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YOU JUST HAVE TO "WORK IT OUT"



Family and friends surround Frances and Carl Stenberg as they celebrate their platinum anniversary!

70 years together!

By Taylor Peer

Carl and Frances (Hladin) Stenberg celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Sunday, November 20 at First Congregational Church in Fruitport with family



and friends.

When Fran was 13 her mom died and her dad sent her to live with his sister in Wisconsin. Fran moved back to Muskegon from Wisconsin to stay with her brother who worked for Nelson Tanning.

Carl and Fran first met in 1939 when Fran and her

brother came to pick up Carl's brother in a Ford Model A Roadster with a rumble seat. When they arrived, Carl's brother was not home, so Carl went along for the ride, sitting in the rumble seat with Fran.

In 1940, Carl joined the service for a year so that he would not be drafted. Carl did not want to get married because he knew he was going into combat. But on November 22, 1941, on one of his leaves from the Army, Fran, age 22, and Carl, 20, (in his uniform) got married at Lakeside Methodist Church.

Carl was away serving his country for 2 1/2 years. He was injured when a grenade went off while he was serving in New Guinea, and was hospitalized. While he was gone, Fran continued to work and live with Carl's sister in Muskegon until December, 1944, when Carl was released from the hospital.

They have three children, Don (Jan) Stenberg of Hawaii, Cheryl (Jim) Crays of Spring Lake, and Jack Stenberg of Fruitport. They have five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

At age 91, Carl says, "When you get married, you stay married. There are always going to be ups and downs ... you just have to work it out."

Award given municipalities for building partnerships

(Submitted by Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce)

Businesses choose to locate and grow in political environments that are cooperative. This year, the annual GEE! (Governments Encouraging Entrepreneurs) Award recognized the seven municipalities actively participating in the Local Government Shared Services Plan. Each was recognized in the area of "building partnerships" which leads to building an environment for business success.

The GEE! Award is presented by the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce's Government Affairs Committee to thank the individuals and government entities who demonstrate a commitment to excellence and process improvement in five areas that are important to the business community; ease of use, customer service, effective communication, building partnerships and commitment to economic development.

Winners are encouraged to place the award in a prominent location or promotion on community websites so residents know they are actively working to support business growth. The Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber also promotes the winners on www.muskegon.org.

The 2011 GEE! Award winners include Fruitport Township Supervisor Brian Werschem and the mayors of Montague, Muskegon, North Muskegon, Norton Shores, Roosevelt Park and Whitehall.

"These seven elected officials have really stepped up to the plate and have been collaborating and working together in ways we have never seen elected officials do before," said Cindy Larsen, president of the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce. "This will help spur economic growth throughout the community."

"It was an honor to present each of these elected officials with this award," said Government Affairs Committee Co-Chair Adam Zuwerink of Parmenter O'Toole. "We are always looking for excellence in government," added Co-Chair Dave Gerdes of Rehmann. Nominations for GEE! Awards are accepted year round. If you want to recognize someone in your municipality, contact the Chamber for a nomination form or download one online at www.muskegon.org.

F.A.C.E. fulfills Christmas wishes with your help

(Submitted by Families and Community Engage)

For the second year in a row, under the direction and inspiration of Bryan Gemmel, the Christmas Wish Tree is furnishing toys for needy children in the area. This joint project, in cooperation with the Fruitport Lions Club and individuals in the community, assures that children will have a Merry Christmas.

The "Christmas Wish Trees" are located throughout the community at Ye Old Tavern, Casting Technology, Journey Community Church, Pincrest Lanes, Fifth Third Bank, Versatility Hair Salon and Suzi's Village Inn.

To contribute, visit the site of one of the trees and choose an ornament from the tree. Write your name and telephone number on the ornament that does not have a list of ideas. Hand the ornament to the person in charge at that location. Take the other ornament and purchase a minimum of \$50 worth of the items listed. (Preferably toys.) Return the unwrapped items to that location. Inform the person in charge that you have delivered the items. Have a Merry Christmas and know that you have made a child happy this holiday season! •

Annual holiday light show continuing

By FAN staff

The annual holiday light show in Spring Lake is continuing this year, with donations accepted for Special Olympics.

The light show on Heather Court has become a tradition with many people, despite the heavy traffic and patience required to wait in line, though it is well worth it.

Since Thanksgiving, 2006, this synchronized light show has attracted thousands of people. It is possible to park (free parking at Emmanuel Free Church) and walk through the show, to avoid a long wait in line. Police officers are on hand to direct traffic on Spring Lake Road and Van Wagoner Road.

Visit the website, www.holidayroadlights.com for more information.

The show will be held on Tuesday through Thursday from 6 to 9 p.m. and from 6 to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday through December 25. •