

Community Corner

This week's question:

What special things do you like to do when spring comes?

We asked this question at the YMCA in Farmington Hills.



"I like to go camping in Cedar Springs in Sterling, Mich., with about 20 people. It's our annual spring kickoff."
— Tricia Breslin
West Bloomfield



"I look forward to getting back outside and playing golf. Been out three times so far."
— Duncan Galbraith
Orchard Lake



"I clean my house, wash windows, plant flowers. Isn't that boring?"
— Patricia Rose
Farmington Hills



"I come here (the YMCA) and work out three times a week. We're in Florida in the winter."
— Alex Roth
West Bloomfield



"Plant flowers... we spend most of the time outside."
— Carol Farnick
Farmington Hills



"We've got a project going. We're putting in a big window to bring in more light."
— Susan Anastasiou
Farmington Hills

Marie Lawrence, 103, lived a life full of generosity

By Loraine McClellan
staff writer

Marie Lawrence, 103, died of congestive heart failure Tuesday in Farmington Nursing Home.

The woman, known as a "special lady" to neighbors in the Jamestown Apartments, had lived in the Farmington complex with her daughter up until just a few days before her death.

Services will begin at 11 a.m. Friday in Redford Presbyterian Church, 17226 Redford, in the McNichols/Lahser area of Detroit.

The Observer has recorded Lawrence's birthdays since 1987, when the headline on the birthday story read "Seamstress turns a spry 100." Succeeding stories gave accounts of Lawrence's active life — and her generosity.

In the last 10 years of her life alone she made dresses for children in Bolivia that were distributed through the Maryknoll order, and hand-sewed specially designed bibs for stroke patients in Presbyterian Village.

She made clothing for youngsters hospitalized in Mott Children's Hospital, dresses to be donated to the Ruth Alden Club, Cabbage Patch doll clothes to be sold at a church bazaar, and clothespin dolls that were used for Christmas tree ornaments.



FILE PHOTO

Marie Lawrence and her daughter Virginia Van Couverden celebrated Lawrence's 103rd birthday together last July.

TIME WAS SPENT every day at the sewing machine and time was given every day to reading the Bible. Her reading pleasures extended to

the daily newspaper and romantic fiction.

Mrs. Lawrence was born July 19, 1887, on 33rd Street in Detroit, just

obituaries

two months after her parents immigrated from Germany. She worked as a maid, a mother's helper, a cook, in a cookie factory, and then as a factory worker, where she was introduced to the sewing machine.

She sewed her own wedding dress for her marriage to Thomas Lawrence in 1904. They were long-time members of Redford Presbyterian Church. Her husband died after they had celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The couple had five children.

Mrs. Lawrence is survived by two daughters, Eileen Reid of Mariette, Mich., and Virginia Van Couverden of Farmington; one son, Tim Lawrence of Detroit; seven grandsons; 20 great grandchildren; and 14 great great grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by a son, Seaborn Lawrence, and a daughter, Rosemary Parrish.

Burial will be in Grand Lawn Cemetery in Detroit. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Redford Presbyterian Church.

JEANNE F. NOWACKI

Mrs. Nowacki, 79, of Farmington Hills died May 5.

Born in Steubenville, Ohio, Mrs. Nowacki was a homemaker.

Survivors include her husband, Leonard; daughters, Mary Jean Sass and Frances Taylor; son, John; sisters, Mary Alyce Dwyer and Grace E. Biegvad; 12 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Mass was celebrated Wednesday in Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church with Monsignor Walter A. Hurley officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

SAMMY LOPEZ

Mr. Lopez, 75, of Novi died Sunday in St. Mary's Hospital, Livonia.

Mr. Lopez was born in Fairmont, W.Va. He was a veteran of World War II.

Survivors include his wife, Edna Maxine; a daughter, Susan Jodway of Farmington Hills; four brothers; three sisters; and two grandchildren.

Services were Monday at the O'Brien Chapel/Ted C. Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi. Burial was in Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia.

ROLAND F. MUTSCHALL

Mr. Mutschall, 62, of Farmington Hills died Monday in Botsford Hospital, Farmington Hills.

Born in Detroit, Mr. Mutschall was a purchasing agent in the electronics industry.

Survivors include his wife, Marie; daughters Diane Carsell and Donna Marquez; sons David and Daniel; and five grandchildren.

Services will be at 8 p.m. Friday at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington. The Rev. Kean Cronin of St. Genevieve Church, Livonia, will officiate.

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