



Wish list: Garrett Babinchak, 3½, of Novi puts in his Christmas list with Santa Claus, who was stationed in a Downtown Center parking lot tent.

Happy happening

Weather brings ho-ho-ho to event

With a nary a cloud in the sky, the white-bearded one descended on downtown Farmington Saturday with a hearty ho ho.

Clear skies and unseasonably warm temperatures brought children and adults alike out for the annual "Holiday Happenings" event.

"It's a beautiful day," Santa Claus bowed between children's visits in a tent set up in the Downtown Center parking lot. "It was a great flight in."

Bad weather grounded Santa last year. Instead of the customary helicopter ride, the jolly gift-giver was delivered courtesy of the Farmington Public Safety Department.

This year, he was back in the friendly skies as merchants welcomed a cascade of visitors.

Grand River Avenue took on a look of holidays of yore.

A classic trolley car ushered people to all points downtown. Dickensian carolers sang for passersby.

The prices transcended centuries, too.

There were free showings of "Black Beauty" at the Civic Theatre, courtesy of Carousel Kids and Metrobank. Those with stiff necks from looking into storefront windows could get a complimentary massage from Cromwell Family Chiropractic.

At the Grand Cafe, children were regaled with stories from Ann Arbor storyteller Laura Pershin. Among the stories told were the Hansel and Gretel tale, "The Matroska" and the Scottish holiday favorite "The Woman Who Tricked the Fairy."

Most of the stories were ones Pershin's 103-year-old grandmother, Dinah, has told her, she said.

The African-American holiday Kwanzaa was depicted in a special presentation at the Village Mall.



Smiling slip: Audelia Wittbrodt, 6, was one of several children who had plenty to see and do at the "Holiday Happenings" event in downtown Farmington Saturday.

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Holiday tales: Above, Laura Pershin of Ann Arbor entertained children in the Grand Cafe with stories. At right, trolley car rides up and down Grand River were available.



C'ville school board loses another trustee

BY MARIE CHERSTNEY
STAFF WRITER

For the second time in six months, a trustee on the Clarenceville Board of Education has stepped down from her seat.

Lisa Burr, appointed to the board in August after an extensive interview process by trustees, recently resigned her seat, effective Jan. 1.

Her resignation was as big a surprise as the one tendered in early July by Linda Ahnert, a longtime board member.

On Monday, Burr cited personal family reasons for her resignation.

"It's a purely personal decision," Burr said. "This was not planned. I have two family concerns that surfaced after June. Things all at once started to happen. I needed to refocus and concentrate on my own family and myself. I'd rather resign than not give the job the time it needs."

The trustees met last week to decide which route to take — interview prospective candidates once again or appoint someone for six months to fill out Burr's term, which expires June 30.

"The board met and decided to appoint someone because of the short time involved," said Dale Weighill, board president. "Then we'll let the voters decide. We offered the appointment to Ronald Silye and he has accepted. He constantly attends board meetings, is active in the middle school, and is familiar with the workings of the board."

Silye lives on Osmus with wife Evelyn and children Jessica, 13, and Kevin, 12. Both attend Clarenceville Middle School. He is an engineer with Trico Corp. in Dearborn, and was active in formulating Clarenceville's new science curriculum.

Burr's last board meeting will be tonight.

In July, Ahnert unexpectedly resigned at the first board meeting of the 1994-95 school year. She had sat on the board for 10 years and had served under three Clarenceville superintendents. At the time, Ahnert said she had resigned because of philosophical differences with the board.

By mid-August, after interviews with Burr and two other candidates for the seat, the board

named Burr to the seat. In the June election, Burr had lost her seat by just two votes.

Burr was to have served the second year of Ahnert's term, or until June 30. Who will serve the final two years of Ahnert's four-year term will be decided in the 1995 June school election.

The trustees picked Burr, a former trustee, because she would "hit the ground running" after having served two years on the board.

"Being on the board has been a very positive experience," Burr said. "I will not run again in June, but I want to keep the door open to serve once again some time in the future."

Because of recent family demands on her time, Burr said she had to jettison some of her many outside interests.

"When stressful situations developed, I had to eliminate something. Something had to give. I still will be involved with my children's PTA. As a board member, I got to make some good decisions, let my opinions be known. Now I want to concentrate on my home, health and family."

Harrison teen to perform in honors band

A student from Harrison High School has been selected to perform with more than 80 of the state's premier high school band musicians in the first-ever Michigan State University High School Honors Band and Chamber Music Weekend, Dec. 9, 10 and 11.

Sophomore bass clarinetist Michael Lipson will travel to the MSU campus to perform with this group of high school musicians.

Students from as far away as Sault Sainte Marie, Mich., will spend the weekend working to improve their musical skills in master classes with MSU faculty members and attending workshops designed to help shape the direction they want to take their music careers.

The event, sponsored by Wharton Center for Performing Arts, will culminate with the students performing a free concert in Wharton Center's Great Hall at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 11.

Along with the honors band, students will also work in chamber music ensembles including brass and woodwind quintets and saxophone and percussion quartets. These ensembles will perform on the Sunday afternoon program as well.

The weekend was developed in conjunction with the MSU School of Music and is part of Wharton Center's education department and arts education outreach program.

According to MSU's director of banding, John Whitwell, from the thousands of band students across the state, more than 160 were nominated and submitted audition tapes. MSU School of Music faculty members selected the final 80 to represent the honors band.

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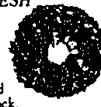
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