

Karmanos from page A1

Money raised by senior managers will go toward the institute's new Alexander J. Walt Comprehensive Breast Center in the Detroit-based Karmanos Institute.

Some are inspired by the cause of combating a disease where 8,800 new cases are diagnosed annually in Michigan alone. For the vice president and general counsel and others, breast cancer's toll is an all-too-personal one.

His mother, Patricia Costello, died at age 59 after a two-year battle with breast cancer in 1988.

"I think if my mother had a facility like that, at that time, I don't know if she would've been cured of the disease, but she may have had a longer life and a better quality of life than she did," Costello said.

For two years after she was diagnosed, Patricia often started her day with radiation treatments and then went to her job at Jacobson's. She seldom missed work, her son recalled.

"She was a woman who tried not to let the disease beat her," said Costello, a 15-year Compuware employee. "She had a lot of courage and she fought to try to keep her life normal."

At the same time, Barbara Ann Karmanos was in the midst of her eight-year struggle with same disease. Costello knew Barbara Ann through going to the Karmanos home and on hockey road trips.

Karmanos, who owns the NHL Carolina Hurricanes, has been a longtime supporter of amateur hockey in the area, which is how Costello met the Compuware owner.

"I saw how she fought that disease for seven or eight years," said Costello, who attended the institute's dedication in 1995. "I was particularly touched when my mother had died, she and Peter

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came to the funeral home.

"I think that took a lot on her part, especially in light of her own illness."

Costello and his colleagues initially set a goal to raise \$2.5 million but far exceeded that sum.

To put the \$3.8 million donation in perspective, a similar benefit for UCLA cancer research — the annual "Fire & Ice" Ball featuring many Hollywood celebrities — generated \$1.8 million.

The money will help in research, education and clinical care of women with breast cancer, said Dr. William Peters, Karmanos Institute director and chief executive officer.

"We're grateful for this gift because it helps us make an immediate, tangible increase in the high-quality care we are able to provide the institute's patients," Peters said.

Nearly 10,000 women use the Alexander J. Walt Comprehensive Breast Center annually. The center is in the Detroit Medical Center complex and specializes in screening and diagnostic mammograms, pre-operative needle localizations and stereotactic breast biopsies, multispecialty physician evaluations of breast complaints, genetic counseling and education.

In addition to contributions from Costello and coworkers, the center is partly funded by the United Way.

"If it helps some other woman better her quality of life and prolong her life, I'm all for it," Costello said. "It's a way to remember my mother and what she went through."

Gas from page A1

doing with my information."

An Energy America spokesman said independent sales agents only take the top portion of gas bills. That means they get processed properly as new customers, said Morley Silver, Energy America marketing director.

Energy America has signed up 100,000 customers in Michigan.

"We certainly want the top portion of the gas bill," Silver said. "Even by a person handing over the top portion of the bill, we know here in the office there is more of a commitment by the person."

The company has 200 independent agents, who spend two days training in the company's Southfield office and one day out in the field.

'I have a giant shredder. I don't give out personal information to anyone. Who knows what they're doing with my information.'

Tom Heruin
—Resident

The company does check to find out what communities require permits.

An Energy America rep went to the Hills city clerk's office, showing letters from other communities that exempted them from obtaining a solicitor's permit. The city requires a permit and ID tag for anyone selling a product or service door to door.

"We consider this selling a service," City Clerk Kathy Dyrman said.

After reaffirming the statute with the

city attorney, the city clerk's office warned the company in October that representatives would be ticketed.

On Nov. 23, police ticketed a man in the area of Kirby and Cass.

Sometimes independent agents unknowingly cross city limits where a permit is required, Silver said.

"It happens. What can I tell you?" Silver said. "It's not like they wanted to rob a bank or something."

Give Community Chorus a try

The Farmington Hills Community Chorus will be holding auditions for its Spring Session 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12 and Jan. 19, at the Farmington Hills Activity Center. If you have ever wanted to sing, now is your chance; come down and experi-

ence this very enjoyable activity and meet the 70-plus member chorus. Members come from the entire metro Detroit area. Musical experience is not necessary and participants must be 18 years of age or older.

SPOTLIGHT ON:

Orthodontics

by Josephine Finazzo, D.M.D.

MAKING AN INTERCEPTION

In recognition of the fact that it is virtually always better to treat problems early on, before they become more complex and costly to treat, the orthodontist may treat some patients as early as age seven or soon thereafter. The orthodontic treatment known as "interceptive orthodontics" is undertaken while children still have some of their primary (baby) teeth. Its goal is to recognize any developing orthodontic problems, prevent them from getting worse, and to position teeth so that there is sufficient room for future permanent teeth when they erupt. When an interceptive strategy is in effect, it can be a very cost-effective way to treat conditions that may otherwise bloom into expensive problems later on.

Because children are growing rapidly, they can benefit enormously from an early phase of orthodontic treatment. Orthodontic appliances can be used to correct the jaw shape and direct the growth toward an ideal relationship between the upper and lower jaws. A good foundation can be established, thereby providing adequate room for eruption of all the permanent teeth. Although interceptive orthodontics is ideal, it's never too late, even for adults. To schedule a free initial consultation, call THE ORTHODONTIC GROUP, 19223 Merriman (442-8885). Payment plans and terms are available.

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GAITS

Your gait is the manner in which you walk. When you have arthritis or weakness of your hip, knee, ankle or foot, your gait changes. Because your gait is so informative, your doctor will almost always want to watch you walk when you come in to see him for a problem with arthritis.

An antalgic gait is characteristic of arthritis. In this way of walking, you take the shortest possible time on the leg with the most painful knee, ankle or foot. A rotated gait, in which you step the involved leg extended and to the outside, is the feature of hip disease. Walking not need to be, but on the side of your foot reflects ankle pain.

You may have pain in your legs due to other conditions. Sciatic nerve damage or stroke can cause a foot drop which shows as a dragging gait. If you have Parkinson's disease, you may walk with both small shuffling steps and loss of normal arm and body movements. If you have a neurologic problem involving decreased feeling in your feet, you will walk with short, slow steps, realizing that your body makes each movement with a sense of uncertainty. If you suffered a stroke, you may walk in a circumlocution manner in which you swing your leg out and around. This gait is the result of an imbalance from weakness between posterior and anterior muscles.

The point is, that at times, watching a gait is as useful to a physician as an x-ray or a laboratory test.

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in the 90s

by Herbert M. Gardner, D.D.S.

ASSESSING THE WISDOM OF EXTRACTION

Wisdom teeth, or third molars, are the last permanent teeth to develop. Because the modern jaw often is not large enough to allow these teeth to erupt properly, they may become partially or fully impacted (lodged beneath the gum), grow in crooked, or erupt only partially. If impacted wisdom teeth cause infection, decay, or damage to adjacent teeth, extraction is recommended. This is the consensus of a conference convened by the National Institutes of Health on the subject. When wisdom teeth appear to be healthy and pose no threat to adjacent teeth, however, the prescription is not quite so clear. While many dentists have traditionally held that prophylactic extraction is warranted, an increasing number recommend leaving well enough alone.

Should your wisdom tooth or teeth be extracted? When you come to our office we'll be happy to discuss your options. At LIVONIA VILLAGE DENTAL ASSOCIATES, we stress preventive dentistry for the entire family. We recommend that most patients return at least twice a year for a cleaning and checkup. Oral health is a long-term commitment. With the proper care, your teeth should last a lifetime. We're located at 19171 Merriman Road, where we are a highly qualified and experienced team of professionals. Please call 478-2110 to schedule an appointment. Smiles are our business.

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P.S. Wisdom teeth usually appear during one's late teens or early twenties.

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