

Red Cross blood drive slated for Jan. 8

As the need for blood grows critical at area hospitals, the American Red Cross will hold a winter blood drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8, at the Farmington Hills Holiday Inn, on 38123 W. 10 Mile.

Turn-outs are traditionally low during the holidays, when the need is actually greater due to accidents and illnesses.

Anyone who is at least 17, weighs at least 110 pounds and is in good health can donate.

The entire process, from registration to donation and light refreshments, takes about an hour.

Red Cross nurses take a blood sample and do a mini-physical to ensure donor safety.

The blood sample determines the level of hemoglobin in the blood.

Hemoglobin carries oxygen through the body via red blood cells.

Donors are encouraged to have a healthy meal, drink plenty of fluids and take their prescribed medications, as usual, before donating.

Any healthy person eligible to donate may do so every 56 days.

Around 13 million units of blood are donated in the U.S. every year, by about 8 million donors.

The supply is used by about 4 million patients, including accident victims, surgical patients and people with leukemia, sickle cell anemia and other diseases. Southwestern Michigan is chronically short of blood.

The communities use about 250,000 units of blood locally, but only

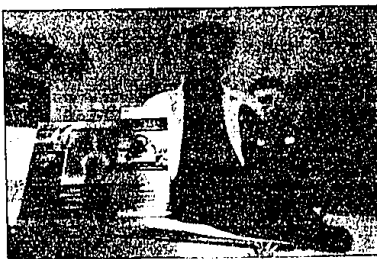


Red Cross R.N. Pat Michalski applies pressure to a donor's arm. The Thursday blood drive at the YMCA had a good turnout, but blood supplies are still critically low.

200,000 units are collected locally. The balance comes from

the national blood supply. To schedule an appointment, call (517) 545-7712 or

(877) 505-9437. Walk-in donors are also welcome.



Dr. Bhan Garg and his cat Heo opened Angel Animal Hospital, a new veterinary practice.

New vet practice opens on Nine Mile

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Angel Animal Hospital opened up in November on 30332 Nine Mile, just west of Middlebelt in Farmington Hills.

Dr. Bhan Garg, veterinarian, said the business that treats dogs, cats, rabbits and ferrets likes to tout its quality care at a low cost.

Garg, who has 10 years' experience, said the facility has all the latest medical technology and includes two exam rooms, an X-ray room, a surgery room, a dental cleaning area and holding areas.

Growing up in a rural part of India allowed Garg to be 'around animals as a child. "I decided to be a vet," he said.

He schooled in India and worked as a vet there before moving to Canada where he practiced and then came to Michigan in 2000.

Angel Animal Hospital offers emergency service with dentistry, vaccinations, heartworm testing, lab diagnostics, spay/neuter, X-ray and ultrasound as well as boarding and grooming.

The facility is open seven days a week, Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Garg said it's a good idea to have pets checked once a year and after age 7 to have them checked twice a year.

Angel Animal Hospital also offers free puppy/kitten exams and multiple pet discounts.

Call them at (248) 615-6500. Space for home.com.net (248) 477-5450

FHS slates orientation

Farmington High School will host its annual Freshman Orientation at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22 in the school's auditorium.

All incoming eighth grade students and their parents are invited to attend.

Tours of the building, curriculum information, orientation to the school, and an opportunity to sign up for clubs and athletic teams are all scheduled to introduce the incoming student to Farmington High School.

Teens invited to attend 'Reaching Higher' program

Reaching Higher for Teens is coming to Farmington Hills Church of God, 25717 Power Road this month.

The goal of the evening classes is to inspire teens to value and love themselves, provide problem-solving skills, and

realize their greatest potential. The event is being facilitated by Sue Dahlmann and Greg Long. Dahlmann is a professional motivational speaker, a public speaking and self-esteem coach, and was an acclaimed public school teacher

for 23 years. Having overcome great obstacles in her own life, Sue has co-created the program to empower others. A parent information night takes place Jan. 9 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. The program takes place

eight consecutive Thursdays, 6-8:30 p.m., and begins Jan. 23. The cost is \$300. For more information, call Reaching Higher at (810) 220-8812.



Better move FAST... rates this great won't LAST.

The time to refinance is NOW!

5.25% APR* 10-Year Loan

5.75% APR* 15-Year Loan

MORTGAGE REFINANCE LOAN

Refinance NOW and take advantage of the lowest rates in over 40 years, plus get all of this:

- No up-front costs, closing costs, points, private mortgage insurance, appraisal or application fees, or any other hidden costs!
- Up to 85% of our appraisal value of your home.

Stop by your local banking center, call or visit us online to apply.

CHARTER ONE BANK
charterone.com

1-877-TOP-RATE

Member FDIC Limited time offer, subject to change! *Annual Percentage Rate (APR) based on a \$100,000 loan with monthly payments and scheduled payments of \$1,072.91 (5-year term) or \$1,250.41 (15-year term). Property services required. Fees included may be required. Subject to our underwriting standards, which are subject to change without notice. See our other website for more information. (1) Limited time offer, up to 85% of the appraised value, but may vary according to underwriting and on loans of \$25,000 or more. Loans for 15% or less than \$40,000. Prepayment penalty may apply. See for details. Limited time offer. Rates subject to change without notice. APR accurate as of January 2, 2003.

Everyone's A WINNER!*

SWIPE 2 WIN

Over \$220,000 in Cash & Prizes

January 6 - February 25, 2003

Great Prizes are waiting on your Players Club Card!

January 6** - February 23, 2003

*Swipe your Players Club Card daily to WIN Instantly! Visit the Players Club to WIN your share!

GRAND PRIZE DRAWING!

February 25, 2003
8 pm at the Stage Bar.

2003 LIMITED EDITION 007™ Thunderbird
plus 10 Cash Prizes of \$5,000!

Purchased from Northgate Ford-Lincoln-Mercury, Inc.

MGM GRAND
DETROIT CASINO

**Starting at Noon

Must possess Players Club Card and valid photo ID. Must be 21 years of age or older. Management reserves the right to modify or change without notice. See Players Club for details.