

The Reminder

September 2008

Senior Men's Club of Birmingham, Michigan



Inside

- 2 Membership News
- 3 Games
- 4 Endowment Fund
- 5 Fall Funfest
- 6 Groups
- 7 Hostesses Wanted
- 8 Mystery Lyrics



Fletcher is 100

Senior Men's Club Life Member Fletcher Street, with his wife Bernice, accepted the club's congratulations at its June 27 meeting on the occasion of Fletcher's 100th birthday. A member of the Senior Men's Club since January 1975 when Ross Wagner was club president, Fletcher has been a Life Member since 1993. He is the club's oldest member (100), and he is also the club's longest-term member (33 years).

Sharply dressed in a light gray jacket and with his wife Bernice dressed in a white blouse and blue sweater, Fletcher and Bernice stood proudly to accept the club's greeting. President Ken Urwiller read no other birthdays; the meeting's accolades were reserved for Fletcher. During the meeting break and at the end of the meeting, members clustered about the Streets to extend greetings and congratulations.

Fletcher was a textile man. Born in Pennsauken, NJ, he shortly moved with his parents to Philadelphia where he grew up and attended the Philadelphia Textile School (now



Fletcher and Bernice Street at SMC the day after Fletcher's 100th birthday

...continued on page 5

SEPTEMBER PROGRAMS

SEPTEMBER CHAIRMAN: Marty Gabriel

- 5 Emery King, Director of Communications, Detroit Medical Center..... *Current State of Journalism in TV Media*
- 12 Ronald Harbour, President, Harbour Consulting *The Status of the Automotive Industry*
- 19 Gregory Edwards, Director of Marketing, Virginia Port Authority *Global Briefing on World Trade*
- 26 Al Eicher, President Emeritus, Program Source International *Traveling the Russian Waterways*

OCTOBER PROGRAMS

OCTOBER CHAIRMAN: Roger Garvelink

- 3 David Larson, Superintendent, Birmingham Public Schools *State of the School District*

SEPTEMBER DISCUSSIONS

SEPTEMBER CHAIRMAN: John Slocum

- 5 Andy Breidenich, Officer, Troy Police Department..... *ID Theft*
- 12 Scott Simpson, President, MainStreet Auctions *Power of eBay in the Market Place*
- 19 Dr. Jaap Delevie, SMC Member..... *Historical, Cultural and Political Aspects of the Netherlands Today*
- 26 Lisa Mammoser and Erica Barker-Erlewein, Speech Language Pathologists, William Beaumont Hospital *Memory Tips For Everyday Living*

OCTOBER DISCUSSIONS

OCTOBER CHAIRMAN: Augie Perrotta

- 3 Barry Demp, Business Coach *Mastering Your Professional and Personal Relationships*

Membership News

New Members:



Richard R. Gala, (Callie)
2909 Bamlet Rd.
Royal Oak, MI 48073-2978
248-549-5238
E-mail: RRGala@med.wayne.edu
Sponsor: John Horiszny



W. Robert Chandler, (Jean)
19228 Bungalow Dr.
Lathrup Village, MI 48076-3363
248-559-1203
Sponsor: Frank J. Bujold



William J. Smallwood, (Ann)
288 W. Brown St.
Birmingham, MI 48009-1455
248-644-1870
E-mail: TableTop248@comcast.net
Sponsor: Albert O. Roberts, Jr.



Thomas C. King, III, (Sharon)
630 W. Maplehurst St.
Ferndale, MI 48220-1288
248-542-2237
E-mail: Rcampfitters@aol.com
Sponsor: W. James Haidle

To Life Member:

Edward P. Butler, joined June 1995
Kenneth L. Urwiller, joined March 1997
Richard W. Smith, joined January 1995

Resigned:

George N. Herrera, Associate

Deaths:

James N. Isham, (Life), joined May 1990
J. Whitfield Jones, joined March 2003

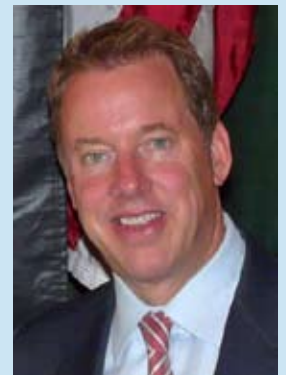
New Associates:

Jon A. Bird, (Jan)
1485 Yorkshire, Birmingham, MI 48009-5913
248-648-4658
E-mail: jbird33885@aol.com
Sponsor: Jack L. Fawcett

—Pete Kass, Membership Chairman
—John M. Steele, Database Chairman
—Bill Shaffmaster, Photography

A Ford at the SMC

On Friday, July 25, the speaker was William Clay Ford, Jr., Chairman, Ford Motor Company. Former Ford CEO Red Poling was a guest in the audience as well. (Had we known in advance, Red would have been seated at the head table.) Bill Ford spoke for about 20 minutes and took questions for another 20 minutes.



Mr. Ford, in response to questions, spoke of the strong support that members of the Ford Family have given and continue to give the company and its management. His assessment of the company was optimistic. He was very well received, and he got a rare standing ovation from the 319 member audience.

—Chuck Kirkpatrick

Member Honor

Member Jack Benish recently received an award for 50 years of perfect attendance at Rotary Club monthly meetings. Wherever Jack may be, he never misses a Rotary meeting.

This honor - the Paul Harris Foundation Award - was presented in Petoskey, where Jack summers. Dick Hameister reports that the presentation left Jack speechless. Congratulations, Jack!

—Dick Harper



Bowling

When you see the word "bowling" at this time of year, you know summer must almost be over. Yes, members, it's that time of the year to give thoughts about committing to approximately 30 weeks, or part of that number, for exercise, fun and friendship in the Senior Men's Club Bowling League.

It's scheduled to start on Monday, September 8, 2008 at 9:00 AM at the Thunderbird Lanes on Maple Road in Troy, east of Crooks Road on the north side. We have ten teams of four members each but we also need substitutes. Even if you haven't bowled in many moons, feel free to come to the alleys and sign up, we may be short a bowler or two or three. If you want, you can call me at 248-879-1127 and I will be happy to put you on the list of bowlers.

One final thought, if you can't bowl on a particular Monday, you don't have to pay. Part of the fee is for prize money at the end of the season. This past May we gave back to the bowlers and subs approximately \$3,800 in prize money. Come and have fun.

—Less Lessenthien

Thursday Golf

Thursday Golf's annual scramble produced some great scores and prize money. Win paid \$72, Place paid \$40, and Show paid \$28. Winners in Flight #1 were Cheff, Merryman, Freeburg, and Twietmeyer with a net score of 17.5. Flight #2 winners were Cox, Dudash, Halmhuber, and Serazin with a net score of 17.

On July 31 Dick Suminiski, a.k.a. "Warsaw Falcon," holed a birdie putt of 7 feet, 5 1/2 inches and was closest to the pin on hole #6. That feat reaped him \$40 from the Cliff Dean Challenge pot. The Cliff Dean Challenge will continue until the tournament starts in late August.

John Dudash, a.k.a. "Rollie Fingers," was closest to the pin on hole #6 during play on August 7. In addition to the free round, he received a bonus of two tickets to the PGA practice round. These tickets were donated by SMC Member Jim Judge.

The Thursday Golf's Tournament is being held on August 21, August 28, and September 4. Rules are:

- Must have played a minimum of 4 rounds at Springdale.
- Handicaps based on average through August 14.

Associates' Monday Golf

It has been a wonderful season. Lots of new Associate golfers. Good weather throughout (okay, we did have a couple of cool mornings). Plenty of socialization; kibitzing galore. Great turnouts each week. Excellent scoring on a golf course always in excellent condition. And, most importantly, well-satisfied players.

Our Scramble on August 11 produced winners as follows: In Flight #1 Bob Gualdoni, Dick Mueller, Chuck Travers and Tom Waffin were first. Pete Good, Bob Munn, Joe Schulenberg and Bill Spreitzer were second and Clarence Cheff, Bob Hinytzke, Dave Key and Al Wood were third. In Flight #2 Pete Kass, Alan Neally, Bob Parker and Frank Reid were first. Ken Bugis, Byron Converse, Larry Jeziorski and Rich Wehling were second and John Marsh, Pete Mehra, Bob Smith and George Stern were third. Gross scores ranged from three under (32) to four over (39) with winners selected by applying team/players handicaps to determine net scores.

Highlight of the year was the Double Eagle, Hole-in-One by John Perryman on Hole #5 earlier in the year. Jim Doyle was our medalist among the regulars with a year-long average of 38.2 and Pete Kass was next at 42.

Thank you to everyone who participated. Special thanks to Jerry Heller, Secretary, and Ed Jones and Tom Waffin, Starters. Please join us at the Golf Banquet in October and we look forward to seeing you next year.

—Bill Spreitzer, Chair

- Hole all putts except less than 5 inches (length of folded score card).
- 18 hole score based on two (2) consecutive nines—not best 2 out of 3.

Mark your calendars for the Scramble at Stonycroft Hills Golf Course. The date is Tuesday, September 9. Thanks to the adroit negotiating skills of Big Chief Ben Smith, the cost is \$35 per golfer. The committee will attempt to pair up golfers who wish to play together. However, the committee reserves the right to adjust the golfers in each foursome to insure the fairest competition based on handicaps. Remember that Stonycroft Hills is a private course and we are their guests. Their dress code requires no denim, shirts with collar or golf turtleneck tucked in—shorts are OK.

While you have your calendar in front of you, mark Wednesday, October 22 as the date for the golf banquet at The Community House.

Hit them high, hit them long, and hit them straight.

—Chuck Travers

Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund was initiated last year to support The Community House over the long term. Contributors in 2007 included:

- Ed Cox
- Dave Dinger
- John Flintosh
- Gerry Heller
- John Horiszny
- Bill Johnson
- Norris Lee
- George Miller
- Robert Robb
- Ken Urwiller
- Managed Asset Portfolios

\$60,000 was contributed last year; the goal for 2008 is another \$60,000. The income (approx. 5%) on \$120,000 will provide \$6,000 to The Community House each year forward.

Gifts of appreciated assets (stocks, etc.) may have tax benefits to the donor. All types of gifts (including cash) are welcome and are tax deductible.

Questions regarding the fund can be directed to Frannie Greenebaum, 248-594-6404 at The Community House.

—George Miller

The Village the The Jug

Yes, the jug is about ready to appear again with its magic. The magic is that it can hold just as many \$100 bills as it can \$1 bills.

It's the time when you great guys dig deep to provide a special fund to support our kids at OCCV – Oakland County Children's Village. This is when we pass the hat – "oops" – the Jug to help provide a better quality of life for our kids at the Village. Over the years our gift has grown from \$300 in 1986 to \$6,671 in 2007. Here we are again! Yes, things are really tough – the market is down – jobs are hard to find and add any problems you like, but there will be a bunch of kids at OCCV needing help. It's up to us to make this a good season for John Spomer's kids at the Village.

You know all the reasons we should honor "The Jug."

- These are Oakland County kids who need our help.
- There are no administrative expenses.
- It's tax deductible.
- Our gifts provide the "extras" that are not funded by the county budget.

Please keep this in mind and make a really generous contribution when "The Jug" passes on September 26. If you will not be with us then, please send a generous check made out to Oakland County Children's Village to Phil Werner, 6810 Orinoco, Bloomfield, MI 48301.

—Phil Werner

Fletcher

...continued from page 1

Philadelphia University). After graduation, and service in the U.S. Army as a Captain in the Quartermaster Corps with duty at the National War College, in Marseilles, France and on Okinawa, he joined Collins & Aikman, a textile manufacturer and automotive interior trim supplier.



Fletcher, who had been introduced to Bernice by his sister, took Bernice on their first date to the Merion Golf Club to see Ben Hogan become U.S. Open Champion (the year before Hogan was U.S. Open Champion at Oakland Hills). Then he took her to a meeting with a choral group. Impressed, he took her on a real date in New York City where Bernice, a Temple University graduate, was working at Rockefeller Center. They had dinner and went to see "Auntie Mame," sitting in the eighth row. Bernice was interested in this man who looked like Cary Grant. Fletcher proposed marriage, but Bernice thought he didn't earn enough. With that, he became interested in General Motors' inquiries to Collins & Aikman -- GM needed a textile man.

Fletcher, after interviewing with GM in New York, asked Bernice if she would marry him and move to Detroit. She agreed, and following their marriage they moved to a house in Detroit to await completion of their new apartment, still under construction. The house housed ten men and Bernice. That lasted a week; she moved back to Philadelphia. Later, when their new apartment was completed, Bernice returned to Detroit. Fletcher's boss recommended moving to Birmingham, and they've lived here since 1952, enjoying his 24-year career with GM. They have a son, Richard, and a daughter, Shirley.

—Chuck Kirkpatrick

The Bathtub Test

During a visit to the mental asylum, a visitor asked the Director how do you determine whether or not a patient should be institutionalized. "Well," said the Director, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the patient and ask him or her to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand," said the visitor, "A normal person would use the bucket because it's bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No," said the Director, "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"



Save the date of November 4, 2008 for the FALL FUNFEST. Your Special Events Committee has planned a bus trip to Detroit to visit the following:

-A tour of the Parade

Company headquarters (the old Chrysler Lynch Road assembly plant) to see the floats, costumes, papier-mache heads, etc. being prepared for the annual "America's Thanksgiving Day Parade." This will be a guided tour of the 120,000 square foot story land where artisan volunteers create the parade magic. Be sure to bring your camera.

-A sumptuous lunch at the Kurz Dakota Inn Rathskeller. We will have a great German plate of knackwurst, bratwurst, german potato salad and sauerkraut. Apple strudel and non-alcoholic beverages are included in the lunch. German beer, wine and cocktails are also available.

-A docent guided tour of the Detroit Historical Society Museum. This Detroit jewel will highlight the Ford Model T Centennial; look at Detroit 100 years ago; with a section of the facility focusing on Detroit's entertainment venues through the years.

Don't miss this one. Tickets go on sale in October in the usual fashion and will be \$45 per person.

—Fall Funfest Committee - Jim Judge, Howard Maichen, John O'Brien, Riggs Miller and Art Pope

September Programs

Marty Gabriel has planned an excellent "global" series of programs that will provide up-to-the-minute updates throughout the world. First we will hear about journalism in TV from a leading person in communications. Then we will be given a briefing on The Harbour Report which is now a part of Oliver Wyman. Next, we will hear from the Managing Director of Marketing at the Virginia Port Authority of the World Trade Center, and we'll see a multi-media presentation by one of our members who recently made an extensive visit to Russia. Check out the listings of September Programs on the front page of this *Reminder*, and plan to attend them all.

—Irv Poston

Stratford in October

Join us on October 14, 2008 for our annual pilgrimage to the Stratford Music Festival to see the hit musical "Cabaret." Originally released in 1966, "Cabaret" is set in 1929-1930 Berlin on the eve of the Nazis' rise to power. The story focuses on nightlife at the seedy Kit Kat Klub and revolves around an English 19-year-old cabaret performer Sally Bowles and her relationship with the young American writer, Cliff Bradshaw. Overseeing the action is the emcee at the club, who continually reflects the growing anti-Semitic state of society in Germany during this period.

We expect a quick sellout to this event. Friends who have seen the play rate it outstanding, say it touches every human emotion and is a bit risqué.

We plan a wonderful day of fun and feasting.

- We will depart the First Presbyterian Church (1669 West Maple Road) parking lot at 8:30 AM via luxury motorcoach.

- Upon arrival, we will lunch at the Stratford Country Club. The lunch will be buffet style with two warm entries and plenty of desserts. A cash bar will be available.

- "Cabaret" will begin at 2:00 PM at the Avon Theatre. You will have ample time prior to the show to browse the theatre gift shop.

- Following the play, we will make a quick stop at the Stratford Rheo Thompson Candy Shop. We should arrive back home about 9:30 PM. A snack will be served on the return trip.

The price for this special event is \$100. This is the same price as last year despite inflation and the strengthening of the Canadian dollar. This includes transportation, lunch, the play and all gratuities. This event is limited to 56 members, associates and spouses. Tickets will go on sale at 9:00 AM on Friday, September 19, 2008. Early birds will get a line number at about 8:45 AM. A limit of two tickets per member/associate will be the rule.

Please note: U.S. Immigration Law requires visitors to Canada have a valid passport or two pieces of identification, one of which includes your picture. Typically, this is your driver's license and either a birth certificate or voter registration card. Credit cards are not acceptable ID. To ensure we do not jeopardize our crossing, we will check your ID prior to boarding the bus. Anyone without appropriate documents will not be allowed to board.

—Bob Gualdoni, Riggs Miller and Tom Clapp Co-Chairs

Groups



Classic Movie Group

Join us on Monday, September 8 at 1:00 PM in the Hackett Room for the SMC premiere of the 1938 swashbuckler "The Adventures of Robin Hood." It stars Errol Flynn (Robin Hood, the Earl of Locksley), Olivia de Havilland (Maid Marian) and Basil Rathbone (Sir Guy of Gisbourne) in the first Warner Brothers film shot in the new full 3-strip Technicolor process. The sophisticated sword fights and archery are respected to this day. By now a cliché, "steal from the rich and give to the poor" was coined in this film. The scenes displaying the emotional harmony between Errol Flynn and Olivia de Havilland are considered cinema's greatest romantic moments. Bring your sweetheart to this classic from your childhood that inspired dreams of knights and virgin maidens and had you fight great battles against evil enemies in your backyard with honor, courage and endless romance.



—Andy Spencer



Camera Group

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, September 9 at 2:00 PM. Jaap Delevie, one of our most popular presenters, will present a program on his country of origin, the Netherlands. The title is, "What Tourists Can Expect to See When They Visit the Netherlands." He will take us to the old cities of Amsterdam, Haarlem, Leiden, and Delft as well as a number of less well known communities. We will visit fields of tulips, see old windmills, national parks and, of course, the so-called national costumes. As always, friends and spouses are invited.

—Roger Garvelink

Laugh, It's Good for You!

When you go into court, you are putting yourself in the hands of twelve people...who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty!



Investment Group

On Wednesday, September 10 at 2:45 PM, Jim Williams of Miller Canfield will update us on Estate Planning and Tax issues. He is one of our most popular speakers.

The new Stock Game will begin on October 9, 2008. Rules are unchanged. Will Ed Cox and Bob Klein win again? Start thinking about your stock picks!

—George Miller



Computer Group

The next meeting will start at 3:00 PM on Wednesday, September 17. Three Madonna University Librarians will describe some of the resources available to Michigan residents for gathering news and research information. The presentation will also give participants suggestions for how to evaluate web sites for credibility.

—George Nordenholt

Discussion Group

Troy police officer, Andy Breidenich, will discuss how and why seniors are being targeted for ID theft, how to prevent it and what to do if you are a victim.

Scott Simpson, co-founder of MainStreet Auctions, will focus on the global reach of eBay and how to investigate the potential value of home items.

SMC Member, Jaap Delevie, will present his perspective on the historical background of the Netherlands which led to today's cultural and political climate of his native land. On September 9, he will give a pictorial account to the Camera Group.

Lisa Mammoser and Erica Barker-Erlewein, speech and language pathologists from Beaumont Hospital, will define the different types of memory and the factors that affect memory, as well as provide us with memory enhancing strategies and exercises.

Business Coach, Barry Demp, will focus on achieving personal excellence in the form of communication skills, relationship building, motivation, time management, life balance and goal achievement.

—Augie Perrotta

SMC 2009 Dues Coupon

2009 Dues are payable before January 1, 2009. A \$10 late fee must be added for dues paid after January 1, 2009. Make checks payable to SMC and pay at the meeting or by mail. Please use the coupon if paying by mail.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

If paying by mail, send to:

Senior Men's Club Dues
The Community House
380 South Bates Street
Birmingham, MI 48009

Dues:

- \$35 Active Member
- \$20 Associate Member
- \$15 Member on Leave

Good Will Ambassadors



Many Senior Men's Club members volunteer their time, abilities and knowledge to aid our neighbors through BASCC-the Birmingham Area Senior Citizens Council-packing and delivering meals to the homebound, as well as supporting many other BASCC efforts to help area senior citizens.

On Thursday, June 19, a recognition lunch was held at BASCC to honor and acknowledge the tireless efforts of these individuals. The master of ceremonies at this luncheon was Senior Men's Club member Don Jensen, BASCC President. Other Senior Men's Club attendees were Norris Lee and wife Nancy, John Horiszny, Robert Kenning and his wife Shirley, Sherwin Vine, David Schwartz and Ben Mangiapane. The Senior Men's Club maintains close ties to BASCC; many of our members have served on the board and as president during the years.

What are you doing in retirement to aid the community and the Senior Men's Club? Your talents, energy and optimism are needed.

—Bill Reilly

Dress Code

Second Vice President Irv Poston, serving as presiding officer at our last July meeting before our break, announced that the club's dress code will be in effect starting at September meetings.

This means that coats and ties should be worn to Friday meetings. Our fashion police will be monitoring.

—Dick Harper

Associate Members

The next Associate Member Orientation Meeting will be held at 9:00AM on September 5, 2008 in the Library of The Community House.

Those Associate Members who need to attend an orientation should have received a letter of invitation to this meeting from committee secretary, John Klein. Please RSVP so that sufficient handouts will be available.

—Dave Dinger

Hostesses Wanted

One of the best-loved and time-honored traditions of the Senior Men's Club has been lunch service by volunteer hostesses at Friday meetings.

Each week, a group of smiling and efficient ladies make sure that we get the right sandwich or salad and enough coffee or tea.

Typically, these ladies are wives of members or associates. With a number of recent retirements, openings exist for additional hostesses. Please contact Eunice Orton (248 642 7812) or Lillian Fregolle (248 646 1894) for details. (If your wife doesn't read the *The Reminder*, men, please mention this article).

—Dick Harper

Mystery Lyrics

Our attempt to challenge readers with a difficult mystery lyric failed miserably. Once again, you demonstrated that you really know your music, with no fewer than 15 telling us that this line:

Don't mess with Mr. In-Between

is from the great Johnny Mercer song "Accentuate the Positive."

Correct answers were received from Dick Mueller, Bill Sprague, Jerry Heller, Mary Slocum (John), Rose Marie Vernier (Tom), Jack McLaughlin, Louise Klein (Bob), John O'Brien, John Parker, Chuck and Isabel Himelhoch, Dick Porter, Mark Kelley, Fred Leydorf, Stan Rogell, Mary Schwartz (Dave), and Clay Gordon.

We did better with the Sinatra closing theme challenge, with only six of the above remembering that this song was "Put your dreams away (for another day)." They were Vernier, Klein, Parker, Leydorf, Rogell and Schwartz.

Hopefully, this month's mystery lyric won't be as easy! Can you name the tune containing this lyric line?

*I saw a man who danced
with his wife*

Mary Schwartz suggested this theme song challenge, Can you remember the song used by baritone Vaughan Monroe to start his programs, especially on radio?

—Dick Harper



CLUB DATES TO REMEMBER

Executive Board Meeting: Tuesday, September 16, 9:30 AM

Reminder Deadline: Friday, September 19

Games

Bowling: Monday, 9:00 AM at Thunderbird Lanes (starts 9/8)
Wednesday, 10:00 AM at Thunderbird Lanes (practice)

Bridge: Tuesday, 9:00 AM and Friday after lunch

Golf: Thursday, 9:00 AM at Springdale

Special Events

"Cabaret," Tuesday, October 14 (bus trip to Stratford)

Fall Funfest, Tuesday, November 4 (bus trip to Detroit)

Group Meetings

Computer Group: Wednesday, September 17, 3:00 PM

Investment Group: Wednesday, September 10, 2:45 PM

Camera Group: Tuesday, September 9, 2:00 PM

Classic Movie Group: Monday, September 8, 1:00 PM

All events at The Community House unless otherwise stated.

THE REMINDER

A monthly publication of the Senior Men's Club of Birmingham, which meets on Fridays at 10:30 AM at The Community House, 380 South Bates Street, Birmingham, Michigan 48009.

Officers for 2008 are: Ken Urwiller, president; Bob Pullar, first vice president; Irv Poston, second vice president; John Flintosh, recording secretary; Chuck Kirkpatrick, corresponding secretary; Bill Sprague, treasurer; Dick Shirley, assistant treasurer; Ted Chapekis and Bill Hartman, officers at large; Bill Crabtree, parliamentarian.

THE REMINDER includes: Dick Harper, editor; Chuck Kirkpatrick, Bill Reilly and Dick Davis, associate editors; David Schneider and Bill Shaffmaster photography; Lee Trumbull, computer layout; Bob Jordan, mailing.

The Reminder

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380 S. Bates St. Birmingham, MI 48009



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