

Ticket holder to drive away lucky

Do you feel lucky? Well, do you? You should because the odds of winning a new 1996 Corvette or \$30,000 are better than normal if you purchase a \$100 ticket from the Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce between May 1 and July 13, 1996.

Only 1,000 tickets will be sold and that makes your chances better for walking, or driving, away a winner.

The dream car or a \$30,000 cash prize, as well as \$30,000 in additional prizes will be raffled off for the 10th year as the 1996 Annual Founders Festival, scheduled for July 11-13, concludes.

The winning ticket will be drawn at the 1996 Corvette Fantasy Car Raffle Extravaganza to be held from 7:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. July 13 at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

Everyone who purchases a raf-

le ticket receives two complimentary tickets to the gala party.

Is \$100 a daunting amount? No problem. Tickets may also be purchased by more than one person. Ask a friend or two, or three, to share the cost. Two owners of the winning ticket each walk away with \$15,000 while the winning ticket with four owners pays \$7,500 to each. All participants must be over the age of 21 to purchase tickets.

This is the third year that the Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce will host the Corvette Fantasy Car Raffle Extravaganza and 1996 promises to be bigger and better than ever.

The party for ticket holders and their guests will be held indoors at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena where the weather and climate can be controlled for maximum comfort. In addition to the festive car racing theme, guests will enjoy

live entertainment with The Cadets until after midnight.

According to Jody Soronen, president of the Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, the party has become a community tradition in the making. The idea of incorporating the raffle, which is the primary source of funding for the festival, into a party atmosphere was born out of a desire to make the raffle a real community-linked event.

"We wanted to build something that would become an anticipated annual tradition, like the festival itself," she said. "What better way to bring it all together than by celebrating with a big party?"

Raffle tickets are available until July 13 at the chamber office, 33000 Thomas Street, Suite 101, as well as several other locations. For more information, call the chamber at 474-3440.

Arts

from page 13A

7:45 p.m. Spirit of Detroit chorus; 8:30 p.m. OCC Chorus spring concert.

Tuesday, April 30, 11 a.m. to noon, Muscular Chamber Symphony in Dublin Hall; 1-1:30 p.m. Farmington Muscular Chorus; 1:45-2:15 vocalist Rita Fushman; 2:15-2:30, vocalist May Arvo; 3:40-5:30 p.m. Young Artists scholarship winners; 5-7 p.m. needlework demonstration; 6-7 p.m. Dynamic Dancers Performing Co., Dublin Hall; 7:30-8:30 p.m. OCC Jazz band concert.

Wednesday, May 1, 6-8 p.m. quilting demonstration in Shannon Hall; 6-8 p.m. needlework demonstration, Shannon Hall; 7-8 p.m. clarinet chorus in Dublin Hall.

Thursday, May 2, Stage Door Canteen, music of WWII, 1-2:30 p.m., Dublin Hall; 2:30-3:15 Ann Turner, pianist, 3:45-4:15, Victoria Anderson, harpist, 7-7:30 p.m. Elizabeth Mihalo, vocalist, Dublin Hall.

Friday, May 3, 11-11:30 a.m., Life of a Dancer, lecture/demonstration, Dublin Hall; noon to 1 p.m. Hillside Elementary Chorus; 7-7:45 p.m. Detroit Edison Glee Club, Dublin Hall.

Saturday, May 4, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. needlework demonstration; noon to 4 p.m. quilting demonstration.

Sunday, May 5, 3-4:30 p.m. Farmington Community Band and Chorus Concert, Dublin Hall, 6 p.m. Festival Exhibit closes.

The festival hours are 2-5 p.m. Sunday, April 28, and Monday to Saturday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday, May 5, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call 473-9570.



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AUCTION

Wednesday, May 8th - 6 p.m.
Thursday, May 9th - 6 p.m.

PREVIEW

Friday, May 3rd - 12 Noon to 8 p.m.
Monday, May 6th - 12 Noon to 8 p.m.
Tuesday, May 7th - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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Berkesch

from page 13A

could awaken a "vegetable."

Nancy tells the story of the greatest phone call she ever received being at 8 a.m. Sunday when the voice on the other end of the line told her I had come out of the coma and was responding to commands.

It was the beginning of 32 days of rehabilitation, first at Oakwood, then at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. After a few months of further recovery at home, I was enrolled in the outpatient cardiac rehabilitation program at Botsford Hospital, but my health continued to deteriorate.

In February 1994, I went to the Cleveland Clinic for evaluation where it was determined that I could benefit from coronary bypass surgery. In March, Nancy, the girls, Nancy's parents, Rose and Joe Marx, loaded up our van for another trip to Cleveland. Quadruple bypass surgery there was deemed successful and we returned home.

Rehabilitation was resumed and I returned to work part time. During the time at Oakwood when I was operating without benefit of oxygen, I fried some brain cells associated with short term memory, the proper operation of my right leg and a few other minor functions. It became apparent that the short-term memory problems were insurmountable. The job was difficult and stressful under the best of circumstances, impossible under mine. I opted for medical disability retirement.

By the spring of '95, however, my health again began to deteriorate. I was having difficulty breathing and sleeping. Alarmed by this turn of events, Nancy enrolled me at the Sleep Clinic in Southfield for evaluation. There it was determined that my already-weak heart function was weakening further. We elected to go to Henry Ford Hospital to be evaluated for a possible heart transplant.

In June, I was admitted for that evaluation by the transplant team. They determined that I was indeed a candidate. I was truly impressed with the operation of the transplant team at Henry Ford.

I was extremely fortunate that I waited only 31 days until the call came at 11 p.m. July 18, 1995, from a member of the transplant team advising me

"not to eat and stay by the phone; we have a heart for you and we'll call within an hour to let you know if it's a go or not." The second call instructed me to get to the hospital. We proceeded to Henry Ford with a mixture of apprehension, elation, sadness that someone had died in order to become a donor, and relief.

Unfortunately that call doesn't come in time for some. Either through ignorance or lack of foresight, we end up burying so many useful organs. As my T-shirt says, "Don't take your organs to heaven because heaven knows we need them here." Words cannot express my gratitude to the donor's family for the gift they gave me — a new lease on life and a second chance.

From the time we arrived at Ford Hospital, everything proceeded like clockwork. At 6 a.m. they wheeled me away from my family and by 11 a.m. I was in recovery. The actual operation took between two and three hours. I spent three days in intensive care and by the fifth day after surgery, I was riding a stationary bike in my room. I have a whole new regimen now of pill taking, diet watching, exercising and germ avoiding (my immune system is suppressed through medication to prevent rejection of my new heart).

Although this routine is sometimes onerous, I am grateful for the renewed opportunity to watch my daughters grow up. Nancy has been the mainstay and unfaltering hand guiding us through three years of travel and turmoil.

But even my family's superhuman efforts would not have been sufficient without the tremendous support they received from our good friends, relatives, staff and members of Nardin Park United Methodist Church, and the transplant team at Henry Ford Hospital.

To paraphrase Hillary Clinton, it may take a whole village to raise a child, but it also takes a whole village to help a family through a traumatic event. We are indeed fortunate to be a part of such a village. Our heartfelt thanks to all you villagers. You know who you are.

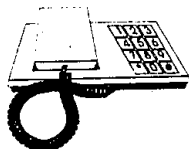
Jerry Berkesh is a resident of Farmington Hills.

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