

BIRTHDAYS



Surprise party: Mary Smith is guest of honor at a 50th birthday given by parents William and Theresa Podina.



80th birthday: Eleanor Catherman Bulloch of Farmington celebrated her 80th birthday at the Leather Bottle recently.

Murphy's law from page B1

way, the shop could do an alignment and we'd still be able to head north on Saturday as planned.

The next day, the tire shop manager said the van needed more extensive work and he suggested a frame shop. We can get it fixed today and still leave tomorrow, I assured myself. My husband, Mitch, took the van to a dealership that would be equipped to deal with the situation.

Saturday morning, packing for the seven of us was complete and we sat waiting on the front lawn. Two friends, Carol and her son, Tony, who were spending the first few days with us, came over to help. The plan was for Carol to drive our second, smaller car behind us in the van. We awaited the call that our van was done. We waited a long time. My husband called the dealer. "Won't be done till Monday, need to order parts, there's a lot more damage than we thought. About \$1,200 worth."

Remaining calm, which is uncharacteristic of me at times like these, I simply announced: "We're going. We just need plan B," which hadn't been devised yet.

After major deliberations, we had a plan. If possible, we would trade our small car for

Carol's ex-husband's mini van. Next we would rent a car to get us there. In a few days, Mitch would drive down, return the rental car, pick up the repaired van equipped with a trailer hitch, and bring up the boat. Things went as expected. The only problem was the largest rental car available, a mid-size sedan, couldn't fit our whole family. Not to worry, most of our kids would ride up with Carol and Tony in her ex's van. Amazingly, we were able to fit food, clothing and all essentials for two weeks of living and nine people in the cars!

We had a wonderful first few days: beautiful weather, perfect lake conditions, kids playing all day, campfires and toasted marshmallows at night. Then Monday rolled around. Mitch called the dealership and was told the van would be ready in a couple days.

Carol and Tony left for home with their van, and the rental car remained for us to use. We tried our best to squeeze the seven of us in it for short forays into town. Sibling fights escalated, and the scramble to sit in the front seat resembled an out of control European soccer crowd.

The ominous gray cloud continued to swell: the van wasn't done until the following Tuesday. Mitch headed home that evening to get it and bring up the boat the next day.

The boys ran out excitedly Wednesday afternoon when they heard their dad return with the boat in tow. Mitch backed the boat trailer into the water where he thought was an access area to the lake. He unbitched the boat from the trailer and lots of smiling boys moved it several hundred yards along the shore to the dock near our cabin.

Meanwhile, we noticed a problem: the van's rear wheels were stuck in sand and began to sink. The front wheels were back a foot below and wedged against a curb.

Helpful guys showed up from all around. We used a friend's minivan to try and pull out while the men pushed. The rope broke, the van didn't budge. A man with a four-wheel drive offered the use of his vehicle and some incredibly thick rope we were certain would extricate the van. The rear tires sank up to their axle, the rope broke. We called a tow truck and watched amazed as \$50 and five minutes later his winch pulled up the van effortlessly.

The boat was finally here and we had two full fishing days left. Mitch went to inspect the boat. Something looked odd. He had incorrectly plugged the bottom and the boat now had three inches of water in it. A minor inconvenience, comparatively speaking.

Between the costs of cabin

rental, van repairs, rental car fee, tow truck cost, daily long distance calls, twice the gas and mileage expenditures, this now ranked as our most expensive vacation.

We returned home Saturday. Our smaller car had a flat tire. The lawn tractor battery was dead. The lap dog we adopted from the humane society had grown 4 inches taller in our absence and now approached Narmaduk in size. We certainly were glad things were back to normal! If we run into that Murphy character, however, I have a few choice comments I'd like to make.

(Kathie O'Donohue lives in Farmington Hills.)

Sale Saturday

The Farmington Area Mothers of Twins Club sale is Saturday, Sept. 28 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 21900 Middlebelt, between Grand River and Nine Mile roads.

The public is welcome. Clothes from infant to adult sizes, toys, equipment for the nursery and outdoors, craft tables, household goods and more will be available.

For more information about the club and meeting times, call 489-0950.

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- Blue Points on the Half Shell (Farm Raised) \$3.95/Doz., buy a doz. Oysters, get a bucket beer (6 domestic bottles) for \$7.50.
- Domestic Beer Specials: All draft and bottled beers \$1.50. (Excludes all micro brews)
- House wine \$2.95/glass, reduced prices on premium liquor and complimentary appetizers served at the bar.

Monday Night Early Bird Special
Come in and choose any entree from our early bird menu, and the time when you arrive is the cost of your entree. Arrive at 5:00 and your special entree will cost you \$5.00, arrive at 6:15, costs you \$6.15. Starts at 5:00 until 7:00, so get here early!! Includes-soup, salad & dessert.

Tuesday Night Crab Night
Complete dinner includes soup, salad, and entree for only \$9.95!! That includes our special dessert too! Make your reservations before we sell out!!!

Wednesday Night Prime Rib
Includes a mouth-watering portion of prime-rib, soup, salad, baked potato and vegetables for only \$10.95. We hope you still have room for dessert because that's included too!

Every Night Dinner Specials
Tired of the same old burger and fries for dinner? Then come in and be pampered by our award-winning chef, Stefano Bellante, as he prepares the finest meals and wild game Michigan has to offer. We promise that you'll be back to try them all.

1st Annual Pig Roast and Cigar Night

Featuring a 5 course dinner with cigars from around the world. After dinner we will be retiring to the bar to enjoy some of the finest scotch that Scotland has to offer. Tickets are only \$60.00.

Pasta by Mama Macci.
Produce by Gus Tedesco & Sons.

October 14th, limited seating so call ahead.

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