Record crowd attends marching band concert

On a day of emotion for many Americans, a record crowd attended the 2011 Spartan Marching Band for Kids Concert on Sept. 11.

More than 500 people filled nearly every inch of the Okemos backyard of hosts Tim and Cathy Staudt in a concert benefitting the Sparrow Children’s Center and the Michigan State University Marching Band.

“I’m just proud to be here and proud to be an American,” MSU Football Coach Mark Dantonio told the crowd in reference to the 10th anniversary of 9/11.

The mood was festive, however, as the band played hours of favorites and MSU coaches and athletes mingled with attendees.
Sparrow Foundation launches Circle of Sparrow program

A new Sparrow Foundation program recognizes individuals who provide generous charitable contributions to the Foundation that have a far-reaching impact on every service line at the hospital. Circle of Sparrow is a way of thanking donors for their generosity and includes specified benefits, accessed via a membership card. The card makes it easier to identify donors. The program is modeled after the best practices of leading healthcare institutions across the country.

“The Circle of Sparrow is an opportunity to acknowledge and thank individuals who have been so generous to Sparrow. They have helped us acquire the technology and services that improve the lives of our Patients and aid us in doing our jobs,” said Stella Cash, Vice President of Development and Strategic Partnerships.

Individuals who present their Circle of Sparrow card should be verbally thanked for their support of Sparrow and treated with the exceptional care all of our Patients have come to expect. If a Patient wishes to access the benefits of their membership, Associates should refer them to the Sparrow Foundation phone number on the back of their card, at 517.364.5123, or offer to personally make the call for them.

Clarification

An article in the Sept. 7 issue of the Sparrow News should not have included Carson City Hospital as being covered by new standard uniform and revised professional appearance policies. We apologize for the error.

Fall volunteer recruitment drive underway

Sparrow’s 2011 annual fall volunteer recruitment campaign is underway and great prizes are in store for Sparrow Associates who aid in the effort. Sparrow’s Volunteer Department is hosting a tour and information session at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 4, in the lobby cafe and an open house in the lobby cafe from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 5.

“Sparrow was born out of volunteerism and volunteers continue to be our lifeblood,” said Volunteer Coordinator Tracy Feazel. “We are so grateful for the help we receive from Sparrow Associates in recruiting volunteers.”

For more information or to apply online, check out sparrow.org/volunteer or call the Sparrow Volunteer Office at 364.3606, option 5.

Get more content online

For more Sparrow News content, visit sparrow.org/mysparrowassociates. Scroll down to “Sparrow news” and click on “Additional online content.” You’ll see stories and photos on:

» Sparrow Ionia Hospital golf outing
» Allen Street Farmer’s Market
» PHP name change
Sparrow Ionia breast cancer program benefits from HoofPrints for Hope

An Ionia County 4-H project with the unlikely name of HoofPrints for Hope recently raised $3,200 to benefit funding of mammograms and diagnostic testing at Sparrow Ionia Hospital. The group raised the money through the first Benefit Open Horse Show, which also included a bake sale and silent auction.

“I think breast cancer touches home for a lot of people,” said Janelle Wiesen, a member of the HoofPrints for Hope Committee, which supports breast cancer awareness and research in Ionia County.

Proceeds from the horse show were recently presented to community member and volunteer Lisa Loucks McKee, who oversees a breast cancer fund. McKee and friends organized a Sept. 11 golf outing to support mammograms for women in Ionia County.

Carson City's Pink-Ribbon Affair showcases student art

For the second year in a row, Carson City Hospital’s cathedral-ceilinged front lobby will be transformed into an elegant world of pink for the Pink-Ribbon Affair, a fundraiser for the hospital’s breast health program.

The Oct. 13 event features an auction showcasing artwork from local students and all things pink to mark the color of October’s Breast Cancer Awareness Month. It runs from 5:30-8 p.m. Local breast cancer survivors will be guests of honor.

More than 600 people attended last year’s event, raising money for Carson City’s cancer survivorship and breast health programs.

“We weren’t sure what to expect last year and were just so thrilled at the amazing turnout and incredible energy of this unique event,” said event coordinator Andrea Russell, RN, Carson City’s Breast Health Navigator.

Sparrow Clinton Hospital recently unveiled sparkling new signs around its campus in St. Johns, including this front entrance sign. Sparrow Clinton Hospital President and CEO Ed Brunner (left) and SCH Board of Directors Chairman David Hunt did the honors. The sign is positioned along Sturges Street. The hospital celebrated with a Clinton County Chamber Business After Hours event.

Sherry Taunt is Sparrow’s new Vice President of Quality and Performance Improvement.

Taunt comes to Sparrow from MidMichigan Health in Midland, where she was Executive Vice President and Corporate Vice President for Regulatory Compliance and Quality. Her diverse background includes time spent as Vice President of Nursing, a staff nurse and a physical therapy aide.

She has been recognized as a leader in Michigan in building cutting-edge quality improvement programs.

Taunt received her bachelor of science in Nursing from Ferris State University and her master of science from Saginaw Valley State University.

David Rhine, MD, has joined Sparrow’s Thoracic and Cardiovascular Institute, bringing a new dimension to Sparrow as an electrophysiologist.

Dr. Rhine specializes in complex procedures such as atrial fibrillation ablation therapy, which offers a cure for heart rhythm disorders and lead extraction. He recently completed his EP fellowship at Ohio State University.

He is the only physician in the community with a full-time emphasis on complex EP procedures, which means convenience for our patients, who will not have to travel long distances for this specialized treatment.

Sparrow Specialty Hospital board member and Chairman Emeritus Robert B. Hughes has been inducted into the Michigan Insurance Hall of Fame.

Hughes, of East Lansing, has had a distinguished career that began in 1960, including being the first agent from Michigan to become president of what is now the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors. He also has given much back to the community through Sparrow Specialty and various organizations at Michigan State University, among others.


Alexander comes to the MAC with tons of energy and experience. He’s a former U.S. Marine who has provided Latin and pop dance instruction at all levels. His formal training was at a studio in Austin, Texas.

Alexander has danced all over America and Puerto Rico and most recently took third in a Bachata contest in Michigan. Bachata is a form of dance that originated in the Dominican Republic. Contact him at the Michigan Athletic Club at 517.364.8888 or sign up for a class today.
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Caregivers urged to get free flu vaccines

Flu season is approaching and there’s a special effort this year for all Sparrow Caregivers to receive an influenza vaccination.

Free flu shot clinics begin Oct. 3 for all Sparrow Caregivers, volunteers and residents (see Sparrow News insert for dates and times). Unit-based flu shot carts also will be giving flu shots.

An influenza vaccination is recommended for everyone and is especially important for Caregivers.

“Even if you never get the flu, just getting a flu shot will prevent you from spreading the flu to patients and co-workers, as well as family and friends,” said Robin Roach, Infection Prevention and Epidemiology Director. Please support flu prevention efforts and encourage your co-workers to get their flu shot.

New this year is a requirement that all Caregivers document that they received a flu shot or formally decline the shot. Each Caregiver must complete the Surveymonkey Flu Shot Module between Oct. 15 and March 31, 2012.

Hike for Hospice features tribute to Joe Melvin

Joe Melvin spent the last days of a whirlwind life in Sparrow Hospice, “a serene, sacred place,” according to his widow, Laina.

Melvin and his family found comfort at Hospice, where he died of colon cancer in December 2010. Melvin, Technical Director of Sparrow’s blood bank until his death, will be honored Oct. 2 at the annual Hike for Hospice fundraiser that benefits Sparrow Hospice. It’s a fitting tribute to a man loved by many at Sparrow and whose family speaks so highly of the Hospice.

“It’s just so touching – on top of the marvelous professional care he received,” said Laina Melvin.

The 5k hike/5m bike ride will be held at Granger Meadows Park on Granger Meadows Lane in Lansing, between U.S. 27 and Wood Road, south of E. State Road. Walkers and bikers may gather at 11 a.m., with opening ceremonies at 11:30 a.m. and a noon start time.

For more information, check sparrow.org/hikebike4hospice or call Shela Dubenion-Smith at 517.364.5696.