

SENIOR NEWS

The following events will take place at the Amherst Center for Senior Services, 350 John James Audubon Parkway. For more information, call 636-3059.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH will be served at 11:45 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP will meet at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20 in the Waiting Lounge.

MIND TEASER will be played at 12:45 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21 in the lounge.

GRANDPARENT AND ME movie will be "Cars" featured at 12:45 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 27.

NEW YEAR'S LUNCH AND CELEBRATION will be held at noon Thursday, Dec. 28. "Men of Note" will provide entertainment.

BOOK LOVERS CLUB will discuss "At First Sight" at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 28. "Marley and Me" will be discussed at 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 26.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS will be available from 11 a.m. to noon Wednesdays and Thursdays.

KNITTING CLUB meets at 1 p.m. Tuesdays in the card room.

MUSIC COMBO will be held at noon Fridays in the music room.

NEEDLEWORK CLUB meets at 9:30 a.m. Mondays in Classroom 1.

AMHERST RECORDER CONSORT meets from 9 to 11 a.m. Fridays in the music room. For more information or to join, call 836-5568.

PINOCHLE members meet at 12:45 p.m. Wednesdays in the card room.

CANASTA CLUB meets at 12:30 p.m. Mondays in the card room. For more information or to join, call 689-3359.

WOODCARVING classes are offered at 9 a.m. Tuesdays in the Art Room.

SCRABBLE CLUB meets at 12:30 p.m. Thursdays in the card room.

AMHERST SENIOR SINGERS meet from 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. Wednesdays. Call 632-3929.

BRIDGE CLUB meets at 1 p.m. Fridays in the card room.

THE QUILT CLUB meets at 12:30 p.m. Mondays. New members are always welcome.



Lunch Menu

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20 — Breaded pork chop with dressing and gravy, mashed potatoes, parsleyed whole baby carrots, multigrain dinner roll, apple pie with whipped topping, chef salad with dressing.

THURSDAY, DEC. 21 — Salisbury steak with gravy, mashed sweet potatoes, cauliflower with red pepper, breakaway roll, fruited tapioca pudding, diet vanilla pudding is also available.

FRIDAY, DEC. 22 — Breaded fish with tartar sauce, fresh au gratin potato, stewed tomato, kaiser roll, ice cream.

MONDAY, DEC. 25 — No meals served. Merry Christmas!

TUESDAY, DEC. 26 — Baked chicken thighs with cacciatore sauce, seasoned spinach, cauliflower, Italian bread, pumpkin Bavarian, chef salad with dressing. Diet Bavarian is available.



Mike and Mary Ellen Stoh dressed in their Mr. and Mrs. Claus outfits and waited to hear hundreds of children's wishes for Christmas.

One man's love of portraying the 'big guy in red'

by JILL SCHMELZER
Reporter

"He's making a list, he's checking it twice, he's gonna find out who's naughty and nice. Santa Claus is coming," to the Boulevard Mall.

Mike Stoh of West Seneca has portrayed Santa Claus at the mall, located at 700 Alberta Drive in Amherst, for the past three years.

The big guy in red started growing his white whiskers in July, giving "Christmas in July" true meaning.

"I play Santa 365 days a year," Stoh said, noting that before he met his wife, Mary Ellen, he was a Scrooge.

"She got me into the Christmas spirit by decorating the inside and outside of our house," Stoh said.

Their home is now lit up with a computerized lighting system. Their winterfest includes a Ferris wheel in the back yard for children to come and play, Stoh said, noting he and his wife are often outside dressed as Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

The grandfather of three said his grandchildren don't like to come near him when he is dressed from head to toe in his Santa gear, but as he does with other shy boys and girls, he offers them jingle bells and candy to coax them into feeling more comfortable.

Stoh dresses in red year-round, and said he even knows when "you've been naughty and nice."

"The best part of playing Santa is seeing all the smiles," Stoh said. He noted that children approach him even when he isn't in his full outfit. For instance when he dons his long Santa hat and big red jacket.

A few hot-ticket items that top his Santa list this year include X-Box 360, Bratz dolls and Dora the Explorer apparel.

For those wishing their mommy and daddy will get back together, Stoh says, "We'll see what we can do."

Santa Claus will be located near the carousel in the Food Court at the Boulevard Mall until Dec. 24.

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On the Campus

Christopher J. Wyrobek of Getzville has accepted membership in Golden Key International Honour Society and was honored during a recent induction ceremony at the University of Pittsburgh where he is a student.

Samuel Shimrak of Williamsville has been named to the 2006 fall semester at Rochester Institute of Technology. He is the son of Doug and Lois Shimrak.

I opened my heart to the SPCA...
because love is a four-legged word.



Marv Levy and his SPCA friend, Booger.
Photography courtesy Mike Groll/mikegroll.com

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Season's Greetings

Everyone at the
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