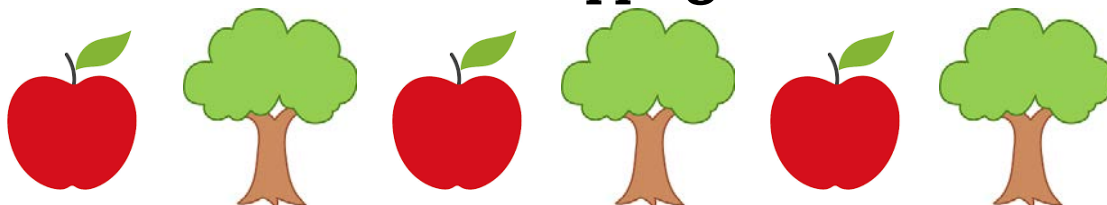




This newsletter  
Devoted to pet bird  
Enthusiasts is  
Published monthly by  
The Rainbow Feathers  
Bird club of Michigan  
A 501(c) (3) club

September 2019  
Volume 22 Issue 9

## Bird Droppings



### UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

SEPT 22<sup>ND</sup> – 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY

OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup> – 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY

NOVEMBER – NO MEETING; PET EXPO

### RAINBOW FEATHERS BIRD CLUB

#### Who we are and what we are about

- Non Profit club with members throughout the tri-county area, single bird owners, or just thinking of getting a bird, families, breeders, exhibitors, all are welcome.
- Support scholarships for avian vet students
- Yearly Bird Fair
- Club Library for members
- Grooming available
- Avian rescue/relocation programs
- Monthly meetings with programs of interest to members.
- Monthly newsletter
- Periodic Service projects
- Field Trips
- Educational Programs upon request
- Make-it-take-it workshops

And more.....

Come join us and have your feathers preened by other Pet Bird Enthusiasts

### Rainbow Feathers Bird Club Elected Officers:

President – Dave Carol 734-422-5981

Email – [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Vice President – Steve Plafchan 734-513-0030

Email – [splafchan@twmi.rr.com](mailto:splafchan@twmi.rr.com)

Secretary– Kathe Cote 734-373-2717

Email – [kathecote08@gmail.com](mailto:kathecote08@gmail.com)

Treasurer and Membership Secretary –

Tammy Carol 734-422-5981

Email – [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Board of Trustees –

Susan Dixon 248-330-6938

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Henry Jedrzejek-734-427-3187

Email- [bigduke@comcast.net](mailto:bigduke@comcast.net)

Celeste Markey 313-410-7518

Email- [cmarke@gmail.com](mailto:cmarke@gmail.com)

**ALL HEALTHY AND CLIPPED BIRDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO ACCOMPANY THEIR HUMAN COMPANIONS TO THE MONTHLY MEETINGS. WE MEET AT THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 6443 MERRIMAN ROAD BETWEEN FORD AND WARREN IN GARDEN CITY. MEETINGS START AT 2:00 PM.**

Anyone interested in becoming a member please contact Tammy Carol @ 734-422-5981 or by e-mail [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

## EDITORS BULLETIN BOARD

In Steve's absence, Courtney Eames will be doing the newsletter indefinitely. All ads and articles will be due the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of the month for publishing in the current month's newsletter. Please email all items to [courtneyeames@gmail.com](mailto:courtneyeames@gmail.com) and please CC Tammy at [sweettweeters@comcase.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcase.net)

Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter – this is YOUR newsletter.

Articles and/or pictures copied from other publications must be accompanied with written permission from original publication and author; this needs to be provided to the editor along with the article and/or picture.

Editor reserves the right to approve and/or edit any articles submitted prior to publication.

Ads will be run free for members having a one-time sale (baby birds, etc.). Those wishing to run ads multiple times or for a business must purchase a business membership.

## CLUB WELFARE



If you know of anyone who is sick, in the hospital or is going to have surgery please contact Jean Jedrzejek at 734-427-3187 or e-mail her at [bigduke@comcast.net](mailto:bigduke@comcast.net) if you know of any club member who is in the hospital or has lost a loved one.



## MONTHLY SNACK LIST

A few years ago we stopped soliciting volunteers to bring food to our meetings. Instead, it was agreed that the format be a potluck venue. We ask that "Everyone", please join in and contribute a main dish, veggie, salad, or dessert. Our meetings will be a potluck fair enjoyed by one and all. YUM!!

## BIRD CLUB ETIQUETTE

- ❖ Ask owner's permission to handle/feed bird(s) and remember to return bird to the owner.
- ❖ Wash hands prior/after bird handling.
- ❖ When bringing companion birds to club meetings, only bring birds that you have had vet checked and in your possession for at least 30 days.
- ❖ Clean up after yourself and your bird(s) before you leave.



## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to:

CHUCK JAMIESON	OCT. 1
NADA JURISICH-FONTANA	OCT. 11
ISABEL FONTANA	OCT. 11
MIMI GRZYMALAA	OCT. 11
CAROL SWANTNER	OCT. 13
NETTUS OSBORNE	OCT. 14
BRIGETTE FELIX	OCT. 15
JOSEPH GREENWOOD	OCT. 17
STEVE PLAFCHAN	OCT. 17
ANTHONY FILIPOWSKI	OCT. 19
EDWARD FRACZEK	OCT. 19
MIKE BURGESS-KRZESOWIAK	OCT. 20
JENNIFER PLAGENS	OCT. 25
FAITH GREENWOOD	OCT. 30
TIM MARSH	OCT. 30



## From the prez:

Sadly, I have to say Summer is quickly leaving us and soon Winter will be knocking at our doors but I intend to enjoy whatever is left of the nice weather! We had beautiful weather for the Ypsi/ Barb-que Fest and we were busy as always. What made it so great was the fact they

combined the two so the crowds were bigger and the food was outstanding. Of course, I had to try several of the bar-b-que places over the course of the weekend, yeah it was a tough job but someone had to do it. We also did a new event The Bow WOW Fun Fest on the Grounds of Canterbury Village in Lake Orion. This was a really fun event and Shorty Rossi of Pit Boss fame made it even better, we had a blast with him all weekend. The weather was shall we say just a little on the warm side. Oh, who am I trying to kid it was steamy hot and the windstorm on Sunday that started to take tents and make them kites cut things short for us but I would go back next year no doubt. Now we are looking at our two big fall events The Guardians for Animals Pet Expo and the Novi Pet expo. We will talk more about these at the meeting so don't miss it. Also, we have the 50/50 raffle tickets for sale and if we can sell all 750, we will probably come out on top when the money is given to the rescues. The tickets will be at the September meeting only since that is the only meeting we will have before the event. I am so grateful for the help we had at both events and am asking for your help once again so we can make these a success as well. So, keep your eyes peeled for the information in the newsletter. As always, **YOU GUYS ROCK!!!**

Your Prez

Dave



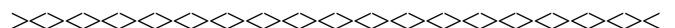
## VOICE OF THE VEEP

Voice of the Veep is on a temporary hiatus due to Steve's condition. Hopefully, we will not have to wait long for it to return. ☺

## THE ADVENTURES OF STEVE AND DAVE the RESCUE RANGERS

Hello Ranger Fans we're back! Did you miss us? Well thank you for that! This month's adventure takes us into our own backyard to a place called Redford and there, we find a poor little Sun Conure. Now this is the type of rescue that really tugs at your heartstrings because they did not want to turn him into the rescue but they had to. You see they ran into some bad luck and were in the process of losing their home and they were going to stay with family but the bird could not go with them. So, with heavy hearts they gave him up to the Rangers. You could tell he was well loved by the cage that came with him and all the toys and good quality food (pellets) they sent him with. Through tears they handed him over to the Rangers to find him his forever home. He was actually a very nice bird and very beautiful so it wasn't long before he found his new home and is still happy and healthy there. These types of rescue are very hard when they love the bird but can no longer keep the bird for whatever the reason! So with another successful adoption it was time to celebrate but not for too long because there are other birds that need their help and they are ready for they are the **RESCUE RANGERS!!!!**

Don't move a muscle or you might miss our next exciting adventure The Homeless Sun!





## RESCUE UPDATE

We had a very successful month and adopted out 10 birds, from parakeets to macaws!

**We're still looking for foster help!!** Any of our members that would be willing to become a foster home, please let us know.

Please contact Dave or Tammy at a meeting or give a call to let us know you're willing to help.

We here at Bird Droppings want to thank all of the members of our club for supporting our rescue. It is your participation in the monthly meeting raffles, our annual bird fair and all the adoption events that allows us to fund the rescue. Thank you one and all without your help and participation we couldn't do it.

## Avast ye Mates



## CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Well, we did not one, but two outdoor events back to

back and as usual I made my presence known rather loudly. First was the Bow Wow Fun Fest at Canterbury Village in Lake Orion and it was a fun event and the first time we were ever there. Of course, we made a great impression. Why wouldn't we? Then there was the Ypsi Fest combined with the Bar-b-Que Fest and our pet humans were definitely loving that. I have one complaint, why can't people get it right!!! I was called a Parakeet, a Conure and a Toucan, I was poked at and spoken loudly to, (the next person to get in my face and yell hello was gonna get it!). People even asked where the parrots were? Really! I was glad that the other birds pet humans were there to set things straight. Still many people were amazed at how stunning we were and could not believe they

get to see us up close and personal. Now we have a rest until the next two events, Guardians for Animals in October and the Novi Pet Expo in November so we have got to get rested up because it will be a crazy time at both events, fun but crazy! So, keep reading the newsletter for all the upcoming events we want to see you there!

Cheers

Captain Morgan



## Dr. Piper: Behavioral Expert

Well, I dare say that the Ypsi-Fest was even more successful than expected! The days I attended, I was quite happy with the food pickings. There were multiple BBQ locations, and my pet humans have educated me that BBQ = a GOOD time. It made all the human idiocy much more tolerable! I didn't even care that I was called a pigeon by more than one individual.

I was greatly impressed with how my fellow feathered companions applied their lessons and training to obtain some of the tastiest treats of the year. We can't get lax now! Before long, we'll be at the Pet Expo, and that's also a prime opportunity to get some extra snacks. Keep up the training! These next events will be the last opportunity for fair delicacies until next year!

Until next time,  
Professor Piper



## *Festival Follies!*

Well, you know that when we do any event, we get some of the strangest question and just overall comments and you know I

would never disappoint you, so here they are. These cover the Bow Wow Fun Fest and the Yspi/Bar-b-que fest, so enjoy!

One woman at the Yspi Fest was disappointed because she thought there would be parrots there but didn't see any. Really!

At the Fun Fest one woman asked how we kept the bird's hair so nice. Alrighty then!

One guy asked me when I told him that many of the large birds this year were laying eggs without any males in sight, he asked me what we do with the babies? Ah, dude basic biology no boys, no babies!

Another woman at the Yspi Fest insisted that all of the birds we had there were from Africa and her mind could not be changed.

At the Fun Fest a guy asked me if his dog would think they tasted like chicken! I don't know and I am not about to find out!

Another guy at the Fun Fest found a Captain feather on the ground and asked if I needed to find out where it came from and put it back.

People at both events saw J.B. the Timneh African Gray and said he was a very well-trained Pigeon.

One woman at the Fun Fest thought we tied the birds to their perches because they were not trying to fly away.

The best one was from a guy at Yspi Fest who asked if he took a blue Parakeet and bred it with an all-white Cockatiel could he get blue Cockatiel babies or Parakeets with a crest like a Cockatiel? This one left me speechless and I said they would never mate together anyway!

Oh, and the two pet expos are coming up so count on there being more!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**As of Sept 4th, 2019**

**\*\*\*\*\*2019\*\*\*\*\***

**Tuesday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> – Senior Program**

St. Joe's Village  
5341 McAuley Drive  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
Set-up 1:00 pm, Start 2:00 pm

**Wednesday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> – Senior Program**

Tranquility Estates Ind. Senior Center  
4069 East Cook Road  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439  
Set-up 10:00 am, Start 11:00 am

**Friday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> – Senior Program**

Medilodge Farmington  
34225 Grand River Ave.  
Farmington, MI 48335  
Set-up 1:30 pm; Start 2:30 pm

**Saturday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> – Senior Program**

American House Freedom Place  
3565 South Adams Road  
Rochester Hills, MI 48309  
Set-up 2:00 pm; Start 3:00 pm

**Wednesday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> – Senior Program**

Canterbury The Meadows on the Lake  
5601 Hatchery  
Waterford, MI 48329  
Set-up 1:30 pm, Start 2:30 pm

**Saturday, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> – Senior Program**

Glacier Hills Assisted Living  
1200 Earhart Rd.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105  
Set-up 1:30 pm; Start 2:30 pm

**Sunday, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> – Senior Program**

Waltonwood at Carriage Park Independent  
2000 Canton Center Road  
Canton, MI 48187  
Set-up 1:00 pm; Start 2:00 pm

**Monday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> – Senior Program**

Pomeroy Living  
(Formerly Beacon Square)  
40033 8 Mile Rd.  
Northville, MI 48167  
Set-up 1:00 pm, Start 2:00 pm

**Friday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> – Senior Program**

Pomeroy Living  
3434 W. South Blvd.  
Rochester Hills, MI 48309  
Set-up 1:30 pm, Start 2:30 pm

**Saturday, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> – Senior Program**

American House – Elmwood  
2251 West Auburn Road  
Rochester Hills, MI 48309  
Set-Up Noon; Start 1:00pm

**Tuesday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> – Senior Program**

Henry Ford Village  
15051 Ford Road  
Dearborn, MI 48126  
Set-up 9:30 am; Start 10:30 am

**Wednesday, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> – Senior Program**

Sunrise of Bloomfield  
2080 S. Telegraph  
Bloomfield, MI 48302  
Set-up 2:00 pm; Start 3:00 pm

**Wednesday, Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> – Senior Program**

Vibrant Life  
8100 Geddes Road  
Superior Township, MI 48198  
Set-up 1:00 pm, Start 2:00 pm

**Guardians for Animals Pet Expo**

**Saturday, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> – 10:00am – 5:00pm**

**Sunday, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> – 11:00am – 4:00pm**

Madison Place  
876 Horace Brown Drive  
Madison Heights, MI 48071  
We hopefully will be setting up on Friday  
like last year

**Tuesday, Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Senior Program**

First & Main of Commerce Township  
2500 Martin Parkway  
Commerce Township, MI 48390  
Set-Up 2:00; Start 3:00pm

**Friday, Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> – Senior Program**

Regency of Waterford  
1901 N. Telegraph Rd.  
Waterford, MI 48328  
Set-up 1:00 pm; Start 2:00 pm

**Sunday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Senior Program**

Glacier Hills Assisted Living  
1200 Earhart Rd.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105  
Set-up 1:30 pm; Start 2:30 pm

**PET EXPO**

**Fri, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> - 2pm to 8pm**

**Saturday, Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> - 10am to 8pm**

**Sunday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> - 10am to 5pm**

Suburban Collection Showplace  
46100 Grand River  
Novi, MI 48374

We will be setting up on Thursday Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>  
most likely around 9:00 am.

**Please remember no birds will be allowed  
through the front door.**

**Tuesday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> – Senior Program**

Canterbury The Meadows on the Lake  
5601 Hatchery  
Waterford, MI 48329  
Set-up 1:30 pm, Start 2:30 pm

## Friday, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> – Senior Program

American House  
5859 W. Maple Road  
West Bloomfield, MI 48322  
Set-up 1:00 pm; Start 2:00 pm

## 2020 Programs

### Tuesday May 5th, 2020 – Senior Program

AARP meeting at  
Wayne Community College  
21000 Northline Road  
Taylor, MI 48180  
Set-up 12:30 am; Start 1:30 pm

### \*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*

There has been some confusion from the loyal readers of Bird Droppings as to which events they are allowed to bring their own bird(s) to. As a point of reference and for future information please we want everyone to be aware that when you see the line:

### \*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*

following or “Educational Show” preceding an event listing it means we are attending the event in an official capacity representing our club and rescue. At these events all club members are welcomed to bring their feathered companions with them. Also please note that our space is very limited at some of these events but don’t let this stop you from joining us, we will find a way for you and your birdie buddy to fit in and enjoy the fun.



## BIRD SHOWS

As a bird club, we do several types of shows during the year. We do Outdoor Events, Educational Shows, and Senior Shows. These events are just as important as the outdoor events we do. The Senior and Educational shows are just one-day events and will take around 3 hours. Senior Shows are conducted at assorted assisted living and nursing homes in the area. We will bring in 20-30 or more birds in from parakeets all the way up to the macaws. The seniors absolutely love it. They light up when we bring out these birds. Many of them have never held a bird before, so it’s amazing when you hear a 102 year old woman tell you that it’s the first time in her whole life she’s ever held a bird in her hands.

Educational shows run along the same vein, except they’re usually done in schools or other kids groups.

We would love to see more people show up to the senior shows. You don’t have to bring a bird – we have plenty with us!

Lastly, our big events like the Pet Expo and the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival are three day events that can run up to 10 hours a day. They’re a lot of work, but SO much fun.

We would like to invite all members old and new to stop in on these fundraising opportunities and see what they’re all about!



## QUARANTINE & NECROPSY...WHY?

By: Elise Negrin

We all love our parrots. Getting a new pet bird is exciting and scary all at the same time. You wonder if they will love you, if they will thrive in your home. You ask yourself if you and your newbie will be compatible. For those of us bringing the bird into the home is a first-time experience. For others, it will be an addition to our flock. What are the first steps to take? Get a cage?

Check. Get proper food and toys? Check. You may be scouting out an area in your home for the cage which is great, but what about the new bird's health? Here the first step when obtaining a new parrot is Quarantine. What is it, and why is it so important?

Quarantine is the practice of separating the incoming parrot from other birds. If you have no other birds, your home is effectively the quarantine area. If you do have other parrots at home, your new bird (regardless of where it came from) should be separated from the rest of your flock in a different airspace. If that is not possible, at least place your new bird as far away from the others as possible. When feeding, feed your birds first, the new one last. Take care to not expose your shoes, clothing, hands etc. to your current pet(s) during and after handling the new bird. It is not that difficult if you find a system. Quarantine for a minimum of 30 days, 60 days if you can. The reason to quarantine is disease. Even if your new bird looks healthy, the bird may be carrying bacteria or viruses that could easily spread to the rest of your flock. Left unchecked in an "only" bird may display itself later on. While the bird is in quarantine you can visually check for his health. Observe his poop, blood in droppings, diarrhea, nasal discharge or eye discharge, heavy breathing and possibly seizures. Make sure your bird is eating. Some birds will not eat the first day or two while adjusting to their new environment. Do not panic prematurely. Veterinary care and testing are important.

Starting with a health record, having a baseline is a best practice. Taking your new buddy to an avian veterinarian can detect some illnesses or verify that the parrot is healthy. You wouldn't want your current birds exposed to diseases such as PDD, Aspergillosis, Chlamydia and other diseases. Birds hide their illnesses, so follow through to protect your flock. Your avian vet can detect health issues with a blood test, which most veterinarians will do at first. A visual exam and your input on his behavior can tell more. Ask your veterinarian whether your species of bird is prone to certain illnesses. Go to the vet prepared. If you take care of your new bird for this short period during quarantine, you will

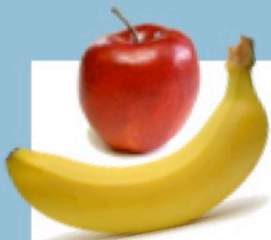
ensure a happy future for both you and your flock. It is your responsibility as a pet owner. Necropsy goes hand in hand with Quarantine.

What is necropsy? It is an autopsy on a non-human. Used commonly for animal autopsies. Why? Because just as we take care to quarantine in the beginning, many of us seek closure when a loved one passes. America can be a throw-away society but if you love your bird, and it passes away, why wouldn't you want to know? Most people do not necropsy their bird. It is very important to know what your bird died from for many reasons.

When can you bypass a necropsy? If your bird is quite old, you may wish to opt out of necropsy. If you previously had your bird to the veterinarian and you are fully aware of a particular illness, such as heart disease, liver disease, cancerous tumors, well, then, you already know and are prepared for his demise. Some birds may have been a carrier of a particular disease, not showing it from the beginning. If you do have other birds, having the necropsy done may prevent the spread among your flock if caught early.

Far too many birds die young. A lovebird should not die at 2-5 years old. A macaw should not die at 8-10 years old. If there was no accident causing the death, we should question why the bird died and without a necropsy you will never be able to determine what happened. Even if a bird falls from its perch and breaks its neck, do you really know why he fell? Did it have a seizure? Heart attack? A necropsy could determine that. As we all know, we are responsible for what we keep. Should you choose to cohabit with a long living bird requires that we care for their medical, mental and physical well-being. Taking these steps beginning to end ensures safety for your other birds and closure for you.

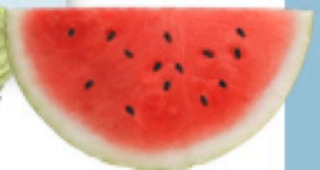
This article was posted with permission from author Elise Negrin. Elise Negrin lives in Western NC with her Congo African Grey Gringo. She has been educating within parrot clubs for nearly 25 years. She is the founder of PSPB.club and MVPSNC.club.



# What are you really feeding your bird?

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**Susan Dixon**

**248-330-6938**

**susanhdixon@hotmail.com**

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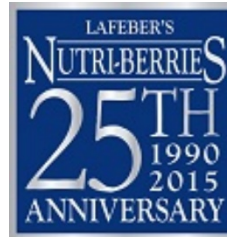
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MURALS  
AND OTHER  
CREATIONS

BY MARY KAY PERVA  
517-672-9528



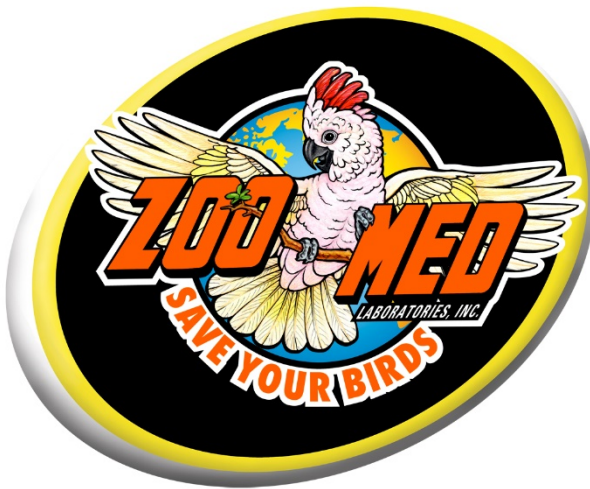
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know Robin Shewokis well: she is an  
enrichment expert. You can also contact me,  
Craig Perdue, for details (734-262-0998).

Parkway Animal Hospital  
39321 Garfield Rd.  
Clinton Twp., MI 48038-2794  
Attn: Dr. Thomas Bankstahl,  
Dr. Golombek, Dr. Pope & Dr. Engel

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