Last Tuesday night the Robinson Performing Arts Center at Our Lady of Providence High School filled with proud relatives and friends of the 15 young women vying for the title of 2012 Miss Clark County. Charlie Jenkins of Clear Channel Radio served as the Master of Ceremony and welcomed everyone to the pageant.

Every year the Miss Clark County Queen pageant gives the audience a night to remember. This year was no different as the Clark County 4-H Corporation celebrated the 25th anniversary of hosting the pageant. Fair queens from past years were honored during the special night.

The ladies were judged in two categories during the night including professional wear and evening gown. The three judges, Kimm Hollis, J. Scott Reid and Pam Robbins, held private interviews early Tuesday afternoon with each of the 15 contestants.

After a great evening where the contestants were able to make new friends and memories that will last them a lifetime, the moment everyone had been waiting for finally arrived. The 2011 Miss Clark County Queen, Makenzie Renee Schafer, crowned the 2012 royalty. Miss Clark County 2012 is Candace Popp. She is the 19 year old daughter of Ralph and Patty Popp. The 1st Runner Up is Jayla Rose while 2nd Runner Up is Violet Herrmann. Rose is the 17 year old daughter of Robin Rose. Herrmann is the 17 year old daughter of Gary and Janine Herrmann. Miss Congeniality is Kayla Shackelford. She is the 20 year old daughter of Sharon Durham and Tom Shackelford.

The 2012 Miss Clark County Royalty received nice gift bags filled with special presents from local businesses and individuals.

Popp, after being crowned Miss Clark County, received: Silver Tray, Sash and Crown from the Clark County 4-H Corporation; $50 Cash Gift from The New Washington State Bank; $25 Cash Gift from Specialty Manufacturing; $250 Cash Gift from Judge Vicki Carmichael, Clark Circuit Court #4; $50 Cash Prize from Farm Bureau, Inc.; $100 Savings Bond and Plaque from Clark County Sheriff Danny Rodden; $100 Dillard's Gift Card from Dillard's in the Green Tree Mall; $50 Cash Gift from Judge Dan Moore, Clark Circuit Court #1; $50 Cash Gift from Consolidated Grain & Barge; Crown Pin from Makenzie Schafer, Miss Clark County 2011 and Dina Schafer; Bouquet of Roses from Henderson Flower Shop; $50 Gift Certificate from Linda Toupin, National Sales Director Mary Kay Cosmetics; Whitening Trays from Morrison Dental; $75 Cash Gift from Magistrate Ken Abbott and Family; Picture Frame from Darlene Coleman, Schuler Bauer Real Estate Service; Free Sitting, 8x10 and Mini Proof Book from Moments Photography Inc.; Dental Package from Charlestown Road Dental; Special Gift from Whitney Popp, Miss Clark County 2008; Swarovski Writing Pen and Personalized Stationary Certificate from Rachel Tate, Miss Clark County 2008, Katie Petry, Miss Clark County 2006 and Amy Herrmann, Miss Clark County 2009; Jewelry from The Carvers, 2003 Queen's Family; Special Gift from Emily Oliver- Jones, Miss Clark County 2000; 31 Utility Tote from Emily Oliver- Jones, Executive Director 31 Gifts; Portfolio from Clark Memorial Hospital Foundation; $20 Gift Card from Click Portrait Studio of New Albany; $20 Scentsy Gift Certificate from Ashley Robison, Independent Scentsy Consultant; One Cut and Style from Janet Bledsoe, Le Body Shoppe Hair Salon of Sellersburg; Engraved Glass Nail File from GAP Fabrication Inc. and Clock Picture Frame from

Home Instead Senior Care of New Albany.

Rose, after being crowned 1st Runner Up received: Silver Tray and Sash from the Clark County 4-H Corporation; $100 Savings Bond from Linda Toupin, Mary Kay Cosmetics; $50 Cash Gift from Farm Bureau, Inc.; $50 Cash Gift from The New Washington State Bank; $25 Cash Gift from Speciality Manufacturing; $50 Cash Gift from Jim O'Neal Ford; Special Gift from Whitney Popp, Miss Clark County 2008; Special Gift from Emily Oliver- Jones, Miss Clark County 2000; 31 Gift from Amber Johnson- Jackson, Miss Clark County 1999; Portfolio from Clark Memorial Hospital Foundation; Jewelry from The Carvers, 2003 Queen's Family; Picture Frame from Darlene Coleman, Schuler Bauer Real Estate Service; 31 Gift from Emily Oliver-Jones, Executive Director 31 Gifts; Dental Package from Charlestown Road Dental; $20 Scentsy Gift Certificate from Ashley Robison, Independent Scentsy Consultant; One Cut and Style from Amy Wheatley, Le Body Shoppe Hair Salon of Sellersburg; $20 Gift Card from Click Portrait Studio of New Albany; 5 Tanning Visits from Trisha McAfee of Le Body Hair & Tanning of Sellersburg and Engraved Glass Nail File from GAP Fabrication Inc.

After being crowned 2nd Runner Up Herrmann received: Silver Tray and Sash from Clark County 4-H Corporation; $40 Cash Gift from River Valley Financial Bank; $25 Cash Gift from Speciality Manufacturing; $25 Cash Gift from Farm Bureau, Inc.; Special Gift from Whitney Popp, Miss Clark County 2008; Special Gift from Emily Oliver- Jones, Miss Clark County 2000; Jewelry from The Carvers, 2003 Queen's Family; Portfolio from Clark Memorial Hospital Foundation; Picture Frame from Darlene Coleman, Schuler Bauer Real Estate Service; Dental Package from Charlestown Road Dental; 31 Gift from Emily Oliver- Jones, Executive Director 31 Gifts; $20 Scentsy Gift Certificate from Ashley Robison, Independent Scentsy Consultant; Hair Cut & Style from Shelia Day, Le Body Hair Salon of Sellersburg and Engraved Glass Nail File from GAP Fabrication Inc.

Being named Miss Congeniality Shackelford received: Silver Tray from Clark County 4-H Corporation; $25 Cash Gift from Farm Bureau, Inc.; $25 Cash Gift from Speciality Manufacturing; $25 Cash Gift from Jay C Food Store of Charlestown; Special Gift from Whitney Popp, Miss Clark County 2008; Special Gift from Emily Oliver- Jones, Miss Clark County 2000; 31 Gift from Emily Oliver- Jones, Executive Director 31 Gifts; Jewelry from The Carvers, 2003 Queen's Family; Dental Package from Charlestown Road Dental; $20 Scentsy Gift Certificate from Ashley Robison, Independent Scentsy Consultant; Portfolio from Clark Memorial Hospital Foundation; Gift Bag from Clark County REMC and Engraved Glass Nail File from GAP Fabrication, Inc.

All contestants received a Pageant Shirt from The Estopinal Group; Pageant Tote Bag from Earth First of Kentuckiana; Pageant Rose from Aebersold Florist- Sellersburg/ New Albany; Pageant Program from Clark County 4-H Corporation; Gift Bag Items from Local Businesses and Dinner Food and Flowers from Steve and Debbie Davidson of Sellersburg.

This year's gift bag contributors included: Coyle Chevrolet, Veterans Parkway; Clark County REMC, Sellersburg; Patricia Vogt, Mary Kay Sales Representative; Jackson Physical Therapy, Sellersburg; The Dicksons, Terry Linda, Elizabeth and Rebekah; Judy Popp, Avon Consultant; Speciality Manufacturing, Charlestown; Dillard's, Green Tree Mall; Earth & Fire- Pottery by You, New Albany; Raneigh Prall, Miss Clark County 2005; River Valley Financial Bank, Sellersburg; Clark Memorial Hospital, Jeffersonville; Emily Oliver- Jones, Executive Director 31 Gifts; GAP Fabrication Inc., Henryville; MC Sales, Inc., Sellersburg; The Evening News, Jeffersonville; The Leader, Charlestown; Braaten Family Eye Center, New Albany; The New Washington State Bank, Charlestown; Whitney Popp, Miss Clark County 2008; Estopinal Group, Inc.,

Jeffersonville and McDonalds, Sellersburg.

The Clark County 4-H Corporation would like to send a special thank you to Jeff Weber for donating the frame with the past 25 years of Miss Clark County 4-H Fair Queens' photographs. The frame will be on display at the Clark County 4-H Fairgrounds in Charlestown in front of the Arena.

The Miss Clark County Pageant originally began in the mid-1940's. The Jaycees hosted the pageant until the Clark County 4-H Corporation took over in 1988.

The pageant has seen some changes over the past 25 years. In 1988 and 1989 the contestants were judged in a swimsuit competition. In 1990 the swimsuit competition was replaced with the active sportswear competition. The active sportswear competition was changed to the professional wear competition in 1994, which is still one of the categories the contestants are judged on today.

The number of contestants vying for the title of Miss Clark County have ranged from eight participants in 1993, 1994 and 2010 to as many as 27 contestants in 2005. Since the 4-H Corporation took over the pageant in 1988, a total of 270 young ladies have competed in the pageant. Some contestants enjoy the experience they gain so much they have chosen to compete more than one year. Of the 270 contestants since 1988, 71 have participated in the pageant more than once.

The 2012 Miss Clark County Fair Queen Committee included: Leila Abbott, Mary Bartlett, Melanie Brison, Emilee Carver, Sandra Carver, Reba Colley, Dina Schafer, Makenzie Schafer, Whitney Popp, Raneigh Prall, Trena Prall and Jill Sink.

Miss Clark County 2012 Candace Popp will reign over the Clark County 4-H Fair to be held at the fairgrounds in Charlestown July 13-21. Popp will then represent Clark County at the Indiana State Fair in August.