Locks of Love Spurs Reading at Aiken Elementary

Over the Christmas holiday, many of the participants had their hair cut by Mrs. Leslie Opperman, who is a certified Locks of Love hair stylist. Their locks were sent to headquarters in Florida to be made into wigs and hair pieces.

The assembly was scheduled for the first week in January. The classes who won seating on the stage were Mr. Opperman’s kindergarten class with 1500 books read and Mrs. Graham’s fourth grade class with 813 accelerated points earned.

Assembly day was declared “Crazy Hair Day,” so everyone came with funny hair. Mr. Opperman sat on center stage with his hair bundled into 27 locks so that each lock would be intact when cut at the roots. The kids cheered in anticipation. Mrs. Opperman stood poised with clippers ready and Olivia held a large zipper bag to collect the locks.

Mrs. Barnes congratulated all who had donated their locks of love to this worthy cause and all of the children who had spent the fall reading. She announced the books and points tallied 6,458, more than double the original goal of 2009. That news was not shared; students kept on reading books.

During a special assembly, Aiken’s Kindergarten teacher Mr. Opperman has his 10-inch locks shorned by his wife Leslie as his daughter Olivia collects the donations.

by Peg Stewart

For Aiken Elementary Kindergarten teacher, Mr. William Opperman, his “ponytail adventure” began when his 7-year-old daughter Olivia mentioned that she would like to grow her hair long. She wanted to donate her hair to Locks of Love, a non-profit group that provides high quality wigs for disadvantaged children who have lost their hair to illness.

Mr. Opperman jumped right in and said he would do it with her. Starting out with a crew cut, it took him 18 months to grow 10 inches of hair, the minimum length for a donation.

Mr. Opperman is a very popular teacher at Aiken and when students, staff and parents learned why he was growing a ponytail, many volunteered to join in the effort.

Mr. Opperman, Principal Bobbie Ann Barnes and the faculty thought it would be fun to have a school-wide assembly to watch while his “locks of love” were cut. They saw an opportunity to tie this event with a reading competition among classes to earn the privilege of sitting on the stage while Mr. Opperman’s locks were cut.

From Oct. 1 until the end of December, 194 Aiken students were challenged to read 2009 books in 2009. Each week the book points were tallied and posted. Students and teachers alike became competitive about class totals. Before Thanksgiving, the total books read far exceeded the original goal of 2009. That news was not shared; students kept on reading books.

Aiken students, staff and parents generously grew Locks of Love to donate to children with extreme hair loss.

~photos by John Richnawsky of Moods Image Photography

Valentine’s Day Contest

Our fabulous Valentine’s Day Contest is back for the 16th year! Again, we will give wonderful prizes donated by our generous advertisers and friends. The drawing will be held on Thurs, Feb. 11.

To be entered into the drawing, readers must complete the survey and entry coupon. See Page 15 for the entry form and list of prizes.

As you know, all costs in publishing the GREEN TREE TIMES are covered by advertising revenues. Our advertisers appreciate your support of their businesses.
February Events at Green Tree Library

Hello Kitty, Hello World

Storytime, Tues., Feb. 9, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
From plush dolls, erasers, and gum, to toast and diamond jewelry, Hello Kitty’s face has been on everything for the past 35 years. And now, we’re celebrating this cute, fashionable cat with a storytime. Hear all about Hello Kitty’s adventures, dress her up with adorable magnetic accessories, express your creative flair and sample some fun, sprinkled cupcakes that are almost as sweet as Hello Kitty herself! Open to children K-2. Pre-registration required.

Fiesta Fridays, Fri., Feb. 12 and Feb. 26, 4 - 4:45 p.m.
Come join Senorita Sara for Fiesta Fridays. Get a mix of Spanish and fun through games, musica, stories, crafts, and much more. After school on Fridays, don’t take a siesta. Come make friends, learn some new words on Fridays, don’t take a siesta. Come join Senorita Sara for Fiesta Fridays, open to students grades 1-5. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. A wide variety of ingredients will be available, so consider this if your child has food allergies. Register in advance at the library’s front desk. A non-refundable equipment fee of $7 is due at registration, to include instruction, use of equipment, food and one bento box. 

Build Your Own Bento: Japanese Lunchboxes for Kids!

Tues., Feb. 23, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Bento boxes are not only cute and convenient Japanese meals on the go, they are also a way for kids to eat healthier. These compartmentalized, Asian lunchboxes turn an ordinary midday meal into an artform. What seven-year-old could say no to a hardboiled egg shaped like a bunny or a tomato with a smiley face? Each parent/child duo will receive a bento box and food to fill it. We’ll experiment with techniques to make your school lunch stand out from the rest. At the end, we’ll eat our creations!

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If you have a love for pets and are looking for a way to turn that into a rewarding career, Golden Paws Pet Styling Academy may be your answer. The academy is conveniently located inside The Pet Salon in Scott Towne Center.

According to Mike Lisk, Director of the Academy, in just a little over eight weeks you will have received all the necessary training and equipment to begin a career as a professional groomer.

The academy was licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education in July 2009. The 300-hour program of instruction uses the Golden Paws curriculum, created by a master groomer with more than 35 years of experience. In this well structured program, students spend about 60 hours in the classroom. Through lectures and videos, the topics covered include grooming skills, tools, safety, and behavior problems and solutions.

The rest of the time is spent in the well-equipped, state-of-the-art salon working with actual pets under direct supervision of the academy’s professional staff.

Mike said, “It’s one thing to sit in a classroom and learn how to bathe and groom the animals. It is something completely different to work with pets that may or may not want to be part of the process. Learning how to work with different personalities and how to handle behavioral issues is every bit as important as learning the actual methods of grooming.”

Admissions Director Roseanna Caruso added that being a successful groomer is a lot like being an artist.

“When a pet comes in, you are taking a blank canvass and turning that pet into a little piece of art,” she said.

Is being a professional groomer the right career for you? If you are at least 17 years old and have earned a high school diploma or a G.E.D. equivalent, being trained as a professional groomer may be the right career path for you.

To find out, give Mike or Roseanna a call at 412-279-9383. They will be happy to talk with you and give you a tour of the facility.

Training at the Golden Paws Pet Styling Academy could be your key to a new future.

“Classes start every Wednesday, so there is no need to wait any longer,” said Mike.

Please see the ad on Page 9.
LOCAL MERCHANT NEWS

by Van Brekove

In an age when phone menus can make reaching a real person seem like a chore, Paul Lukitsch and his team members, Tiffany Battaglini and Danny LeVeck, are a welcome exception. From their offices at 142 Noble Ave. in Crafton, they offer a full range of insurance and financial services through State Farm, one of the largest and most financially sound insurance companies in America. Paul and his staff are fully licensed to serve their clients.

Paul is a Pittsburgh native and graduate of LaRoche College, where he earned a B.S. degree in Finance. He believes that the personal service his agency provides is one of the main reasons it is so successful.

In addition to their regular Monday through Friday business hours, their evening hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays as well as Saturdays by appointment can accommodate even the busiest clients.

Whether it is insurance for personal or business needs or financial planning for education or retirement, Paul believes the only way to do it right is to sit and talk with people about what they really need.

“I take the time to explain all the options available and then help them to make the best decision based on their individual situation. Though it may seem like it in the short-term, what is cheapest is not always what is best for someone,” Paul said.

In every instance it is about making the extra effort. Paul mentioned a man who called him on New Year’s Eve because the man’s own agent’s office was closed. In need of insurance coverage that day, Paul arranged to meet him at the building in question and work all the necessary steps to provide that coverage.

Paul also believes in the importance of giving back to his community. His agency is the sponsor of a local Little League team.

If it is a friendly, local agent who prides himself in giving quality, personalized service to his clients, State Farm Agent Paul Lukitsch will be there waiting to hear from you. He can be reached at 412-921-2008 or go to his website www.secpaul.net for more information.

Please see his ad on Page 11.

********

“Run the City of Bridges” during the 21st running of Dick’s Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon on May 2, 2010. Last year’s event sold out early with more than 10,000 runners and this year’s event is filling up even faster. Those who wish to participate as runners, walkers and in the wheelchair division need to register today to avoid disappointment.

The Pittsburgh Marathon is seeking hundreds of volunteers to work the Marathon weekend. They will receive a T-shirt and an invitation to the volunteer party held two weeks after the Marathon. For more information, visit the highly informative pittsburghmarathon.com website and see the ad on Page 3.

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Save Up to $1000
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Save $200 Per Window
By Judy Albenze

If we want a good quality of life, high-quality jobs and a strong economy for Pennsylvania, we need to provide opportunities to every Pennsylvanian. Early education can open the doors of opportunity for every child to do well in school, in the workforce, and in life.

Quality pre-kindergarten benefits children and families today and tomorrow, and will greatly benefit Pennsylvania in the future.

The Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts pre-kindergarten program, established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, has made quality pre-kindergarten opportunities available to children and families across our state. This Program has served more than 11,000 children between the ages 3 to 5 in the 2008-2009 school year. It provides families with a choice of quality pre-kindergarten options in a school, child care center, Head Start or nursery school setting. A family qualifies for this no-cost program if they fall within the income guidelines. For example, family of four can make up to $66,000.

Some of the features that a parent will find in a Pre-K Counts classroom are: a Certified Early Childhood Education teacher, low teacher to child ratio, quality curriculum approved by the Board of Education, regular review of the child’s progress and support for the a smooth transition to the kindergarten classroom.

A current Pre-K Counts parent recently wrote, “I am a single working mom. My income is stretched to the limit just to provide the basic necessities for my children. Without the benefit of the Pre-K Counts program, my daughter would miss out on the basic academic, fine arts and socialization activities provided by this program, all of which I feel are absolutely necessary for her future success in school.”

This is only one of the many testimonials that parents write when their child is involved in a Pre-K Counts program. For more information about the Pre-K Counts program in your community go to www.pakeys.org. Portions of this article have been taken from the website.

Editor’s Note: Judy Albenze is the Executive Director of Crafton Children’s Corner, with locations in Green Tree, Banksville, and Ymca. She has directed these centers for 31 years.
Civil War Programs at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library February 2010

FRI., FEB. 12, 5:30 p.m. Opening Reception, hosted by former Gov. Dick Thornburgh. Tickets at $50 to benefit Espy Post programming.

SAT., FEB. 13, 10 a.m - 4 p.m. Ongoing tours of the Espy Post, free and open to the public. Costumed Civil War reenactors present.

VISIT: www.carnegiecarnegie.com

SAT., FEB. 13, 8 PM, “An Evening with Mark Twain,” Stage 62 presents Dr. Alan Solter in a one man show. $20, $15 seniors/students, www.stage62/reservation. See article.

SAT., FEB. 13 – MAR. 27, 100 Portraits of Lincoln: 100 photographs on loan from photographer Norman Schumm, 2nd floor Reception Hall, free and open to the public during library hours.

“An Evening with Mark Twain”

Rumors of his death have been greatly exaggerated!

Dr. Alan Solter, Pittsburgh’s celebrated Mark Twain scholar, gives his one-man show of lectures and stories straight from the master himself. Presented by Stage 62, the evening will showcase Mark Twain’s renowned humor, wit and wisdom.

This enjoyable evening will culminate a weekend of activities celebrating the grand reopening of the Carnegie Carnegie’s Civil War Room on the 201st anniversary of Abraham Lincoln’s birthday. This historic room contains a virtual time capsule of artifacts collected by Carnegie’s local Post #153 of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR).

“An Evening with Mark Twain” is for one performance only on Sat. Feb. 13, at 8 p.m. Tickets are $20 for adults, $15 for seniors and students.

The Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall is located at 300 Beechwood Avenue, Carnegie.

Following the performance, guests are invited to a dessert reception to meet Mr. Twain, chat with Union soldiers, and view the extraordinary “Aspects of Lincoln” exhibit with rare portraits in display.

For more information and to order tickets, visit www.stage62.org/marktwain or 412-429-6262.
Abe Lincoln’s Extraordinary 201st Birthday Gift

by Marilyn Sorvas

One might say that a buried treasure was found at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall back in the 1980s. It was “discovered” by simply unlocking a door that had been left locked for some fifty years.

To be officially introduced to the public this month on Feb. 12, the totally restored Civil War meeting room (pictured) will be a fitting and extraordinary 201st birthday gift to President Abraham Lincoln.

Veterans of the American Civil War, upon returning afterwards to their lives and families, still desired the companionship and comradery of their fellow soldiers. Thus, the veterans’ organization called the Grand Army of the Republic was born.

The group met at various locations for years immediately after the war ended in 1865. In 1906, five years after the opening of the new building housing the ACFL, members of the Espy Post #153, Grand Army of the Republic, contracted for space with the library. They custom-furnished an upper room, complete with built-in cabinets and meeting furniture.

Additionally, the meeting room became both a depository and repository for articles and artifacts collected and donated by the war veterans themselves. As the veterans died off, their families contributed more items and the room became somewhat of a museum.

As members of the 9th PA Reserve, Company A, the Carnegie Carnegie’s resident Civil War reenactors, and former caretakers of the GAR room, we had the pleasure of a sneak peek a few weeks ago at our January meeting at the library. The room, sans artifacts just yet, was a remarkable “pumpkin chiffon” color. A core sample was taken from the ceiling as well.

The room, sans artifacts just yet, was a remarkable “pumpkin chiffon” color. A core sample was taken from the ceiling as well. One of the reasons it stayed intact was the fact that upon the death of the last Espy Post member, the room was locked….and somewhat forgotten for some fifty years.

Thankfully members of the Espy Post documented the artifacts in the room and took photos of each wall. That act could be described as the second treasure….what a find to assist in the detailed and authentic renovation of the original room.

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All the original wood has been restored, showing off the marvelous built-in cabinets. Unseen for some eighty years is the number 1906 in the faux grain on the door trim above the door inside the GAR room.

What other treasures there await the eye of the beholder? The public is invited to tour the room with documents beginning Feb. 12. See more details in the Events Listing on Page 6. Happy 201st Birthday, Abe. What an extraordinary gift!

Visit www.carnegiecarnegie.com
How do we develop a friendly relationship with time? I am a pretty good time manager, yet even as I write this, there are 10 other things calling me. In order to live out the theme I’ve chosen for myself this year: Share more soup, stories and fun, I’m going to have to manage my time well! So I’m revisiting my 3 favorite time management tips. The first 2 come from time management expert, Bill Baren. I learned the 3rd years ago and it is very useful.

1. At night, ask yourself a prioritizing question with a twist, “What 3 things do I need to do tomorrow to feel really good about myself?” “To feel really good about myself” is the key here. The question is different from “What should I do tomorrow?” or “What do I want to do tomorrow?” Write down the 3 things and leave them on your desk before going to bed. Sleep well. (This is a great sleep aid.) Then do those 3 things the next day. You may do other things as well, but make sure you do the 3 you know will make you feel good about yourself.

2. Use a Power Hour. Baren says this is especially useful if it’s something you have a lot of resistance towards, or something so big it feels overwhelming. Commit to focusing on one thing for 50 minutes. Do it when your energy is high. Write on paper exactly what you’re doing, then immerse yourself in the activity for 50 TIMED MINUTES. (It’s good to set a timer that dings.) Then reward yourself for 10 minutes with something you really like to do, stretch, have tea, read, walk, call a friend. Something nurturing. I have been amazed at the results when I used a Power Hour to clean my office, get started on a proposal, pay bills, write thank you notes, and figure out a new software program.

3. Give difficult, emotional or boring-but-necessary issues your attention, but not your energy. This takes practice, but it’s possible and it helps. Often the exhausting part of our lives is our emotional response to people or tasks. Do what you have to do, or anything to help the situation, then move your focus to something else.

Here’s an example: Nate’s boss returned a report he’d written with the words, “Back to the drawing board” written on it in red. All kinds of defensive and angry emotions popped up for Nate. He thought of complaining about his boss with a colleague he knew would commiserate. (This would have given the situation energy.) Instead he called his boss and asked, “Can you give me a couple of ideas you think would improve the report?” The boss did. Nates fixed several parts, then sent it back. He admitted the report was improved with the boss’ input. By giving it attention, but not energy, it was done quickly and he moved on.

I’m planning on saving enough time using these three strategies to share lots of soup, stories and fun!

**COACHING QUESTIONS**
1. What 3 things do you need to do tomorrow to feel really good about yourself?
2. On what project could a Power Hour help you? What time of day will be best? What will you do for your reward?
3. Where are you spending emotional energy when giving your attention would be enough?
Half Price Pets Give Full Measure of Love to the Lonely

by Marilyn Sorvas

For anyone who’s loved a pet during their lifetime, it is unnecessary to describe the feeling. However, in honor of Valentine’s Day and all those fabulously wonderful animals who are positively craving a forever home, I have a few words to say to a specific group of folks.

In the words of the songwriter, “This is for all the lonely people…thinking that life has passed them by.”

Oh, you are so, so wrong. Let me explain.

If you’re single and tired or wary of the dating scene, too old, too young or too tired to work on a relationship, strictly the loner type, too busy working but do work from home—

Bingo! I have news for you! Let’s quickly look at some of the definitions of the word “love.” These would include…having a profoundly tender affection for, a feeling of warm personal attachment, to take great pleasure in, to need or require, and lastly, to benefit greatly from.

For featured pets this month, see the Animal Advocates ad on Page 11. Details to see all their available animals are included there.

We’ll conclude with an old Irish Saying with regard to cats: Who would believe such pleasure from a wee ball o’ fur?”

Mary Kay Independent Beauty Consultant
www.marykay.com/msorvas

Nick, formerly of Animal Advocates, has totally won over and taken over the Sorvas household. ~photo courtesy of Marilyn Sorvas

F.Y.I.

The Western Pennsylvania Humane Society has opened its second “Get Smart Training and Education Center” at 57 Noble Ave., Crafton. This was the former location of the Western PA Kennel Assn. Headquarters.

The new facility features both Basic Obedience classes for puppies and adult dogs, as well as specialized classes for people with “bully breeds.” In addition, “sport classes” for dogs such as Agility and Rally classes are being offered for the first time.

Classes at the North Shore and the Crafton facility are open to the public and are not restricted to dogs adopted from the WPA Humane Society. In 2009, almost 1,500 dogs came through the classes at WPA Humane Society.

All dogs must be current on vaccines. To find out more about these classes as well as see all adoptable animals, visit www.wpahumane.org.

Mary Kay Independent Beauty Consultant
www.marykay.com/msorvas

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Community Bulletin Board

SCHOLARSHIP
Applications are now being accepted for the Green Tree Woman’s Civic Club’s annual $1,000 scholarship. The scholarship is open to any Green Tree resident, a club member or child, husband or grandchild of a club member. Applicants will have completed at least one academic year of college. To pick up application, visit www.greentreecboro.com/civicclub.html, Green Tree Municipal Administrative Office or Green Tree Library. Deadline is Apr. 1, 2010.

SINGING VALENTINE
Send a unique valentine! For $50 your sweetheart will receive a love song sung by a visiting barbershop quartet, a personalized card and a mylar balloon. Delivery within 50 mile radius of City of Pgh. on Feb. 13 and 14, from 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Call Jean at 724-452-2187, or visit greaterharmony@hotmail.com.

FLY THE FLAG!
American Legion Green Tree Post #823 asks all Americans to fly the American flag for February holidays: Feb. 12, Abraham Lincoln’s birthday; Feb. 16, President’s Day, and Feb. 22, George Washington’s Birthday.

TEST FOR CENSUS TAKERS
Census testing takes place at West End Library, Wabash St., Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4 p.m. and Saturdays at 10 a.m., through the last Saturday in February.

SPAGHETTI DINNER
Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, 726 Washington Ave., Carnegie, will hold its annual “All You Can Eat Spaghetti Dinner on Sun., Feb. 21, 12 noon - 5 p.m. Adults $8, children 6-12, $4, and children 5 and under, free. All are welcome. Take-outs available at 412-276-9897.

LADIES’ DAY OUT
Crafton-Ingram Ladies’ Day Out sponsored by the Dunlap Conference Ctr, 4th fl., will hold a Spaghetti Dinner on Sat., Feb. 27, 2 p.m.; call 412-922-5828. The group meets Thursday mornings, Feb. 18 through May 20, at First Baptist Church of Crafton, Steuben and Oregon Ave. Call Vicki at 412-928-8446 or Sharon 412-922-3682.

BOOK FAIR COLLECTION
Girl Scout Troop 50365 is collecting children’s books for the students at Schaeffer Primary School in Crafton Heights. Please donate new or used books in the collection box in the lobby outside the Green Tree Library by Thurs., Feb. 11. The goal is to give each of 200 children 3 books to keep. Sponsored by Green Tree and Dormont Girl Scout Troops. For info, call Beverly, 412-922-5296.

HEALTH SEMINAR
St. Clair Hospital will host a free seminar on prostate health and treatment options for Erectile Dysfunction on Wed., Feb. 10, 4:30 p.m. in the Dunlap Conference Ctr, 4th fl., at the hospital. Jay Herman, M.D., Board Certified Urologic Surgeon, will discuss solutions. To register, visit www.stclair.org and click on programs and events, or call 412-942-6280.

SPAGHETTI DINNER
Our Lady of Grace Catholic School, 1734 Bower Hill Rd., will hold a Spaghetti Dinner on Sat., Feb. 6, 4-8 p.m. in Conroy Hall. Tickets are $7 and include salad, pasta, meatballs, drink and dessert. Children may split an entire portion. For tickets in advance call Susan 412-276-2075; tickets available at the door.

CPAC AUDITIONS
Auditions will be held on Sat,
**Community Bulletin Board**

**BASEBALL/SOFTBALL REGISTRATION**
Registration for the Elliott West End Athletic Association’s 2010 Baseball/Softball season will be held at the Hershel Little League concession stand at the following times: Sat., Feb. 6, 10-2 p.m.; Wed., Feb. 10, 6-8 p.m. and final sign up day is Sat., Feb. 20, 10-2 p.m. ALL boys and girls, ages 4-18, are welcome into the program. For info, call Bob Salinero, 412--922-9937.

**CELL PHONES**
The Golden Wings Foundation is collecting cell phones. If you and your family replaced any cell phones over the holidays, please donate the old ones to the foundation. They can be dropped off at the Keystone Oaks High School office or at the Green Tree Borough Municipal Bldg.

**PASTA BUFFET**
The All You Can Eat Pasta Buffet will be held on Fri., Feb. 12, at Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church, 31 Warriors Rd., Green Tree, from 4 to 8 p.m. The buffet includes several homemade sauce choices as well as salad, beverage, and BreadWorks bread. Cost: $8 for most, $5 for kids ages 3-12, and no charge for little ones, 2 and under. To Gos available. Call 412-921-8444 for information.

**GARDEN CLUB**
Green Tree Garden Club will host Lyn Decker of the Botanic Garden of Western PA at its meeting on Wed., Feb. 11, 12:30 p.m. at the Green Tree Fire Hall, Poplar St. Topic is “Botanic Garden Update.” Guests welcome. For more information, call 412-276-4573.

**HILLTOPPERS**
Hilltoppers of Scott Township, a senior citizens group, will meet Wed., Feb. 10, at Covenant-Community Presbyterian Church, 1630 Greentree Rd. Doors open 10 a.m. for fellowship. Bring a brown bag lunch to eat at noon; beverage available and dessert provided. Special program will be “Marlene McIntyre and Her Surprise.” Wear pink, red or hearts for Valentine’s Day. Visitors welcome.

**TRAIL MARKERS**
The Mt. Washington Community Development Corp. (MWCDC) is asking residents to knit or crochet rectangles to be used as trail markers throughout the Grand View Scenic Byway Park (GVSBP) in the Allegheny, Duquesne Hts., and Mt. Washington neighborhoods. Crafting groups, knitting circles, school clubs, and knitters of all skill levels are asked to participate. Knit markers must be constructed from biodegradable yarn in one of three colors: blue, red, or yellow. Markers must be constructed from biodegradable yarn in one of three colors: blue, red, or yellow. Markers must be 10 inches wide and anywhere from 24 to 64 inches long. Send submissions or drop them off at the MWCDC office at 301 Shiloh St., Pgh., PA 15211. Include your name and address. Trail markers will be accepted until Mar. 31 and will be placed on trees throughout the GVSBP in Spring 2010 to demarcate public trails. For more info, visit www.mwcde.org or contact Ilyssa Manspeizer, Park Resource Manager at 412-481-3220, ext. 204 or imanspeizer@mwcdc.org.
Valentine's Day - Word Search Puzzle

by Sue Heidenreich

“Love is more than three words muttered before bedtime. Love is sustained by action, a pattern of devotion in the things we do for each other every day.” - Nicholas Sparks

L O V E F R I E N D S H I P A R M S
d O S E C R E T A D M I R E
t E R O S T H E R E
n E R T H E H C O O M S
e R F H A W E V E N M A F E
d E S W T C U P I A A B Y R E S
d H O N K Y S D L R L S M B D
D E T E I R A R N T O J O R R
V A L E N T I N E S D A Y U A
R O V E O N D I L O R G C T L R C
R A B O S B E N L R S A V Y I T
A N I F S L G D F E S J E E D N
S T R L E S N F R N E H B G A
D S T L L G N L J G I E L T I E M
P C T Y L A U E N I M E B H R
P U R M I T H G D P L S W D S G R
C H E E D E A N R E S U E H

Be Mine
Cupids Arrow
Dancing
February
Flirt
Fourteenth
Friendship
Hearts
Kindness
Lovebirds
Poetry
Red

Romantic Cards
Secret Admirer
Serenade
Smooth
Sweetheart
Valentines Day

The Times of You

For every time I thought of you
a flower in my garden grew
and when I wonder how you are
the twilight births another star.

Every time I wished you well
a rainbow across heaven fell;
the times I treasure, lived with
you bought sun-drenched days
in azure blue.

The miles walked while you
held my hand
more countless than the grains
of sand
that grace the shore of any sea
the times of you, brought love
to me.

~ by Janet Goven

Editor's Note: Janet Goven is a published poet who lives in Crafton. She graciously sent this love poem to be published in the February Valentine issue of the paper.

F.Y.I.

John Billigen would like to thank everyone who donated their time, talent, and money to make the recent Benefit Concert Fundraiser for Ethan Loney a wonderful success!

A special thank you to his family, friends, band mates (Trainwreck), the band Cole, Jess Sides, and Tori Plack. He also sends a big thank you to the Eagle Club in Carnegie for their generosity, Carnegie Beer Supply, Southwest Community FCU, Shop ‘n Save Heidelberg, and many others, too numerous to mention.

People who would like to make a donation to the Ethan Loney Fund, please drop off your contribution to your local Dollar Bank.

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Pat’s Ponderings: Obsolescence

by Patricia Prattis Jennings

In a recent issue of New York magazine about the aughts — the double-zero decade that we’ve just slogged through — there was a two-page pictorial, “Rust in Peace,” which displays items that have been a part of our lives for many years but were rendered obsolete during the last ten years. A few of them, such as the incandescent light bulb and the telephone book, are still hanging around. But their role and importance have shrunk and their days are numbered.

Others that were once hailed as cutting edge are fading away or gone altogether. Remember the floppy disk? The cassette tape? Is there anybody around besides my husband and me who still own cars that have cassette players?

Bank deposit slips are on the list of the moribund along with answering machines, foldable road maps, Hydrox cookies — really? — and Playboy magazine. Playboy magazine? What, no more centerfolds?

The fax machine beside me as I type this is becoming a victim of progress. Not long ago considered revolutionary, it is being replaced by scanners and Internet fax services that are cheaper, more secure and more environmentally friendly. And they don’t require special paper or take up valuable space in your office.

It used to be that when you bought something new you could look forward to enjoying it as state-of-the-art for a couple of decades. But during the last few years advances in technology occurred at such a dizzying rate that it’s unlikely you can buy an electronic device today that won’t be headed for the heap of history in a year.

No matter how much we tell ourselves that we don’t need these new gadgets and try to ignore them, when we finally get on board we wonder how we ever got along without them. That was certainly true of my first microwave. And I was skeptical about TiVo, wasn’t even sure what it was. Then I read an article about a fellow who was at a complete loss when his TiVo went on the blink. So I bought one and immediately knew just how he felt. If you own a DVR (digital video recorder), which is what TiVo is, you, too, know exactly how he felt. If you don’t own one, it would be kind of like suddenly having to do without your remote control.

A cousin of mine pooh-poohed television back in the early fifties. Why would anybody want one of those? Then one day she went out and bought herself the fanciest Stromberg Carlson TV in the store. Back then, owning a Stromberg Carlson was like owning a Cadillac.

Eventually, most of us get on board and embrace the new technological wonders as they come down the pike. If that weren’t the case we’d all still be driving cars with manual transmissions and listening to 78s on our Victrolas. Some of us remember what it was like to get up every five minutes to change the record.

When we finally do give in, we sign the sales receipt knowing that, like a new car, the device we’ve just bought will begin to depreciate the minute we walk out of the store.

It’ll be interesting to see what gadgets the wheel of progress churns out in the next ten years and what kind of shelf life they’ll have. By then, maybe they’ll be disposable — like yesterday’s newspaper.

Editor’s Note: World renowned pianist Patricia Prattis Jennings recently retired from the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. In addition to a celebrated career in music, Pat has always enjoyed writing; she has been published in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and other publications. Pat and her husband, Charlie Johnson, live in Roslyn Farms.
Community Spotlight

by Sue Heidenreich

Thank You
Jean Summerville

“The influence of a beautiful, helpful character is contagious, and may revolutionize a whole town.” — Collier Graham

It is lovely to meet a person who is filled with both passion and determination. One such person is this month’s Community Hero, Jean Summerville of the Green Tree area.

For almost 17 years, Jean was a volunteer at Ohio Valley Hospital helping with mailings, a variety of office tasks and anything they needed her to do. This included visiting the patients to brighten their days.

After a severe shoulder injury from a fall last year, she was no longer able to volunteer at the hospital.

At nearly 80 years old, Jean realized she had another passion that needed her attention. Having been an avid reader since childhood, this next chapter of her life presented itself.

Jean and her daughter, Anita Waugh, discussed the plight of our libraries. Due to a lack of funding, the West End Branch of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh was one of the branches slated to be closed. Having been a regular patron of the branch for approximately 50 years, Jean felt compelled to offer her help.

When she contacted the library, she learned that there was a need to get petitions signed by residents to show their support in keeping the library open. She set out to help save the West End Library, one signature at a time.

Jean said she now dedicates a part of every day to collecting signatures. Great progress has been made; so far, she has turned in more than 500 petitions.

“Wherever I go, I get signatures,” said Jean.

“She is my personal hero!” said Anita as she explained this is the reason why she nominated her mother for the Community Spotlight.

Jean speaks passionately about the wonderful resource we have in our public libraries. For people of every age, from small children to senior citizens, the library offers free access to books, DVDs, magazines, newspapers, audio books and computers. Best of all, the libraries are right in our own neighborhoods.

Jean encourages people she meets to use their libraries on a regular basis, because these numbers are important when deciding whether a library is still a viable and valued asset in a community.

Jean hopes that her efforts will help to ensure the West End Library continues to serve this and future generations. She suggests there are many ways to help to keep our neighborhood libraries open. Contact the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh at www.carnegielibrary.org or call 412-622-3114.

Thank you, Jean, for your hard work and dedication!

To nominate a special hero in your community, please e-mail Sue with the details at ShareLifesJoy@aim.com or call her at 412-920-5669. Also, if you have a spirit of giving and would like to learn about volunteer opportunities in your area, send an e-mail with your name, area of interest, and the community where you live.
Enter the Popular GREEN TREE TIMES’ Valentine’s Day Contest

2010 Readership Survey

Please take a moment to answer these few questions about our newspaper to help us plan future features and articles. Deposit the entire form in the Valentine box at Green Tree Library, Red Cap Cleaners, Eiseltown Flower Shop, Muetzel Florist & Gift Shoppe, or mail it to the GREEN TREE TIMES, P.O. Box 60142, Pittsburgh, PA 15211.

1. Neighborhood and zipcode where you live. __________________________
   Example: Green Tree City, 15220

2. Your age group? 12-20 ___ 21-35 ___ 35-50 ___
   (check one) 51-65 ___ 65 & older ___

3. Male or Female? M ___ Fe ___

4. Do you read the paper online at www.greentreetimesonline.com?
   Never ___ Once in awhile ___ Frequently ___ Always ___

5. Do you shop local businesses? Yes ___ No ___

6. Do you look for coupons in the paper? Yes ___ No ___

7. Do you act as a volunteer for any organizations? If yes, please list.

8. Briefly list other hobbies, activities or interests.

9. List subject areas you would like to read about in future issues?

10. What advertisements (not regular features) are your favorites?

11. Do you shop at our advertisers based on their ads in the GREEN TREE TIMES? Yes ___ No ___

12. May we contact you about your activities, story ideas, news, etc.? Yes ___ No ___

Thank you for your help.

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Please only one coupon per person. The contest is also limited to persons age 18 years and older. Drop off at participating advertiser or mail to: GREEN TREE TIMES, P.O. Box 60142, Pgh., PA 15211

Valentine’s Day Contest Prizes

Alexions Bar & Grill, 2, $10 gift certificates
Barbara Bennett, $25 Gift Card to Olive Garden
Beer World, 5 cases of pop
Bill Knoll, box of candy, lottery tickets
Blinky’s Noble Grill & Bar, 2 spaghetti dinners
Distinctively Different Decor & More, Spring Wreath, $75 value
Dormont Floral Design, $20 gift certificate
Egg-R-Us, 2, $10 gift cards
Eiseltown Flower Shop, 1 dozen roses
Good Fellas Barber Shop, haircut
Green Tree Times, $25 gift card, winner’s choice
Greentree Inn, 2, $10 gift certificates
Hahn’s Used & New Shoppe, 2, $25 gift certificates
Health & Harmony Massage Therapy, 1/2 hour massage
Howard Hanna Greentree, $25 gift card to Applebees
Howard Hanna Greentree, $25 gift card to Giant Eagle
LaTavola Italiana Restaurant, Dinner for 2 - up to $50 value
Marilyn Sorvas, Mary Kay pampering session for 5
Moods Image Photography, One Sweetheart Portrait at the Studio
Mt. Washington Foodland Express, $25 gift card
Muetzel’s Florist & Gift Shoppe, 1 dozen roses
Noble Manor Bowling Lanes, bowling party for 6
Phong May House, $25 gift certificate
Pizza Hut, Poplar Street, 2, large pizzas
Red Cap Cleaners, $20 gift certificate
Remember When, 2 banana splits
The Laundry Basket, $25 gift card
Wendys, Noblestown Rd., gift certificates

Thank you to our generous donors!
Church Corner News

TWOgether, a Marriage Preparation Program for engaged and seriously dating couples, will be held at the Radisson Green Tree on Mar. 12 and 13. This program is sponsored jointly by 1st Crafton Heights United Presbyterian Church and Wallace Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Participants will meet in a workshop setting, with an opening event Friday evening and an all-day program Saturday. The program will assist attendees in developing skills that contribute directly to healthy, fulfilling marital relationships.

Discussion topics include effective communication, conflict resolution, financial management skills, realistic marital expectations, integral goal setting and genuine intimacy.

TWOgether is offered at no cost and refreshments will be provided. Pre-registration is required by no later than Feb. 27. Please see the ad on this page. Contact Penny at 412-373-1522 or Ellen at 412-561-2431, or eheriger@wallacememorial.org.

**********

Wallace Memorial Presbyterian Church announces plans for its annual Valentine Dance to be held Sat., Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. in the Activities Room of the church located at 1146 Green Tree Rd.

The event is free of charge, open to church members and the community at large. Music will be provided by the University of Pittsburgh Alumni Dance Band, with dessert treats and beverages available.

**********

St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church, 319 Mansfield Ave., Green Tree, will hold its annual Fish Fry on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays during Lent, except Good Friday. This dinner will take place from 4 to 7:30 in the school cafeteria. Diners may eat in or takeouts are available by calling 412-922-7279.

The menu is extensive with a full assortment of fish dinners and sandwiches. The crab cake dinner features two, 3-ounce lump blue crab cakes with no filler, veggies and rice for $11. Breaded or baked fish sandwiches with fries and slaw are $7.75. A crab cake sandwich with lump blue crab on a soft bun is $6.50. Breaded and deep friend jumbo shrimp with fries and slaw sell for $7.50 A dinner with pan-seared scallops dusted with Parmesan cheese, Italian bread crumbs, veggies, rice pilaf and a dinner roll is $8.50. The most expensive dinner on the menu is the seafood platter that includes one crab cake, jumbo shrimp and 1 piece of fried fish for $11.50. Cabbage and noodles ($4.50), grilled cheese ($1.75) and pizza ($1.75) are popular alternatives to fish. Side dishes include American Fries, cheese sticks, cole slaw, mac & cheese, rice pilaf, green beans, and cabbage and noodles. Drinks and homemade desserts available.
Churches in Green Tree 2010

**Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church**
37 Warriner Road, Green Tree
412-921-8444
Worship: 9:45 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 11:15 a.m.
Men’s Fellowship - Saturdays, 8:30 a.m.
Women’s Bible Study - Saturdays, 8:30 a.m.
Stephen Ministry for people in crisis
Angel Food Ministries
Interim Pastor: The Rev. Fred Soborg

**Church of the Nativity (Episcopal)**
33 Alice Street, Crafton
412-921-4103
Sunday: 8 a.m., 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Services
The Rev. Scott T. Quinn
537 Hamilton Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15205
412-921-4103

**St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church**
310 Mansfield Avenue
Green Tree
412-921-0746 Fax: 412-921-0707
Daily Masses: M-F, 9 a.m.
Weekend Masses: Saturday: 4 p.m.
Sunday: 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 12:15 p.m.
Reconciliation: Saturday: 3:00 - 3:45 p.m.
and any time by appointment
Father Francis J. Murhammer, Pastor

**Dormont Presbyterian Church**
2865 Eddy Avenue
412-531-1555
Email us at:
dormontpresbyterianchurch@verizon.net
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Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m.
“Tea Hangout” Fridays, 7-10 p.m.
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Rev. Dr. Steve Lytch
www.dormontpresbyterianchurch.info

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Fax: 412-561-0696
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9:10 a.m. Coffee Hour
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Worship Service
Nursery/Available
The Rev. Dennis W. Mohlar
www.wallacememorial.org
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