy bodywork. You use the body's auric/chakra fields to heal and bring them back to balance. You can REIKI anything, plants, animals, people, etc., through hand placements you align the chakra's within the body which causes it to heal and your energy level to flow better. Ramona is also a licensed spiritualist minister with the state of Ohio. (Ordained in 2005)*

**Donna-Marie Smith**,

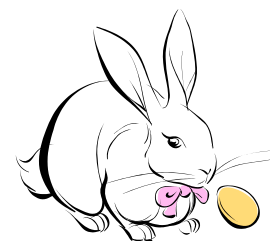
(Teaching & Learning), She received a "**Shout Out**" this week & got her picture taken for recognition!! Way to Go Donna Marie!!!

**Allison Shiplett**, (Office of School Improvement) Once a week I go to my daughter's school and help out at recess. She is in the Preschool program at St. Paul's. So I get to go to recess once a week!! That is so Kewl Allison—sounds like fun!!

**Anita Cambern**, (Findley CLC), is now Mrs. Anita Kelly after her wedding on Saturday March 31<sup>st</sup>. WOO HOO & CONGRATULATIONS!!



*If you do not hope,  
you will not find what  
is beyond your hopes!*



## Did you Know ....

An interesting article by:

**David A. Green, Senior Systems Analyst, Technology Services**.

It's always sad to see a school close. Families, students, and staff have strong memories of the years spent at their school, learning and playing. This year, APS will bid farewell to three schools: Barrett Academy, Essex Elementary School, and Rankin Elementary School. This is continuing a trend over the past decade of APS schools that have shut their doors. In all, between 2005 and the end of this school year, 13 schools have been closed or merged into other schools. Some of them live on hosting other programs; others lived temporary lives as swing space for schools being rebuilt; others still sit vacant, waiting for the wrecking ball. It is sad, but it is also the cost of progress.

This isn't the first time APS has had to make some tough choices with our schools. During the 1910s-1920s, Akron

was one of the fastest growing cities in America, thanks to the birth of the automobile and the increased need of our signature product – rubber. APS was building schools at a rapid pace. There was a time during the middle of the last century where if you stood on the roof of the Administration building (itself a school at one point), you could look across the skyline and see almost a dozen schools.

This served us well until the 1970s, when the economy of the city went down with the economy of the country. Late in the decade, APS had to make tough choices, as the District does now. Central High School, the first traditional high school in Akron, and Hower Vocational High School (itself a repurposed elementary school) were merged into and became Central-Hower High School. During the decade, however, the Board was forced to make difficult decisions and ultimately closed or repurposed

11 schools:

- South High School (now Miller-South)
- Thornton Junior High (the original South High School, which was replaced by Riedinger Middle School, on the site of the Aldi's on Thornton St.)
- West Junior High (originally West High School, now senior apartments)
- Bryan Elementary School (now Glenwood Jail)
- Fraunfelter Elementary School (now the Oriana House administration building)

While we hope that we don't have to close too many more schools, it is at least somewhat comforting to know that this isn't the first time Akron has had to make tough decisions as time goes on. We can look to our history and know that during the difficult period of the 1970s, the district came out stronger for those tough decisions, so we can feel confident that we will come out stronger for what is happening today!

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## Recipe Section

Ruben Casserole (*Makes six servings. Prep time: 15 minutes/Cook time: 20 minutes*)

*The classic flavors of a Reuben sandwich baked in a casserole!!!*

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 Package Bob Evans Original Mashed Potatoes (or make your own) - 24 oz.                | 2 Large eggs                       |
| 1/3 Pound thickly sliced corned beef (cut into 1/2 inch pieces) (check your local deli) | 1/4 Cup milk                       |
| 1 Cup shredded Swiss cheese, divided  | 1 Can sauerkraut, drained (14 oz.) |
|   | 1 Tablespoon spicy brown mustard   |

Preheat oven to 400F. In large bowl, stir together potatoes, eggs and milk until well combined. Stir in corned beef, sauerkraut and mustard. Set aside 2 tablespoons of cheese. Stir in remaining cheese into potato mixture. Pour into a greased 8 x 8 inch oval baking pan. Top with 2 tablespoons cheese. Bake 15-20 minutes or until top is golden.

*This is from Bob Evans (I get emails from them & this sounded pretty good—enjoy, Vicki!)*

A Quick & Yummy Recipe from Connie Thomas, Career Education

You will need a large container of yogurt (32oz) – plain or vanilla;

2 boxes of instant Pistachio pudding;

1 can of Crushed Pineapple (USE JUICE ALSO)

Mix all 3 ingredients in a large bowl. Put in the refrigerator

And enjoy!!! IT'S YUMMY



### AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

70 N. Broadway  
Akron, OH 44308  
330-761-1661  
<http://aacp.ohea.us/>

Just because you fail once, doesn't mean you're gonna fail at everything. Keep your head high, keep your chin up, and most importantly, keep smiling, because life's a beautiful thing and there's so much to smile about.

### Trivia (some multiple choice) ...

(Happy Easter)

1) Which came first?

A) The Chicken; B) The egg; C) None of the above

2) What color of eggs doesn't "sam I am" like in the Dr. Seuss book?

3) In the song, "Here Comes Peter Cottontail" he's got colored eggs for who?

4) If you do what to an egg, it is said to protect you against lightning, hail and beehives?

5) Marshmallow candy that looks like baby chickens are called what?

6) How long will a boiled egg keep in the refrigerator? A) 24 hours; B) 3 days; C) 1 week or; D) They don't need refrigeration once cooked

7) A female rabbit is called a: A) Doe; B) Cow; C) Femmie; or D) None of the above. It's just a girl rabbit.

8. What is the name of the dance that is commonly done at Easter time?

9. Rabbits with long floppy ears can't hear as well as those with ears upright? True / False

10) The ringing of bells on Easter was for: A) To let you know the fast was over; B) A celebration of the holiday; C) To frighten evil spirits away; D) All of the above

11) The word "Lent" means:? A) To live without; B) To Let Go; C) Lengthening days; or D) To Live Again

Answers: 1) C - History tells ducks & geese came first, 6000 years in China before chickens, which came 4,000 years later in India. 2) Green eggs w/ham; 3) "Sue"; 4) Bury it in your garden or yard; 5) Peeps; 6) C—one week & always refrigerate; 7) A a Doe; 8) The Bunny Hop; 9) True; 10) D; 11) C ☺



## Spotlight on our loving pets ....

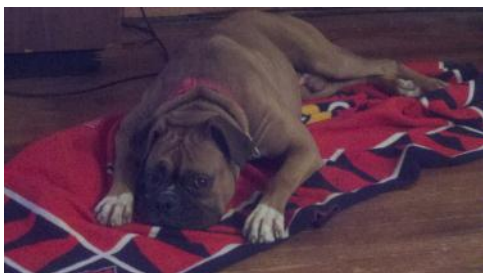
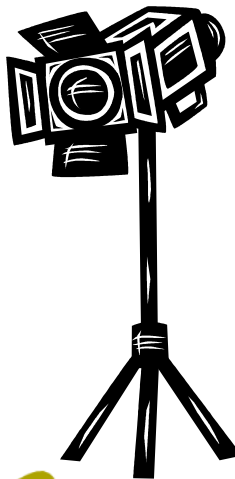
I will spotlight my little man ... meet



Puddles Bennett. He is an eight old Cock-a-Poo and the best friend and companion you could ask for!

Don't know what I would do without him, and yes, he is very very SPOILED!

Mom: Vicki Bennett



Here is a photo Max, he is a 3 year old boxer... and he is sooo AWESOME! (Cortney Porter)



Daphne is 12. She's chubby old lady and loves to sleep and eat. Mom: Lori Weekly



Loki will be 2 in July. He's all about playing. When you can't find his ball, ask him and he'll take you to it. He even nudges the flashlight on the table to tell you to bring it so you can see under the furniture. Mom: Lori Weekly



Clark is a Koi. He's 12" long and 5" high. He has a "pencil mustache" like Clark Gable had, hence his name. Fish mama: Lori Weekly



This is Anastasia (alias: Bitch cat)! She is older than dirt and set in her ways! You never want to cross her!! She is staring at the next thing she is going to attack!! Mom: Beth Johnson

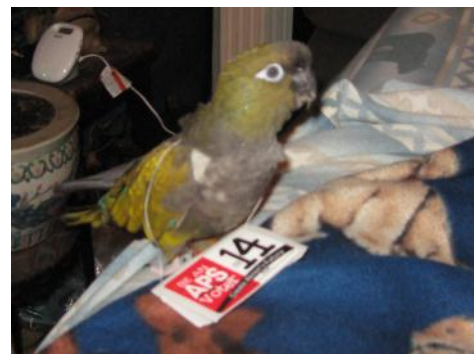


year

Meet Olive—Chrissie McClure's little one!



Here Lizard, Lizard, Lizard—and this is Lulu—Olive's sister!! Chrissie McClure's



Bridger is a Patagonian Conure (S. American parrot). He loves apples and cheddar cheese. He likes to mimic laughs and says can say "shut up," "no" and "thanks." Mom: Lori Weekly



This is Allie-Cat—the "Big Baby"! Allie is three and she loves to lay on your head, and tease Anastasia when she can get away with it !!

Mom: Beth Johnson

We all "LOVE" our pets!! They are a part of us and their love is unconditional!!