

Beads from page 1C

As far as her own wardrobe is concerned, Obad shops for a lot of solid-color clothes and on occasion prints, though she prefers most patterned clothes made of textured material. Other favorites include ethnic and African prints and acid-washed denim.

"You can layer those things," she said. "They have a richer look than synthetic fabrics."

"When I'm wearing natural fibers or ethnic prints they have enough texture on their own. They play off on each other. Then I top it off with a Moroccan necklace or an African neckpiece."

She said she dresses in whatever feels good rather than "something you see in a magazine."

"That's an important element I think people forget. What I wear is more of a mood or a style than a trend," Obad said. "I get away from the trendy fashions. That way it becomes more of a (personal) style."

But that has come with maturity. Years ago she was into the fashion trends, but as she got older and more self-assured her personality and creativity took over.

Obad said she does own a pair of platforms, even though the shoes are about as trendy as fashions get. She likes the shoes when worn in a "funky manner" such as with a pair of jeans or cut-off shorts. However, she has seen the shoes modeled with evening gowns. That's a bit much, she said.

The mood strikes

"What I wear really depends on my mood or where I'm going. If I'm going to a luncheon or bridal shower I might wear a conserva-

tive cream-colored suit with six or seven strands of beads and when I'm out with my friends, I might wear jeans and boots with a big white T-shirt — and a string of African trading beads," she said.

"I do like to stand out — in a crowd. I think it's a real compliment when someone comes up and says, 'Those are real funky beads,'" she added.

Obad's longtime friend Angie Pulgini said, "Janene is one of the most stylish people I ever knew. She can take anything and put it together and accessorize it to make it look wonderful."

Obad isn't one to run out and spend huge sums of money on her clothing either. In fact, she said it makes no sense for people to buy "expensive clothing that doesn't fit."

"It's not the price," she said. "I shop everywhere from garage sales and flea markets to Neiman Marcus. I'm not too proud to say I paid \$1 for a belt or beaded handbag at a garage sale."

Looking in her closet one would also find an "infinite number" of outfits since Obad does a lot of mixing and matching.

"With accessories you can take the same outfit and do a lot of things with it," she said. "It's crazy to buy every season and rid yourself of last year's. It's not challenging."

Off the Cuff is an occasional feature that focuses on ordinary people with extraordinary flair for fashion. If you know an Observer & Eccentric resident man, woman or child — with a distinctive clothing sense, be it classic, trendy, give us a call at 901-2576.



SHARON LEHMER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tuxedo dressing: Janene Obad offers a variation on black tie.



Colorful jewelry: Turquoise stones and silver are the colors of this necklace.



All in white: Suit is complemented by ropes of pearls.

Pets from page 1C

convenience."

She added, "If there is only one dog it's better off in a kennel than at home, while that would be opposite for a single cat. Cats can be traumatized in a kennel with other animals. Dogs are more social and need activities, whereas cats are self-sufficient."

The Cat Practice does provide a kennel exclusively for cats. The kennel, Amella's Place, offers a frequent boarder plan similar to a frequent flyer plan, Ryan said.

Pet sitter Rochelle Simons of Creature Comfort in West Bloomfield said she would never personally leave her three dogs in a kennel.

"I believe a dog is like a child. I believe they should feel as if they can roam the house," she said.

Emergency service

Simons, who has been a pet sitter for six years, is trusted with about 60 sets of keys from various animal lovers. Her clients can call her at any time with news that they are working late and she will make sure their pet has fresh food or is taken for a walk outside.

"(My customers) are like my

family. After a while you just get to be friends," she said.

McDonald said of her pet sitter, "This has never happened, but I know if I'm away and the refrigerator stopped running, I know (Cameron) would take care of it."

Cameron, who has a bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry, is experienced in giving all types of medication including shots of insulin. Once she even delivered kittens for the absent owners.

"I write down a detailed history and get emergency phone numbers for the owners," she said. "I walk through the whole routine with them and spend about an hour and a half to make sure (the animal and I) get along."

Cameron, 32, started her pet sitting service four years ago after working as a quality assurance manager.

"I hated the rat race and wanted to work for myself," she said. "I always loved animals."

She owns several pets herself, all of which are named after characters in Dr. Zhivago. There are two Maine coon cats, Tonya and Sasha, a hamster named Yurih and a guinea pig named Poasha.

The service has grown to more than 150 clients in Birmingham-Bloomfield, Troy, Royal Oak and Clawson. She sits for not only dogs, cats and birds but also has tended to a ferret, skunk and fox.


"I'll sit for anything as long as it's not bigger than me," Cameron said. "My philosophy with pets is I treat them like they're my own. I love animals. They're so individual. They're like people."

Sue Schaub of Auburn Hills also offers a unique type of service for families in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area who are going on vacation. She's a live-in pet sitter.

"I live alone and have no objection to leaving my apartment occasionally to live in a beautiful home," she said.

Schaub, employed by the Bloomfield Schools' E.L. Johnson Nature Center, started out pet sitting for her friends, but then the personal referrals grew into a part-time business. She sits for mainly cats and doesn't offer mid-day drop-by services since she works full time.

"I'm a naturalist by profession and am very comfortable with all types of animals," she said.



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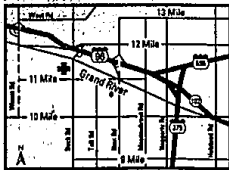
Join us for a Birthday Party at the Park

Providence Medical Center in Novi celebrates its first birthday on Sunday, June 27 from 1-4 pm at Providence Park, 47601 Grand River Avenue (at Beck Road). Join us for an afternoon of entertainment and refreshments.

Events for the day include:

- Kinder/Vision child ID program (for the first 500 children)
- Lots of giveaways and handouts
- Health talks by Providence physicians
- Entertainment — magician, yo-yo demonstration, face painting, photos with SelectCare Cool Cat, baby doll/stuffed animal clinic (bring in your favorite toy for a checkup)
- Safety and exercise activities for children
- Firetruck and ambulance vehicle displays

Kinder/Vision will be offered on a first-come, first-serve basis. We will begin handing out numbers at 1:00 pm on June 27.



Providence Medical Center
Providence Park
47601 Grand River Avenue
at Beck Road
Novi, Michigan 48374
380-4100

PROVIDENCE

Helpful agencies: toll-free numbers

A number of agencies and government departments offer free information or advice on a wide variety of subjects of interest and service to older adults and their families. Following is a list of toll-free numbers. Operators will be happy to answer your questions or direct you to other proper information sources.

- AT&T Special Needs Center 800-233-1222
- Alzheimer's & Related Disorders Center 800-621-0379
- American Cancer Society 800-ACS-2345
- American Council for the Blind 800-424-8686
- American Diabetes Association 800-232-4372
- American Parkinson's Disease Association 800-223-2732
- Arthritis Foundation 800-283-7800
- Auto Repairs Complaints 800-292-4204
- Cancer Information Center 800-422-0237
- Center for Independent Living 800-482-0222
- Energy Assistance 800-292-5650
- Hospice 800-331-1620
- Housing Discrimination, HUD 800-424-8690
- Lawyer Referral 800-968-0738
- Legal Hotline for Seniors 800-347-LAWS
- Medicaid Information (Social Services) 800-638-6414
- Medicare Appeals 800-365-6899
- Medicare Inquiry (Part B) 800-482-4045
- Medicare Inquiry/Part A (Hospital) 800-872-2566
- Michigan Bell Special Needs Center 800-482-8254
- Nursing Home/Long Term Care 800-292-7852
- Physically Impaired Association of Michigan 800-274-7428
- Prescription Drug Credit (form) 800-387-8283
- Social Security 800-772-1213
- Taxpayers Assistance (State) 800-487-7000
- Taxpayers Information (Federal) 800-829-1040
- Utilities (Public Service Commission) 800-292-9555
- Veterans Information and Assistance 800-482-0740

Hotlines to phone for helping seniors

Here's a list of toll-free numbers that may be of help and interest to older adults and their families. These toll-free hotlines may be able to assist the callers in finding the information they require.

- Social Security Assistance 1-800-772-1213
- Hospice 1-800-331-1620
- Energy Assistance 1-800-292-5650
- American Paralysis Association 1-800-225-0292
- American Parkinson's Disease Association 1-800-223-2732
- Auto Repairs Complaints 1-800-292-4204
- Alzheimer's & Related Disorders Center 1-800-272-3900
- Citizens for Better Care 1-800-292-7852

"Magnificent job!"

That's what Tracy Anderson of Farmington told us about the response she had from her Observer & Eccentric Classified ad. "I'd advertise again—my car sold immediately," she said. That's because

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