

# The Sparks

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

NOVEMBER 4, 2004

## Meeting Overview

Gary Mescher opened the meeting. Don McWatters gave the invocation. Tom Lawrence put on a slide show from a number of pictures that were taken by a Y club fishing trip taken in the 1950's.

Kent Mudie reported that the Run Through Apple Country race numbers were down significantly.

Israel's is donating a number of items to the White Elephant Sale, which will be picked up next week prior to the demolition of the warehouse.

We are going to try a new fund raiser. epf-Furniture will now run three \$50.00 coupons in the Grand Rapids Press with an additional \$50.00 donation going to

the Club upon redemption. There may still be some direct mailing to YMCA members and a kick-off party. The Club will donate the funds for printing and advertising.

The Santa Claus Girls will be at a new location across the way from the old location. It is a larger location. Setup day is Monday, November 8 at 8:00 a.m. The address is 2400 Turner. Volunteers are needed.

Our new treasurer reports that there is 45,000.00 in the White Elephant Sale's account of which \$30,000.00 has now been released directly to the camp.

## epf-Furniture / Service Club Promotion

**S**tep right up - purchase some beautiful furniture at *exceptional prices* and help the service club at the same time.

YMCA Service Club and epf-Furniture have teamed up to try a new fund raiser. epf will donate \$50.00 for every \$50.00 off coupon that is redeemed in the store during the months of November and December, traditionally the busiest time of the year.

Stuart Ray, owner, describes the store; "epf-Furniture offers an exceptional product at exceptional prices all within a unique shopping environment." epf stocks everything in the show room so you can enjoy your new furniture on the

same day you buy it.

Flyers with coupons will be at this weeks meeting. Please take a few and pass them out to friends, family or anyone who comes with in 3 feet. This is a great opportunity to support camp Manitoulin with this unique fundraiser.

The Club will be sponsoring a Open House at epf-Furniture for YMCA employees and family. The event will be December 9th from 6-8pm. Please come and show your support for YOUR Service Club. Club members can bring family and friends or relatives and the coupons will be valid for this event.

### IMPORTANT DATES

*Board Meeting-  
November 18th, 5:00pm  
Rehmann Group*

*Lunch -  
November 19, 2004 Noon  
Susan Heartwell - The Student  
Advancement Foundation*

*Thanksgiving-  
November 25th*

*Lunch -  
December 3rd, 2004 Noon  
Patrick O'Hare, VP, CIO for  
Spectrum Health*

*December 9th, 2004 6-8pm  
epf-Furniture Event*

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- *Meeting Overview*
- *epf-Furniture*
- *Treasurer's Report*
- *Oct 8th—Meeting Overview*
- *Degage Ministries*
- *Blushing Bride Runs*
- *Years Past*
- *Birthdays*

*"Beautiful furniture, not seen in Grand Rapids, at GREAT prices...."*

**Ken Carpenter**

## YMCA Service Club Treasurer Report

Reported by: J Osbourne

Total Cash Balances in the three YMCA Service Club Sub-Accounts are as follows:

General Fund	\$ 9,818.74
W.E.S.	\$ 45,834.90
R.T.A.C.	\$ <u>271.50</u>
Total	\$ <u>55,925.14</u>

Rather than wait any longer to distribute the final W.E.S. proceeds, the board approved sending \$30,000 to camp immediately. A final distribution from the 2004 proceeds will be forthcoming once all "payables" are determined to be current and an adequate reserve for the 2005 event has been budgeted.

## October 8th Meeting Review

Gary Mescher opened the meeting, and Bill Phillips gave the invocation. There were no guests and no program. Gary announced that Dick Rafferty has resigned from the Club due to his and his wife's desire to travel. The Board voted to make Dick an emeritus member.

John Osbourne has volunteered to be the new treasurer. Tom Lawrence will be working with him to turn over the books.

Gary announced that next year the regional meeting will be hosted by our club.

Brad Howell announced that they need volunteers for Run Through Apple Country beginning at 6:00 a.m. this Saturday. They are looking for people to bring knives, cutting boards and spouses to help out with the fruit.

The White Elephant Sale planning is underway. Mark passed out a list of companies that the club has contacted in the past. Club members are asked to review the list and indicate whether or not they have a company contact and turn in the list indicating the companies they desire to contact by next meeting.

Ken described the alliance with epf Furniture, which has agreed that it will rebate 10 percent of its sales over a three-weekend period.

The Club has earmarked up to \$3,000 to facilitate the marketing of the event, and the YMCA has authorized the direct mailing to its membership to promote the event. It is hoped that, if we can get a half to 1 percent return, the Club will raise \$15,000 to \$30,000. The Club will have oversight for the project and be responsible for the printing of the mailing. epf Furniture will be responsible for the mailing costs. The YMCA will be responsible for providing and sending out the mailing. The mailing list will not be shared with epf Furniture.

The parties are working on scheduling a kickoff event to be held with epf Furniture, the various YMCA boards and staff to help promote the event. It is believed that this alliance will prove successful with minimal Club involvement.

Reported by: G Smith

## Dégagé Ministries

**(DEG-AH-JHAY) A French verb meaning to relax or be at ease.**

Our Mission:

Since 1967, Dégagé Ministries has provided a safe, Christian alternative to the streets for those living in the Heartside neighborhood. Seven nights a week all who come through their doors are treated with dignity and respect. Their low-cost meals allow them the avenue to sit down and get to know those among them who are often ignored and pushed aside. Their programs are designed to foster the kind of one-on-one relationships between staff, volunteers and neighbors that lead to emotional, spiritual and social support.



*Marge Palmerlee*

Our Programs:

Bob Smith introduced Marge Palmerlee, Executive Director of Dégagé Ministries. Dégagé is a French term that means, “Relax and be at ease.” The ministry provides an opportunity for social interaction for its users.

Dégagé opens its doors at 6:00 a.m. Individuals come in and can get breakfast and watch T.V. They provide low-cost meals and provide the users with the dignity of buying their own food. Most are low-income job holders. 50 percent of the users have mental illness and 70 percent have disabilities.

Dégagé is coming up on its one-year anniversary of its Women’s Drop-In Program. The Women’s Drop-In Center is open from 8:00 o’clock at night until 9:00 in the morning where women in crisis have an opportunity to seek shelter. Approximately 15 to 20 women a night take advantage of this opportunity.

The second floor of their location is program oriented. It has been open for four years. It assists people with obtaining jobs, seeking medical care, providing transportation. Showers and a hair salon are also available. Users are also able to wash their clothes. A newer program being offered is banking, in which they help individuals plan and budget by assisting with their banking needs. They also provide a mentoring program. Of significant importance is Dégagé’s ID program, which is grant funded. It assists people in obtaining state ID’s which they need to obtain jobs. They also provide guidance to released prisoners who are required to get a job and have no ID’s.

Dégagé has six employees and over a thousand volunteers. On its third floor, they provide a gym which youth groups use frequently for things like basketball. Dégagé is in need of blankets. It has a large blanket program, but its major donor of blankets has closed up shop and, as a result, it will be looking to the public to fill this need. It obtains its food that it serves from Second Harvest. This enables it to buy food at 15 percent of cost. Dégagé was founded in 1967 by students at Calvin College who thought the ministry would only last a semester. Dégagé was the non-profit of the year as designated by the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce.

If you would like to visit Dégagé Ministires, it is located at the corner of Division and Cherry. Dégagé Ministries is also on the web at [www.degageministries.org](http://www.degageministries.org).

# Blushing Bride Runs!

This may be a YMCA Service Club first! Leticia Grandia ran as fast as she could right to the annual Run Through Apple Country Race. Hours before she was to be married, Leticia and friend Allison McDonnell ran in our 5k race. Both had a good time, and the bride was still able to walk down the aisle.

Many happy years to Leticia and her groom! Thank you for making Run through Apple Country part of your special day!



Allison and Leticia pose right after the 5k.

# Years Past!



Thanks Tom...  
For a GREAT find!



More pictures to come!



Note: The history of the club is very important. If you know anything about these photos, please write a quick note to Mark Radtke.

# Happy Birthday

Mark Radtke

Bob Smith

Bill Smith

John McFadden

Tom Radosevich

Don McWatters

Moe Bompezzi

Mike McCarthy