

Heart

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"It was amazing," Cosgriff said. "But hey, they don't let you sit, and I'm a geezer anyway so I was ready."

"Ready" may have been an understatement as Cosgriff was absolutely thrilled with his new health status.

"I hadn't felt that good in eight years. I wanted to climb up on

the roof and scream," he said.

Currently walking up to three miles at least three times a week while continuing to enjoy most day-to-day tasks around the house, Cosgriff has learned to keep close tabs on his condition.

"The first year is when you are really high risk for rejection so you have to really watch for

things and make sure you keep away from germs," Cosgriff said.

He also learned that since the nerve from his failing heart to his brain, which tells the body that something is wrong, was cut during the transplant he won't really feel anything if he's having another heart attack or a rejection episode. Cosgriff is

careful about taking his blood pressure and temperature several times a day in order to make sure nothing is going wrong.

"This did take a lot out of me and I have learned my limits," Cosgriff said. "And I have a biography of the heart every six months to make sure it's not rejecting."

Despite such grueling medical

procedures and the fact that he was a man who used to smoke a pack of cigarettes a day, work 60 hours a week and hunt and fish with the best of them, Cosgriff feels very fortunate. He also knows this new low-key life beats the alternative.

"My thing is to get people out there talking about organ dona-

tion and to say, 'Hey, life's a great thing. Why not pass it on?' he said. "And I'm human, I always want a little bit more. I prayed just let me see my daughter graduate from high school then I said just let me see her graduate from college. Now I'm saying just let me see her marry and have children."

Judicial

O'Brien starts work circuit court early

BY PAT MURPHY
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Colleen O'Brien will go to work as Oakland's newest circuit judge sooner than expected.

Within a week of being elected to succeed the late Robert Anderson, O'Brien was appointed also to finish out Anderson's unexpired term. That means the Rochester Hills attorney will be sworn in Nov. 18, rather than after the first of the year.

Her appointment was

announced by Gov. John Engler Friday, three days after O'Brien won a hotly-contested race with Steve Kaplan of West Bloomfield. "I am pleased to give Colleen this opportunity to begin serving the residents of Oakland County on the circuit court," Engler said in a press release.

O'Brien Tuesday said she wasn't surprised by the appointment, although she expected to be sworn into office around Jan. 1. "I had planned on going back to work anyway. This means I won't get as much vacation as I had

hoped."

O'Brien expected to take a few days off with her husband, attorney Tom Cory, after the Nov. 3 election. Instead, she will be sworn into office Wednesday, Nov. 18. "This is a very busy time for me," she said.

Since the August primary, O'Brien and Kaplan had run tough, but clean campaigns emphasizing voter contact, direct mailing, yard signs and advertising. At a time other political races featured name calling and negative advertising, their campaign seemed

refreshing.

O'Brien finished first in the primary — a tight three-way race. In the Nov. 3 election, she pulled 161,464 votes — or 54.5 percent of the total — compared with Kaplan's 134,815.

Judge Anderson was scheduled to retire in January, but he suffered a stroke in March and died in August. Visiting Judge J. Phillip Jourdan, a retired Wayne circuit judge, was to handle the docket until January, but will no longer need to do so.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Jaycees Tree Lighting

The Farmington Area Jaycees will hold their annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Warner Mansion in downtown Farmington. All are welcome.

The Jaycees will also be collecting canned goods at the event for the Farmington Neighborhood House. Call 477-5227.

Community Chorus Concert

The Farmington Community Chorus proudly presents its holiday concert, Once Upon A December at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 18 and 19 at the Mercy High School Auditorium in Farmington Hills.

Advance tickets may be ordered by mail for \$8 (\$6 if over 65 or a student) by sending your name, address, number of adult

tickets, number of senior/student tickets and choice of performance to: Harry/Dixie Dorr, 30401 Hanley Court, Farmington Hills, 48331. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope and make checks payable to Farmington Community Chorus. Tickets will be \$10 at the door.

The Friends of the Farmington Community Chorus is also announcing the establishment of the Melissa Garr Scholarship Fund, in honor of Farmington High School student, Melissa Garr. Donations to the fund should be payable to the Farmington Community Chorus and sent to the above address. Any amounts will be accepted and donors will be listed in the holiday concert program. Call 788-5322.

Community Cheer

Program

The employees of Denny's in Farmington Hills at Grand River and Ten Mile will be collecting new clothing, toys and nonperishable food items for Goodfellow's in the Farmington/Farmington Hills area.

For the past 25 years Denny's has worked with other charities like Goodfellow's and raised millions of dollars to help needy families and children.

All donations can be placed in the special collection box provided at the above Denny's location.

Tree lighting

The city of Farmington Hills invites families to join the staff as the night is illuminated around city hall at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 24, during the sixth annual Holiday "Lights" ceremony.

Members from the Farmington Hills Community Chorus will lead everyone on song before Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi speaks about the meaningfulness of the season.

The mayor, with the help of kids, will illuminate the grounds and welcome Santa to the city.

Message

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can be found for them.

"It's just a needless death and a lot of those lives could be saved," said Cosgriff, who believes many people fail to discuss the issue with family members or don't carry a donor card thus preventing the process from taking place should the time come.

The American Council on Transplantation points out that in most cases, religious objections to organ donation are few. Their study said most major religions support donation and it is generally held that donation for

the benefit of others is a demonstration of faith and love for one's fellow man.

An exception would be Gypsies who, on the whole, are against donation. Their opposition is associated with their belief about the afterlife. Gypsies believe that for one year after a person dies, the soul retraces its steps. All of the body parts must be intact because the soul maintains its physical shape.

For more information about Michigan Gift of Life, call 1-800-482-4891.

Detroit Dance Collective comes to Farmington, Hills

Detroit Dance Collective announces its nine-month dance partnership in Farmington and Farmington Hills, sponsored by Target Stores and Hudson's and beginning with the Target Family Dance Concert at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, at the Harrison High School Auditorium.

The concert will feature selections from DDC's inventive and highly theatrical repertory by directors Barbara Selinger of Farmington and Paula Kramer of Huntington Woods.

The Hudson's Partnership includes two "Danceabout Concerts" for young people, at 10 a.m. Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 9 and 10 also at Harrison High School.

Several students from Farmington Area Schools will participate in creative and modern dance classes throughout the school year and taught by Detroit Dance Collective dancers. For fees and reservations call (313) 965-3544.



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