

WEDDING  
GUIDE

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# The Barberton Herald



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## This close-knit group warms bodies and hearts



Warm Up Barberton co-founder Marge Bass decorates the library giving tree.

**Karen Hornyak**  
Herald Staff Writer

Marge Bass was only 10 when her mother taught her to knit. She learned on her own to crochet not long afterward. The volunteers of Warm Up America, a national non-profit organization, have donated handmade blankets, clothing and accessories to the needy since 1992. These seemingly unrelated

facts merged in 2001 when, inspired by that organization, Bass and Mary Eritano founded Warm Up Barberton.

The initial projects were bedspreads, lap throws, afghans and baby blankets, all made from 7-by-9-inch squares sewn together into blocks of appropriate size. Although Bass prefers a freeform style, the majority of members work from patterns. Patterns, at first

provided by Warm Up America, now come from multiple sources. The repertoire has likewise expanded to include baby booties and premie bonnets as well as mittens, scarves, gloves, winter hats and knitted boots for all ages. All are made from donated yarn. Only polyester or acrylic is used, so items can be washed without the shrinkage typical of wool.

The giving starts in the children's section of the library, where an evergreen tree dressed in colorful, take-home decorations stands throughout the winter. Summit Mission, Embrace and the Salvation Army receive a variety of items to distribute to the homeless and other people in need. Baby items go to area hospitals and lap robes are taken to the Barberton

VFW. Even pets aren't left out in the cold; blankets made especially for small animals are donated to Metropolitan Veterinary Hospital.

As if that is not enough, impoverished residents of Moldova, an Eastern European country and former Soviet republic, have also received this group's largesse. Of the 25 (See WARM, Page 2)

### Join merchants for Cookie Crawl

The Downtown Merchant's Association is having a Cookie Crawl Competition Saturday, Feb. 9 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

The merchants will have a variety of cookies to sample at their businesses. After sampling, participants can vote for their favorite recipe in Alexander Commons. Participants submit their (See CRAWL, Page 2)

## Culture Shock band shocked when life imitates art in their rock video



COURTESY PHOTOS

In an eerie example of life imitates art, this screen capture depicts a shadowy figure approaching lead singer John Borzea during the video shoot at The Garage Bar at The Fast Lane in Barberton, filmed a short time before the bar owner's arrest.

**Karla Tipton**  
Herald Staff Writer

The band members of Culture Shock got a shock of their own when they read about the arrest of the owner of The Garage Bar at The Fast Lane in Barberton.

A week before Christmas, the band had released a video for the song, "After Dark," which had been filmed at the club. The video can be viewed on YouTube.

Known for original plot-driven songs written in both hard rock and ballad styles, the Canton band's video depicts a malevolent, shadowy figure prowling around the stage during the performance and stalking city streets. At the end of the video, the male guitarist is found bound and gagged in a back room of the bar.

Bar owner Todd Cleavenger has been accused of abducting and

beating a woman, and not allowing her to leave a 27th Street NW residence. The woman escaped and fled to a neighbor's house clad only in a sheet. Cleavenger was arrested after the police had to beat down the door. He was charged with felonious assault and abduction and released on \$250,000 bond Jan. 5.

The bar was open for business over the weekend, based on a Jan. 11 post on their Facebook page: "Yes, everyone. We are still open and tonight we celebrate several great causes."

### Life imitates art

Kimberly Rozenek, bassist and founding member of Culture Shock, said, "When that story hit, we looked at each other and said, oh my gosh, what do we do now? Our video is attached to this."

Instead of art imitating life, "it was like life imitating



Culture Shock band members, pictured from left here at McKinley Park in Canton, are drummer Doug Rozenek, guitarist Adrian Muica, bassist Kimberly Rozenek, vocalist John Borzea and guitarist/keyboardist Michael Briney.

art. It's supposed to be the other way around, not what happened here."

When asked if the band would play at The Garage Bar in the future, she said, "No, absolutely not. We will cut ties for the time being, unless if, at the end of this, he is acquitted, then we'll reevaluate at that point. Everyone has their right to a fair shake, but

right now we can't be associated with the controversy."

Lincoln D. Claar, co-owner of the band's record company, Knight Stalker Records, agrees. "We made it public that we disassociated The Garage Bar at The Fast Lane. We had an agreement (with the management) that we could use the stage, sound (See VIDEO, Page 2)

## City facing budget restraints

**Cierra Thompson**  
Herald Staff Writer

The city of Barberton is in contract negotiations with AFSCME Local 265.

Mayor William Judge sent a letter to International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 265, Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA) bargaining unit and OPBA Sergeants and Lieutenants bargaining unit. He asked them to consider a request to open collective bargaining agreements for the purpose of discussing concessions associated with the budget constraints.

"I've been working with department heads, the finance director and unions to make these changes to lessen the impact of services so we don't affect our employees," said Judge.

He explained how every city used to receive local government funds and in 2008 Gov. John Kasich began cutting millions in taxpayer funding for local governments. He said there are a lot of communities in Ohio who haven't rebounded from the funds being stripped away.

A combination of the local government funds being taken, Babcock & Wilcox Inc. decision to relocate and the price of items increasing is what led to a budget shortfall.

"We've been changing things operationally and internally for years, and every year we look at how we can do things better, cheaper and more efficiently," said Judge.

He said they are in the proposal stage of the (See CHANGES, Page 2)

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## Teens arrested in East Side break-ins

Two teenage boys have been arrested and are suspected of stealing items from cars on the East Side of Barberton. According to police, the teens, 15 and 16, were caught breaking into cars in the area of East Cassell Avenue about 11:59 p.m., Jan. 9.

The 15-year-old was charged with F-4 carrying concealed weapon, F-5 theft and F-5 receiving stolen property. The 16-year-old was charged with F-5 theft, M-1 theft and M-1 obstructing official business.

The 15-year-old was in possession of a handgun stolen from one of the previous thefts from cars.

A Cassell Avenue resident called police after being awakened by his barking dog. The man looked outside and saw two people running on Seventh Street Northeast. Officers were able to follow footprints in the snow and catch the teens.

## There is money to be claimed

“Every year, checks issued as refunds, restitution payments, or judgment payments fail to get cashed by the payee,” said Barberton Clerk of Courts Diana Stevenson. “People and organizations lose track of money that is rightfully theirs.”

“I encourage people to check the unclaimed funds list for their name so we can make sure they get their money,” said Stevenson. Letters have been sent to those owed money. The deadline to submit a “reissue check” request is Friday, March 29. As of Monday, April 1, all unclaimed funds will be turned over to the city.

The unclaimed funds listing can be viewed on the clerk’s website at [www.cityofbarberton.com](http://www.cityofbarberton.com) (see Clerk of Courts page, click General Information, and then select unclaimed funds) or at the court, 576 W. Park Ave., in Barberton.

The Barberton Municipal Court serves the communities of Green, Barberton, New Franklin, Norton, Clinton, Coventry and Copley.

## Cider mill targeted

Thieves were looking for more than apple cider during a break-in at the Crawford Cider Mill on Cleveland Massillon Road in Norton.

Owner Tim Crawford said it could have been any time since Jan. 6, but believes the break-in happened Jan. 12 based on a photo taken by a relative who was driving by about 12:44 p.m. The photo shows several vehicles in the driveway.

Items taken included copper piping and wiring, wood, windows and old campaign signs. An arrest was made in the case, but detectives would not release any more information on the case.

## Open enrollment continues

**Rich Muller**  
Herald Staff Writer

In its first meeting of 2019, the Barberton Board of Education voted to continue open enrollment applications between Jan. 28 and March 14.

Superintendent Jeffrey Ramnysz confirmed open enrollment would only be used to fill classroom vacancies, not to create additional classes.

The board also confirmed continuing

Dave Polacek as president and Elizabeth Mayreis as vice president. Legal advisors Day Ketterer; Peters Katalil & Markasis Co. LPA; Walter Haverfield; Squire, Patton, Boggs, LLP; Holmes Legal Service were approved to serve on an as needed basis.

As it does every year, the board voted to ask the county fiscal officer to pay in advance property taxes collected from 2018 assessments.

# Parks Commission adds new member

**Cierra Thompson**  
Herald Staff Writer

The Barberton Parks and Recreation Commission started the year off by welcoming new member Jecca Starcher.

Starcher grew up in Barberton and taught at the high school for 15 years before taking on the role as an assistant principal at Barberton Middle School. She expressed her excitement and looks forward to being on the board.

The board named commission member Denny Liddle for chairperson of 2019. Donna Keim will serve as the secretary.

Lisa McLean, parks director, gave a summary of the year end finance reports. The active adult report shows a total income of \$33,299.44 and an expenditure of \$32,998.13, which leaves the account with a positive balance of \$301.31. The sports complex fund also showed a positive balance of \$1,361.56.

The parks revolving fund showed a negative of \$32,534.65. McLean said the balance is skewed because of a \$30,000 reimbursement grant. She

said they’ve spent roughly \$19,000 of the grant, and when they spend the remaining amount they will receive their reimbursement. The beautification fund showed a negative balance of \$1,299.48.

McLean asked for an approval to apply for a \$20,000 Mum Festival grant to the Barberton Community Foundation.

She also requested an approval to apply for a \$9,000 Holiday Lighting grant to the Barberton Community Foundation. She explained on average it can cost anywhere from \$110- \$125 a day to light up the lake during the holiday season. She said the lights they have purchased within the last six years use LED bulbs. She said if they can replace more bulbs with LEDs they would be better off. She said it would be wise for them to look into replacement pieces for some of the displays they have.

“It would be nice to have a plan in place to add something new for the display,” said Liddle.

McLean added that they have been fortunate to have the decorated homes and businesses around the lake that add to the holiday lights at Lake Anna Park.

## Changes

(Continued from Front Page)

process. It is a normal course of action to negotiate with unions because the process allows them to reject, accept or counter the proposals.

By law, the city’s budget has to be passed by March. In the meantime, they are working with the unions until they come to an agreement.

“We’ll get through it. I’ve lived here my whole life and I’ve seen recessions. I’ve seen the city hit hard times for one reason or another and we always bounce back,” said Judge.

## Crawl

(Continued from Front Page)

vote by placing a monetary donation for their favorite cookie in the designated jar. All the proceeds will benefit the Barberton Area Community Ministries (BACM). Canned goods will also be collected.

Cookie recipe cards will be on sale during the event.

## FROM THE FRONT Warm

(Continued from Front Page)

original members, only Bass and Eritano remain. Asked if needlework is somewhat of a lost art, Bass says, “I don’t think knitting and crocheting will ever die,” and notes that she sees new faces at nearly every meeting.

The regulars range in age from 30-something to nonagenarian. At latest count, Warm Up Barberton has donated nearly 9300 handicrafts. The work is labor intensive, but it’s a labor of love for these caring individuals. The group meets at The Barberton Library, 602 West Park Ave., 12:30 p.m., the last Friday of every month. All are welcome; if you have the will, they will teach you the skills.

By giving others comfort in the cold, you just may find your own heart becoming warmer too.

## Video

(Continued from Front Page)

**Barberton music scene**

Claar, a 1986 graduate of Barberton High School, admits he is disappointed with the turn of events.

He said, as head of the record company, “I thought this is cool, now we can take some of what I’ve learned over the years, my experience, and take it home, and hopefully we can start some kind of music scene there.”

Claar hopes to book Culture Shock into other Barberton venues in the near future, since the band is releasing a new album, “Stop and Hear the Music,” in April. Several songs from the record, including “After Dark,” as well as a previously released album, are available for purchase at the CDBaby website.

Culture Shock members are Rozenek, her husband and drummer Doug Rozenek, guitarist Adrian Muica, vocalist John Borzea, and guitarist and keyboardist Michael Briney. The band formed in 2000 as a cover band, but in the last two years have transitioned into a band performing original songs in a style originating from progressive rock and 1980s metal, but with a distinct sound. “This is us being us. It’s not a Northeastern Ohio sound. It’s a Culture Shock sound,” she said.

The “After Dark” music video will be featured in an upcoming psycho-thriller movie, “A Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing,” by filmmaker Eric L. Prestley, to be released in the next few months on DVD and theatrically.


Claar said he hopes it will be first screened in a Barberton theater, because much of it was shot on location in the city. “It would be really cool to have the premiere in Barberton and do the whole red carpet thing.”

## Be with the beekeepers

Portage County Beekeepers will conduct their regular meeting Jan. 16, at the Portage Soil and Water Office, 6970 state Route 88, Ravenna, from 7-9 p.m. Speaker, Jason D. Ahrens, training and variance coordinator for the Ohio Department of Agriculture, will speak about Ohio’s new honey label law and other ODA rules. The meeting is free and open to the public. For information contact Mary Lovin at 330-325-3028.

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