

## Friends and family remember 'Red' Holman

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM  
STAFF WRITER

A longtime Westland car dealer, known for his generosity and charm, died Wednesday at his Farmington Hills home.

Albert A. "Red" Holman, 84, was the former owner of Red Holman Pontiac GMC & Toyota in Westland and spent 44 years in the auto sales business. The dealership, which operated in Westland since 1957, was sold earlier this year.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Virginia. They had celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary on Oct. 11 with champagne and caviar and their family.

Survivors also include his children Joyce, Penny, Allene and Albert "Jack" (Susan) Holman III; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; two sisters, Pauline Husk and Ann Mac DiPaolo, and a brother, Paul Holman.

Holman was born in Samsel, Mo. in 1918. At age 18, he moved to Detroit and pursued his dream of owning a car dealership.

He served in the Air Force Cadet Corps during World War II. After the war, he enjoyed flying his three airplanes. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge Sojourners Chapter 493 in Detroit. An avid golfer, he

also was a member of the Plum Hollow Country Club in Southfield.

Locally, he was a member of the Huron River Hunting and Fishing Club in Farmington. There, he made an impression on general manager Ann Marie Mathews.

"He was a charming, peaceful man," Mathews said. "He was very family oriented. He's going to be missed."

Thomas Taylor, mayor of Westland from 1976-1981, said he remembers Holman for his generosity.

"He would frequently donate fire/rescue vehicles to the city," Taylor said.

His family remembers him as "a colorful character and a quick wit."

"He will be sorely missed," daughter Penny wrote.

Memorial services were held Saturday, Nov. 9 at Heeneey-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington Hills.

In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes can be made to Hospice of Michigan, First United Methodist Church of Farmington Building Fund, Capuchin Soup Kitchen or the Michael J. Fox Parkinson's Foundation.

heeneey@home.com.net | (734) 953-2034



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## Block working well at CHS

BY JONI HUBBARD  
STAFF WRITER

### C'VILLE SCHOOLS

Clarencville High principal David Simowski knows block scheduling isn't a cure-all, but he believes the change has had a positive effect on students.

In the first marking period, about nine weeks into the hybrid system, grade point averages across the board are up significantly.

"I'm not going to say the block caused that," he told school board members Thursday, "but certainly it was a part. I believe the block had an impact."

This year's seniors, for instance, saw their collective GPA rise from 2.19 last year to 2.782 in the first quarter of the 2002-2003 school year. And this year's freshman class have a grade point average that rivals the seniors' - 2.705.

That's rare, Simowski said, because the newer students usually experience a period of adjustment.

Along with fewer classes that last longer, block has allowed for more class offerings. The only area of concern has been with "Trojan Time," which allows students to sign up for a seminar-type class. Tutorials in core classes are offered, but some of the offerings are non-academic.

Students are required to sign up in advance and then must remember what they decided to take the following week. Simowski said he's had occasions where students have forgotten where they were supposed to be or left their planners at home.

"Trojan Time is still a challenge, but it's one of our most

powerful pieces," Simowski said. "Kids get to make the choice. They sign up for something and have to remember it. That's like the real world...We're forcing them to make good decisions and stick with them."

He encouraged parents to visit the school's Web site, www.clarencville.k12.mi.us, where seminar offerings are posted, and talk with students about which courses to take.

"Students are being encouraged to do presentation on something they enjoy doing," Simowski said, adding one teacher has suggested adopting a local retirement home or other community facility and having the students visit or write letters to residents.

"We've just barely scratched the surface with Trojan Time," Assistant Principal Tim Wilson, who handles discipline and attendance issues, said the building seems more calm.

With longer class periods and three minutes to pass from one class to another, "There's no reason for them to rush." The only problem has been tardiness, particularly around lunch time. Otherwise, disciplinary actions are down, from 8-10 in-school suspensions last year to four or five this year. Wilson has had to deal with only two confrontations between teacher and student so far this year, which is also fewer than last year.

He attributed that not only to the more calm atmosphere, but also to the in-service training teachers are getting that's relat-

ed to the scheduling changes. Block has also had an affect on the athletics program; only seven athletes have been declared academically ineligible to play this year, as opposed to 20-25 last year.

"There are a couple of things we're looking at tweaking," Simowski said, "but overall, it's doing what we expected it to do."

Board member Gary Garrison was particularly

impressed with the freshman class' honor roll representation. "A few years ago, we had 47 percent of freshman failing math," he said. "To see that now become the number for the honor roll is incredible."

He and Simowski agreed that part of the credit for that change likely had to do with additional effort made among students at the middle school as well.



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