



New faces in leadership roles as Chamber installs new officers

The Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce bid farewell to its president of four years, A.J. Boggio, and installed a new generation of officers at its 21st annual installation dinner held at Skip's Other Place on October 17, 2002.

Boggio, operator of the White Rabbit Inn, said he wanted to fulfill his mission of obtaining trademark status, circle "R" (®) as it's called, which has been a two year battle of patience with the Federal Trademark and Patent Office. That recognition was sought when neighboring communities began using the term "Harbor Country" in

their promotional material, signage and web addresses. The Chamber was granted the status this past summer. As president, Boggio sat on all committees and was particularly involved in the Chamber's Internet and Guide Committees.

He praised the efforts of his Board of Directors and presented Chuck Garasic, who did not seek reappointment, a Certificate of Appreciation for his efforts in placing banners throughout Harbor Country, for his organization with the very successful Chamber Auction and for the yeoman job of distributing 75,000 Harbor Country Guides each year. If you'd like to replace Chuck in this task show your muscles to Sue or Patty at the Chamber office.



A.J. Boggio presents Chuck Garasic with a Certificate of Appreciation for his work with Community Development.



New president Don Jackson takes oath of office.

Boggio also thanked Roger Harvey for his dedication as editor of the Harbor Country Guide, and wished new editor Jerry Welsh the very best.

Accepting the new responsibility as president is Don Jackson. He is a C.P.A. and owner of The Jackson Group in New Buffalo. He has served as the vice-president of the Chamber. Jackson told the 70 attendees at the dinner that his goal was to get more people, more members involved, in the activities of the Chamber.

"This is our 21st installation dinner," he said. "We're all adults now. We need to be aware about what's going on around us, especially in government, and we need to have a say. We have 450 members. Just think about how involved we could be if everyone sat on a committee. New people are always welcome."

Michael Hojnacki was installed as vice-president. He is beginning his second three-year term on the Board of Directors. Hojnacki is a writer and journalist under the name Artistic Energy Group, Inc. He is the chairman of the Chamber's Communication Committee and edits the Harbor Country Connection, the newsletter of the Chamber and the Harbor Country Lodging Association.

Karen Gear continues in her long-standing position as the Chamber's treasurer. Gear is a vice president at Alliance Banking Company. She has



New-appointed board members include Mike Hojnacki, Ray Vasquez, A. J. Boggio and Joan Zonka. They will serve three-year terms.

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**Harbor Country®
Chamber of Commerce**
Don Jackson, *President*

Board of Directors:
Don Jackson, President
Michael Hojnacki, Vice-President
Karen Gear, Treasurer

Board Members:
Margaret Anderson
Marti Arney
A.J. Boggio
Roger Harvey
John Nelson
Gary Ramberg
Kathy Snyder
Ray Vasquez
Joan Zonka



**Harbor Country®
Lodging Association**
Robert Kemper, *President*

Board of Directors:
Robert Kemper, President
Lisa Werner, Vice-President
Jerry Welsh, Co-Treasurer

Board Members:
Liz Thomas
John Natsis
AJ Boggio

**Harbor Country® Chamber of
Commerce and Lodging Association**
530 South Whittaker Street, Suite F
New Buffalo, Michigan 49117
269-469-5409; fax 269-469-2257
email: harborcountry@triton.net
website: www.harborcountry.org

Questions of Balance

The most difficult job of any president is to follow in the footsteps of a past president who has done so much for our chamber. Thank you AJ for all your effort and work you have done for us. You have pushed the internet and web presence to new highs. You have been instrumental in registering the name "Harbor Country". Your leadership as president of the Harbor Country® Chamber of Commerce will be greatly missed. Fortunately for all of us you remain on the board and your efforts will continue to benefit all the chamber members.

On the advice of AJ, I have picked a goal for my term as president. My goal is to make the chamber a more active part of the community. This requires an active chamber of commerce. This does not mean an active president or an active board. We need an active membership. I would like to challenge each member to become more involved in their chamber. The chamber can be the most influential member of the community. But it takes every member to contribute. Whether it is joining a committee, participating or volunteering in events, or just voicing your concerns, you can be of help.

If you are one of the members who have complained that the chamber is not doing enough for your business, then I challenge you to become involved. If you have wondered, 'why doesn't the chamber do this or that?' send us your suggestions; get involved. Can you imagine 450 members serving on committees? Can you imagine 450 members showing up at a New Buffalo City Council and demand a plan for downtown development? Can you imagine 450 members working together to bring state and federal resources to our area? Can you imagine 450 new ideas to enhance the business climate of the area?

I can imagine and I believe we have the talent and energy to take the Chamber to the next level. But I need your help.

Joining a committee does not mean all your time. Maybe it's attending a meeting or just simply offering an idea or suggestion. With the diversity of talent and resources in this area we can dream big. The Chamber should be a conduit to change. Through collective efforts we can achieve so much. The next time you think that somebody should do something about (your idea here), think that through the chamber we should do something about (your additional idea here), then contact the chamber or a board member or me and let's get the ball rolling.

What are your ideas for the coming year? What would you like to see accomplished? Should we be involved in government activities? Do you need more training for you or your employees? What resources would be most useful to you as a business? This is your Chamber and the chamber should respond to your needs.

Currently we have the following committees:

INTERNET Developing the Chamber's web presence. The committee is taking on the task of a complete web site upgrade. The Chamber and the lodging association has allocated \$10,000 to achieve this goal. This is an excellent time to voice your needs for the website and offer suggestions, time or skills to achieve the kind of web presence you would like to see. How about some real estate members to assist in developing a section for commercial sales, or how about a job bank? How do you think the internet should be used as a tool for the chamber?

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT Often referred to as the committee who gives money to others, this committee is delegated the task of developing our area through coordination and support for community events, programs and community projects. What pet project would you like to see for Harbor Country? What should we support as a chamber

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Harbor Country® Connection

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FINE PRINT: Though every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of stories and information in this publication, the Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce, Harbor Country Lodging Association, their respective Boards of Directors, and the editors of the Harbor Country Connection are not responsible for errors or misinformation in copy submitted by any organization or group.

Remembering Ron

Reflections upon entrepreneur, community leader, board member Ron Miller

On Monday, October 7, 2002, Harbor Country lost a great friend, as well as a significant presence in its business community, with the passing of Ronald H. Miller, 61. He succumbed to the complications imposed by cancer. He is survived by his wife Trisha; two sons, Peter and Christopher; and four grandchildren Madeline, Margaux, Peter and Andrew.

On the morning of October 8 the Harbor Country network of friends were shedding tears at the news as one telephone call led to another. Friends were sharing stories about their last contact with the man. They were grieving for his family as well. Over the next few days they gathered in small circles of silence just to hold on to one more fading moment of Ron's smiling face while catching the echo of his ever-present laughter. He had touched the hearts and souls of many, not just in Harbor Country, but also in his many other "hometowns" like Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, and even Saigon.

On October 11, after a spiritually uplifting ceremony by Rev. Brad Bartelmay, augmented by stories from his sons and close personal friends, Ron Miller was laid to rest near his good friend Larry Bubbs at Lakeside Cemetery. The life of the veteran newscaster was a "wrap."

Ron began his broadcasting career in the early 1960's at the CBS-owned television station in Philadelphia while he was completing his journalism degree at Temple University. It was here that he garnered many journalism

awards for his insightful and hard-hitting documentaries about civil rights issues and prison reform.

In 1970, he advanced his career by accepting a position with ABC-TV. His work took him across the world in his coverage. He spent over a year living in Saigon and covering the Vietnam Conflict. It was here that he married Trisha Flynn. They returned to the United States and settled in Chicago where Ron worked for the ABC Midwest Bureau.

Ron reported on a broad range of stories including the disappearance of Jimmy Hoffa,

the California Zebra killer, and countless others from America's Heartland. He spent weeks inside the Wounded Knee Indian reservation during the Indian's standoff with Federal marshals. He is noted for breaking the story of the plight of American POW's who were imprisoned in Vietnam years after the Conflict ended. It was the result of extensive investigative journalism which included several clandestine expeditions to Vietnam.

Tired of the traveling, Ron retired from the camera's eye. He and his wife opened Miller's Country House, a 250-seat fine dining restaurant in Union Pier, MI in 1985

Since that time, Ron was always active in the community serving on the Harbor Country Board of Directors twice, and as a founding member of Alliance Banking Corporation. While part of the Chamber Board, he served as the Membership Committee chairperson and successfully almost doubled the chamber membership.



Ron Miller: May 20, 1941 - October 7, 2002

Fellow Chamber members reflect upon their friend...

P.E.T. Golf Outing chair, Margaret Anderson...

Ron had a great love for Harbor Country and a clear vision of the big picture. He cared greatly for the people he worked with on "The FUN Committee" and we knew it. We will miss his sense of humor, genuine smile and his leadership. Cheers.

Office Manager, Sue Harsch...

Ron Miller was a warm, gentle man. Once you met Ron, you became friends. He greeted everyone with a Hello Honey or Hello Darling how are you?, and what you began to understand as you got to know him was that it wasn't just a part of a standard greeting, he really did want to know how you were.

Internet Committee, Ray Vasquez...

There were only a few pillars in Harbor Country's early years. Ron was one of them. At a time when Harbor Country's future and my own project success was uncertain, Ron ignored the critics and became an inspiration to a community that needed vision and purpose.

Chamber President, Don Jackson...

Ron Miller was a leader for Harbor Country. Leaders focus on people. He always strived to get the best out of everybody. Leaders inspire trust. He trusted me in my first job in Harbor Country. Leaders take a long range view. Ron started Miller's Country House in a building with no future. He brought class and dignity to our area and was



Newlyweds, Ron and Trisha Miller

a part of the beginning of what Harbor Country is today. Leaders ask what and why, not how and when. He never believed that something couldn't be done. He believed if you are going to do something, do it big and do it right. Ron always searched the horizon and with his astute questions (and quick drink) forced everybody to dream and believe. Thank you Ron Miller for all the things you have done for Harbor Country and for me personally. Harbor Country is a better place for having known Ron and his memory will always be preserved by what this area has become through his dedication and commitment.

Chamber founding member, Nadra Kissman...

Ron Miller believed in Harbor Country before it was the "in" thing to do. He and Trisha invested their time and tremendous talents as well as their dollars into improving the entire area while they were also transforming an old "biker" bar into an outstanding restaurant. And in the process, Ron also became our friend as well as business associate. Ron's warm smile and kiss on the cheek always made my day better.

Past President, AJ Boggio...

No matter how profitable, owning and operating a business in Harbor Country is guaranteed to consume most of one's time and energy, while simultaneously creating high levels of stress. Ron Miller, together with his business partner and lovely bride, Trisha Miller, founded, nurtured and anchored one of Harbor Country's most renowned and highly acclaimed businesses—Miller's Country House in Union Pier, MI.

Being a restaurateur poses its own specialized hardships and carries significant burdens but in the almost ten years I had the distinct pleasure of knowing Ron, I can say without a doubt that Ron Miller rose above being an average, run-of-the-mill, self-centered business owner. In ways that can never be measured in dollars and cents, Ron unselfishly chose to give back to the Harbor Country community more than its fair share.

Spearheading the Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce's most successful membership drive to date as Chairman of the Membership Committee, Ron led the drive which, in a few short months, increased the Chamber's rolls exponentially from around 250 in the beginning of the year 2000 to the unprecedented ranks of almost 450 strong today. Fondly dubbed the "fun committee" by Ron himself, he also helped to create the Chamber's first trades and services brochure, entitled "Getting it Done In Harbor Country." While serving on the Chamber's Board of Directors, Ron never wavered in his firm belief that our Chamber is a "member driven" organization. His devotion to family, friends and the unabashed enjoyment of life surrounded Ron's philosophy of knowing how to have and share good times.

Whether stewarding another marathon session of his "fun committee" or annually hosting the Chamber's

Guide unveiling party each May at his restaurant, I will always remember Ron Miller's warm handshake coupled with his signature "Hello Darlin'" greeting, as well as his goodwill and generosity, as his greatest contributions to our Chamber and an integral part of Harbor Country's proud and growing legacy."

Former Guide editor, Roger Harvey...

When Ron, as chairman of the Chamber Membership Committee, increased the size of the Chamber membership by 180 some new members, he did it with love. As the committee sat down to divide up the list of potential new members Ron would be buying all of his "fun committee" their first drink of the evening. While deciding how and who to call, he would motivate and challenge each committee member, "I can't believe they are not in, we need them to be members," he would say, "for the good of the whole area."

As the list was surgically sliced up, Ron took the most challenging names for himself all the while laying down side bets with other volunteers as to who would get the most of their list "in". When the work part of the evening was done the committee would linger over another round or two bought by Ron as he would tell them how important this was for the chamber and the area, even with his own large list he would look at other's lists and say, "Oh! why don't I take this guy!" As the committee would bundle up against the cold and head for the door, Ron would talk to each encouraging and motivating their efforts. As they hit the cold evening, his words were ringing in their heads, "Good luck tomorrow and I love you Bud." I personally will miss this friend of Harbor Country very much... I love you Bud.

Chamber Treasurer, Karen Gear...

Ron was truly a dedicated friend to Harbor Country and we will miss his talent of getting to the heart of the matter. He inspired us to do better jobs and took us to a better place, and I thank him for being a gift to us all, and I know our gentle friend is still watching over us.

Former Community Development chair, Chuck Garasic and Former Lodging Association President, Liz Garasic...

What does one say about Ron Miller? The fact that he had an infectious laugh and made all around him feel as he did. Whenever he would ask you to do anything, you knew FUN was involved. He was generous and gregarious to a fault. He took care of everyone around him whether it was helping somebody get a loan from the bank or asking for help to get a fallen tree off a guest's Cadillac in the parking lot. It seemed he was having the most fun when he was dancing. We could go on, but then this would become a book. We will muck-along without him, but it won't be as much fun. Ron will be missed by us every day.



Grandpa Ron with wife Trisha, Madeline and Margaux.

Vice President, Michael Hojnacki...

(This appeared in the Southcounty Gazette on October 28, 2002)

It seems like a lifetime ago that I first met Ron Miller. It was a timid moment for me because I had heard that the new restaurateur in town was a former ABC newsmen. As a fledgling editor and still wet behind the ears as a reporter, this kind of presence can be intimidating. So, I sucked in a deep breath and opened the door to Miller's Country House for my appointed interview.

Well, Ron and his wife, Trisha, were anything but intimidating. We were like good ol' boys talking about the state of the free press in the world, wondering why anyone would want to actually own a newspaper or a restaurant, hoping the strong economy would hold out for another year and exchanging stories about our own lives. Trisha, the public relations wizard, choreographed the entire conversation and, of course, the outcome of the supportive article about their venture.

I remember Ron glowing with pride while his wife talked about the restaurant. I remember the intensity with which he relayed his tales about the Vietnam Conflict, tales that would be expanded upon over the years as we became close friends. Ron could embellish the ingredients listed on the back of a corn flakes box. He could keep you riveted to his words for hours. Indeed, I wasn't the only one in this audience.

Ron had built, after all, a theater of sorts for himself at Miller's. Here he was the king and his customers became his willing and faithful subjects. He surrounded himself with happiness.

Finding solace in his kingdom after a hectic day in the trenches of local journalism, Ron would greet me with, "What's the news of the Village?" He said this every time he saw me, whether it was at his restaurant or on the street. Then he actually wanted to hear the news, whether it was the latest from a local governmental circus, an accident, a burglary, and always his favorite, planning commission insights. He would listen intently and even ask questions.

After a few years, I observed that Ron had a salutation for just about everyone he met. Each one varied to suit that particular person, each one as intently probing as the other. I came to realize that this was the way Ron shared your life. He had already shared his life with you and continued to do so as long as you listened. But he absorbed your life too. With his passing on October 7, Ron Miller has left a big hole in many people's lives. Heaven knows all the stories about Ron, but I can just see him sitting on a cloud and sharing a Jack with St. Peter saying, "And let me tell about this guy I met, Mike Hojnacki..." or Chuck... or Dennis... or Jim... or Kris... or Russ... or Marisue... and the list goes on and on. Life goes on, as well, and I will spend an earthly moment each day just remembering Ron.

Embraced by Heaven's Light

Ron's wife, Trisha, wanted to share these fascinating stories with his friends.

"Near the end of Ron's life, the family experienced sev-

eral unusual and uplifting phenomenon. Some may feel these situations were coincidental. Those who knew Ron well, most likely will not," she said.

THE FIRST: There was a thundershower during our family vacation in North Carolina. As the storm subsided, two extremely vivid rainbows appeared. The magnificent double rainbows glowed a long time and seemed close enough to touch. We photographed Ron and his children under them.

THE SECOND: On the day we felt Ron was consciously leaving us, we noticed yet another double rainbow directly in front of his hospital room window. The colors were extremely brilliant and well defined. The two arcs intersected as if they were making an arched doorway to heaven. The rainbows stayed at full intensity for more than an hour. Staff and family alike said they had never seen anything to compare with what we witnessed. It had not rained.

THE THIRD: On the evening of Ron's funeral, our son Chris and his mother Karen stopped to visit his grave. As they left the cemetery, they saw the brightest shooting star either had ever observed. It was directly in front of their car and flaunted a dazzling tail of red and green light.

THE FOURTH: As Ron's friend Dennis was driving to St. Louis a few days after the funeral, he noticed a huge vibrant rainbow that stayed by his side for more than an hour. Although he was not aware of the other rainbow incidents, his heart led him to say, "Hi Ron!" Again, no rain.

THE FIFTH: Trisha's sister Judy and her husband Ricky became lost in a bad section of South Bend enroute to visit. They were growing nervous as it was getting dark and their GPS had failed them when Ricky pointed and said, "We're heading that way!" He drove toward the double rainbows hovering magnificently in the sunset over Lakeside.

Make of this what you will. However, whenever you see a rainbow, know that Ron is thinking of you.

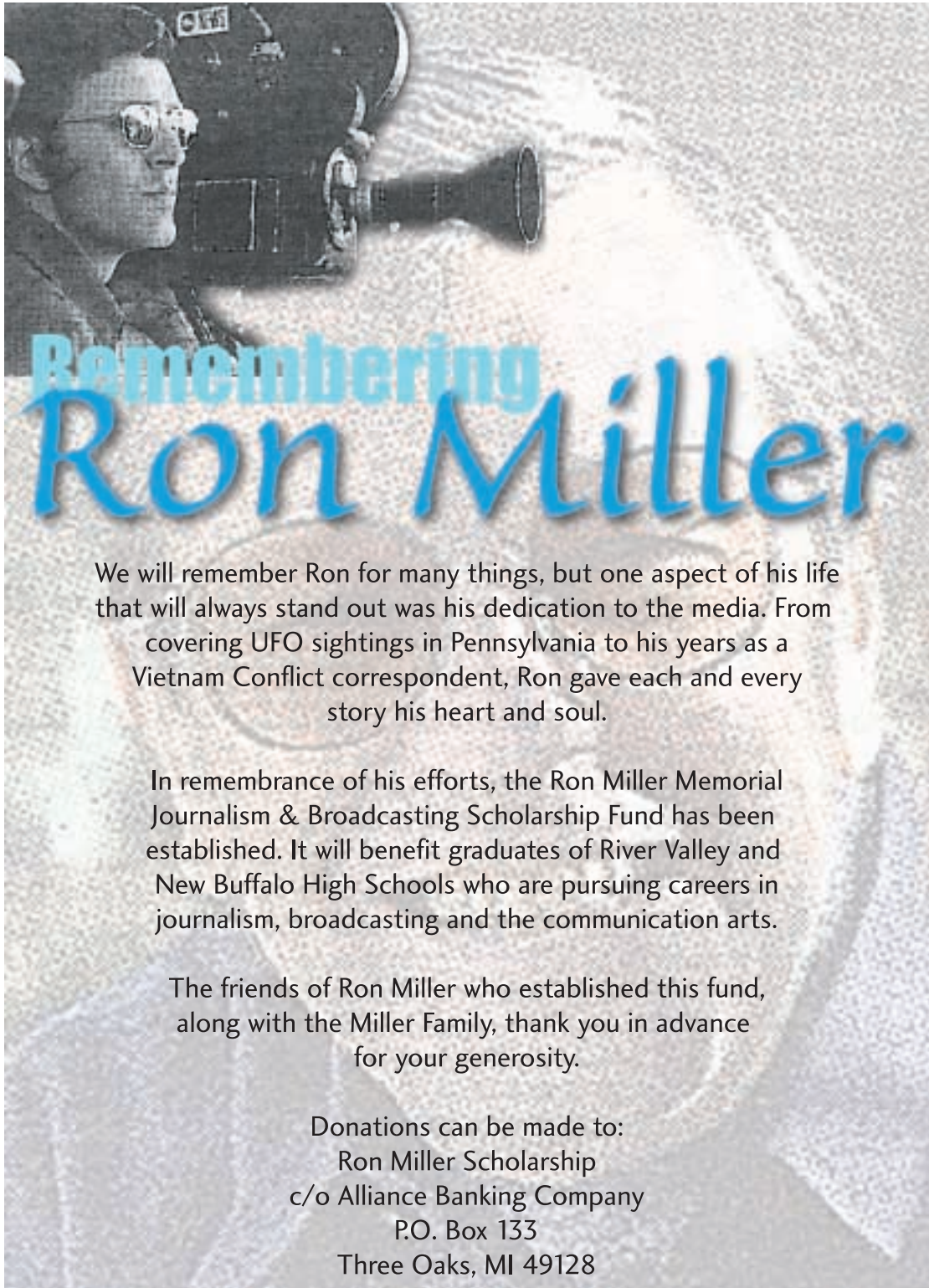
A SIXTH: (added by Mike Hojnacki) On October 30, I was driving west on U.S. 12 hoping to have dinner at home before I would attend a Membership Committee meeting, the first one since Ron's death. The sun was shining brightly in my eyes as it lowered itself in the wintry sky illuminating a few scattered clouds. It was then that I noticed just to the right of the sun a brilliant, almost "chubby" rainbow. I was surprised enough to say, "Huh!" (Amazing how literate one is when confronted by an amazing phenomenon.) My work-dulled senses knew that rainbows don't occur next to the sun, they happen opposite the sun. If I was driving east, the rainbow might not have been so extraordinary, merely pretty. My first reaction was just to say, "Hi Ron" as I turned my car north on Red Arrow Highway with his rainbow now over my shoulder.

As we turn the page on the life of another good friend, keep in mind that his spirit, his zest for living, his dedication to the cause should always be held close to our heart.

Rest in peace, Ron Miller.



Ron Miller, The Entertainer



Remembering Ron Miller

We will remember Ron for many things, but one aspect of his life that will always stand out was his dedication to the media. From covering UFO sightings in Pennsylvania to his years as a Vietnam Conflict correspondent, Ron gave each and every story his heart and soul.

In remembrance of his efforts, the Ron Miller Memorial Journalism & Broadcasting Scholarship Fund has been established. It will benefit graduates of River Valley and New Buffalo High Schools who are pursuing careers in journalism, broadcasting and the communication arts.

The friends of Ron Miller who established this fund, along with the Miller Family, thank you in advance for your generosity.

Donations can be made to:
Ron Miller Scholarship
c/o Alliance Banking Company
P.O. Box 133
Three Oaks, MI 49128

Standing Behind Harbor Country®

At the October 17, 2002 Chamber Installation Dinner, our outgoing president, AJ Boggio called on all Chamber members to stand behind our Harbor Country® registered trademark, awarded to us by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in July 2002. It's been a painstaking process to finally get this registration, and it's just as important that we all stand behind and vigilantly protect it.

Chamber members can help by being our eyes and ears to report unauthorized use of Harbor Country® outside the eight official towns designated by the Harbor Country Chamber, including businesses that claim to be part of Harbor Country when they are not, or web sites that make incorrect or false claims about Harbor Country's location. Yes, our specific geographic region. The USPTO does not generally grant trademarks for named geographic regions. While thousands of such applications are routinely denied as "generic", the USPTO found substantial cause and evidence in our claim of sustained legacy to grant the registration for distinctive use over the last two decades. Therefore only the Chamber, who owns the Harbor Country® servicemark, has the authority to define where Harbor Country IS.

Many of us experienced frustration and furor over other areas freeloading on our name and hard earned success. Now we have legal recourse to force them to stop under penalty of U.S. Trademark law. We've found many web sites using Harbor Country in areas as far north as Saugatuck & St. Joseph, east to Buchanan, and south to Michigan City and LaPorte, Indiana who have been vigorously challenged through our legal counsel. The Internet Committee cannot possibly police the entire web, or scan all publications. Your help is needed by reporting any possible trademark infringement or inappropriate use to the Chamber office at 269-469-5409, AJ Boggio, phone: 269-469-4620 email: wrabbitinn@aol.com or email webmaster@harborcountry.org - the Chamber's webmaster.

In addition, you can change "Harbor Country" references in your brochures and web sites to include the ® symbol and the notice: "Harbor Country® is a Registered Servicemark of the Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce - All Rights Reserved". We'll continue to enjoy the benefits of being uniquely Harbor Country, as long as we work together to preserve and protect it.

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that will enhance your business?

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Developing and promoting the area to bring all forms of jobs and opportunities to the area. The best opportunity for that winter tourism business may be a larger base of non-seasonal industries putting more dollars into the local economy. How can we market the area to attract a diverse economic base for the Harbor Country® area?

MEMBERSHIP Providing for the needs of our members. This includes enhancing membership benefits, responding to the needs of our members and promotion of member-to-member services.

COMMUNICATIONS This is the committee communicating to our members about our members. This newsletter is just one example. The articles in our local papers were often generated by this committee through press releases.

GUIDE COMMITTEE The best chamber guide ever produced by any chamber anywhere. This takes lots of work and assistance. From delivering guides to writing "snippets" of information. Your help is wanted and needed.

PET No, this is not the dog show. This is the educational committee. The future leaders in our community will come from our youth. How can the chamber better partner with two great schools? New Buffalo and River Valley Schools offer a tremendous amount of resources for our area businesses. Area businesses offer a tremendous amount of resources for the schools. A strong partnership between the schools and businesses not only makes sense, but is necessary for both partners.

The Harbor Country® Chamber of Commerce is about all of you. What are your needs and what do you want? I am an optimist who believes that anything is possible. Together we can make this Chamber a voice for all business, all industries, all areas. I look forward to working with all the members and non-members of the area in building a stronger chamber. Thank you for your help and feel free to contact me at my office 469-9300, through the Chamber at 469-5409 or email me at president@harborcountry.org. I look forward to an active and productive year.

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served on the Chamber's Membership and P.E.T. (Partnership in Education for Tomorrow) Committees.

Newly installed Board of Directors include Ray Vasquez and Joan Zonka. Vasquez operates Union Pier Summer House in Union Pier and has been instrumental in developing and maintaining the Chamber's award-winning web site. He was also the whistle blower who alerted the Chamber Board to the fact that other communities were using the Harbor Country name. Zonka is a partner in Thomas Associates, a personnel placement service in Union Pier. Also installed to the Board for second terms were incumbents A.J. Boggio and Michael Hojnacki. Other Board of Directors include Don Jackson, Karen Gear, Margaret Anderson, Marti Arney, Roger Harvey, John Nelson, Gary Ramberg and Kathy Snyder.

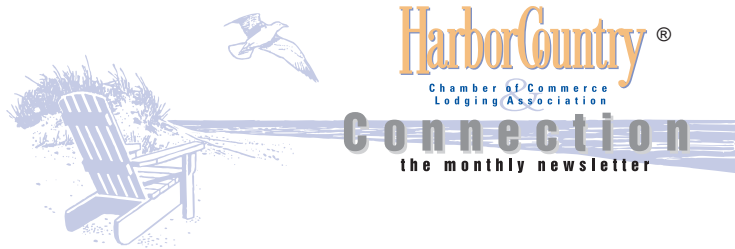
New Buffalo Township Clerk, Judith Handley-Zabicki, gave a brief presentation about the need to support a millage for public safety in the township. She emphasized that the Chamber should work hand-in-hand with area governments.

If you'd like to get involved contact Sue Harsch at 616-469-5409.

East Coast Video
4 West Buffalo Street, New Buffalo
Owner: Kelley Frey
269-469-1866

Godiva Salon
447 South Whittaker St., New Buffalo
Owner: Richard Heyn
269-586-2211

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**new
leadership**

**president
asks**

**protect our
circle 'r'**

**remember
ron**

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First-ever Harbor Country Food & Wine Classic, Nov. 22-24

Harbor Country events sometimes fall by the wayside for lack of support, but when those special occasions seem to continually spark interest then the event either gets better or it gets bigger. After six years of effervescent success, the Sparkling Event, originated by Jacqui Schiewe of Wine Sellers, Inc. and enhanced by Judy Kite-Gosh of Retro Cafe and Kite's Kitchen, has gotten both bigger and better in the first-ever Harbor Country Food and Wine Classic.

Assembling some of the area's most talented chefs and presenting a stage for an international ensemble of fine wines, this event will surely live up to its "classic" moniker for many years to come. The steering committee hopes to grow the Food and Wine Classic and the Sparkling Event into larger venues in 2003. Meanwhile, taste the fun and sip responsibly or at least point your customers in the right direction.

Friday, November 22

Wine Maker Dinners will be featured at: Café Tuscany, 16321 Red Arrow Highway, Union Pier, 269/469-9094;

Jenny's Restaurant, 15460 Red Arrow Highway, Lakeside, 269/469-6545; and Terrace Café at the Harbor Grand Hotel, 111 West Water Street, New Buffalo 269/469-7700.

Saturday, November 23

All day complimentary wine tasting at Tabor Hill Winery, 10243 Red Arrow Highway, Bridgman and 185 Mt. Tabor Road, Buchanan; and St. Julian Wine Co., 9100 Union Pier Rd. (at Exit 6, I-94), Union Pier.

Noon Rachel Collins, Collins Caviar Harbor Grand Hotel, Slide Show and Q&A: History of the American Caviar Industry.

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Heart of the Vineyard Grappa Distillation Demonstration & Tasting, Heart of the Vineyard's Round Barn, Baroda.

1:30 p.m. Javier Cardenas, Casey's Bar & Grill, Chef Javi's Salsa Showdown: Learn to make salsa from someone who knows. \$10.00 per person.

2:30 p.m. Sakés will be perfectly paired by Rick Cooper with nibbles prepared by Chef Tim Sizer of Timothy's, Union Pier.

4:00 p.m. Judy Kite-Gosh, Kite's

Kitchen & Retro Café, New Buffalo. Behind the scenes tour of her scratch kitchen and a demonstration of dessert decorating with all natural ingredients.

6:00 p.m. to 8:30 pm. "Sparkling Event" at the Harbor Grand Hotel, New Buffalo. Showcasing sample fare from the Chefs of Harbor Country paired with regional, domestic and imported sparkling wines. Featuring the music of the Bombay Jazz Trio. \$40.00 per person in advance, \$50.00 at the door (space permitting).

Sunday, November 24

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Golden Muffin Competition, Vickers Theatre, Three Oaks. Featuring Muffins from the commercial kitchens of Harbor Country's greatest muffin makers. Tasteful judging by the public and coffee by Intelligentsia.

1:00 p.m. Breakfast at Panozzo's, Panozzo's Pantry, New Buffalo. Demonstration of Holiday Brunch Ideas.

For a fax brochure or to make reservations for the Sparkling Event contact the Chamber Office at 269-469-5409. Sponsored by Harbor Country Lodging Association, Chamber of Commerce, HC Menu Book and Lake Magazine.

