

Saints alive!

Hills employees celebrate with Finnish St. Urho and pasties

By JONI HUBBED
STAFF WRITER
jhubbed@oe.homecomm.net

Farmington Hills might be a long way from Finland, but every March 16, spirit spans the distance.

For a dozen years or so, Hills employees have gathered on that day to celebrate the memory of St. Urho, who drove the grasshoppers out of Finland and saved the wild grape crop. At least that's what the sign behind the beef and vegetable pasties said.

Pasty server Rick Lampi said the whole event started with a few employees wanting to go out and buy pasties for lunch on St. Urho's Day. From there, it just sort of... mushroomed.

"We started out with about 25 or 30 of us, and now it's built up to 150 pasties," he said. "It just kind of stuck with me ever since that first day."

While everyone points the finger at Lampi as the event's originator, he's not the only Finlander in the thick of things. Teri Arbenowske proudly proclaims

'We started out with about 25 or 30 of us, and now it's built up to 150 pasties. It just kind of stuck with me ever since that first day.'

Rick Lampi

—Employee and pasty server

her Finnish heritage as well, and isn't afraid to take on the real meaning of the holiday.

"St. Urho's Day is in response to the Irish having the market on festivities in March," she said. "The Irish aren't the only ones who know how to throw a party."

The pasties, green and purple pasta salad and specially decorated cookies are only part of the fun. There's quite a bit of entertainment value in watching the fashion scene.

Clearly, Hills employees take the event seriously. Assessor Dean Babb wears a green and purple tie decorated with grapes, for which he'll admit to paying \$25. And Fire Chief Richard Marinucci sported a festive purple and green sweater vest, festooned with a picture of St. Urho.

But no one topped former mayor Aldo Vagnozzi, who dressed as St. Urho himself. Draped in a royal purple robe covered in sequins, sporting a bejeweled crown, he wandered about carrying a grasshopper fork, brushing away imaginary grasshoppers wherever they might land.

This was Vagnozzi's third year playing the role, and he showed no sign of wanting to be replaced.

"You know," he said in a quiet aside, "the mayor was term-limited, but not St. Urho."



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL HANSEN

Same time, next year: Employee Dorothy Gullon packs St. Urho away.

HONORS

Several all-state and academic all-state high school athletes were honored last month by the Farmington Public Schools Board of Education.

All-State athletes recognized included:

■ Brian Brinsden, Farmington senior football player, nominated by John Bechtel.

■ Mike Buchwald, North sophomore boys soccer goalie, nominated by Ron Meteyer.

■ Justin Gerwatowski, Farmington senior boys soccer guard, nominated by Luke Juncal.

■ Nick Hall, Harrison senior football, nominated by Ron Meteyer.

■ Brian Horr, North senior boys soccer midfielder, nominated by Ron Meteyer.

■ Brian Lafer, North senior football wide receiver defensive back, academic all-state nominated by Rich Burrell.

■ Samantha McCoub, girls junior basketball point guard, nominated by Linda Perkins.

■ Lindsai McErlan, sophomore girls swimmer, nominated by Pat Duthie.

■ Kyle Meteyer, senior boys soccer defenseman, nominated by Ron Meteyer.

■ Brian Nelson, Harrison senior football, nominated by John Herrington.

■ Bethany Nestor, sophomore girls tennis, nominated by Norm Stanisewski.

All-state football team members nominated were:

■ Sophomore wide receiver Benjamin Gerber.

■ Junior offensive tackle Daniel Goshorn.

■ Senior offensive guard Shawn Hend.

■ Senior center Nicholas Johnson.

■ Senior free safety and wide receiver Brian Lafer.

■ Senior tight end and linebacker Ryan Lewis.

■ Junior wide receiver and outside linebacker Geoffrey Mwaungulu.

■ Senior tight end Raymond Naglik.

■ Junior defensive back Marc Piper.

■ Junior defensive tackle/offensive guard Michael Zullak.



Read our Classifieds!

You never know what treasures you'll find!!!

THE
Observer & Eccentric *HomeTown News... it's all about you!*
NEWSPAPERS
HOMETOWN CLASSIFIEDS

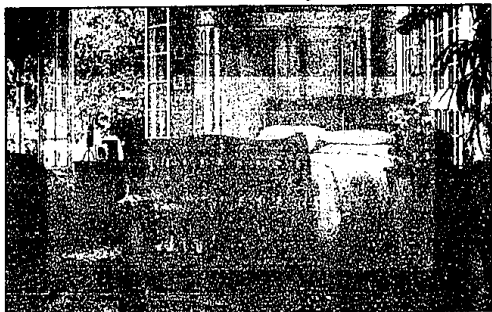
Part of HomeTown Communication Network™

Oakland County: 248-844-1070 Wayne County: 734-591-0900

Rochester Rochester Hills: 248-852-3222 Clarkston, Lake Orion, Oxford, Waterford: 248-475-4598
oeonline.com

014734

This Can Be Your Stylish Retreat...



Right now, we are displaying an up-to-the-minute collection of bedroom and dining room home furnishings that's clean, simple and fresh in style. Handcrafted of solid cherry, this easy to live with collection is built to last a lifetime. Come see today!

Now Spring Sale Priced at 40% off Retail!



Walker/Buzenberg
fine furniture

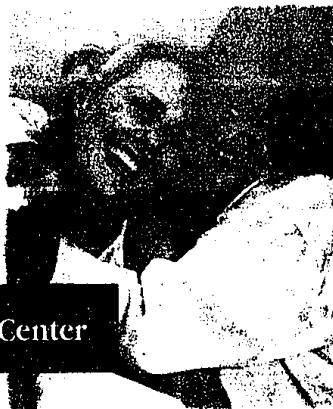
240 North Main Street • PLYMOUTH • (734) 459-1300

Mon., Thurs., Fri. 10-9 • Tues., Wed., Sat. 10-6 • Sun. 1-3

6 Months Same As Cash, with credit approval • Sale ends 4-2-00

Health Care for
Women That is
State-of-the-Heart

Marian Women's Center



The Marian Women's Center at St. Mary Hospital is dedicated to keeping women healthy. Women of all ages can receive health care services, health education and support in a warm, caring environment close to home.

Our highly trained, caring staff offers:

- Mammography
- Breast Health Clinic
- Radiology
- Ultrasound
- Support Groups
- Health Screenings & Classes
- Women's Lectures
- Resource Library
- Bone Density Testing

And, of course, the complete family services that you've come to expect from us such as prenatal classes, lactation consultants, sibling classes and mother-baby support groups.

St. Mary Hospital's Marian Women's Center. Health care for women that's state-of-the-heart.



St. Mary Hospital
36475 Five Mile Road
Livonia, MI 48154

www.stmaryhospital.org

Marian Women's Center
1-800-494-1615

Physician Referral Service 1-888-464-WELL