

Local Happenings

ANDOVER

Easter plant/bake sale

The Andover Volunteer Fire Department will hold its annual Easter plant sale from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, April 13, through Saturday, April 15, and from 10 a.m. to noon Easter Sunday at the firehouse on School Road. There will be a bake sale Friday and Saturday. For information, call Mindy, 742-9177.

BOLTON

Wildwood, N.J., trip

The Bolton Seniors will take a trip to Wildwood, N.J., from Sunday, May 21, through Thursday, May 25. Enjoy five days and four nights at the Oceanfront Adventurer Inn. The trip includes roundtrip motorcoach, four nights at the inn, four full-course breakfasts, three full-course dinners, two shows, a visit to Atlantic City, and more. Full payment by April 16. For reservations, call Joyce Bach, 643-0887.

COVENTRY

Luncheon

The Coventry Senior Citizens will have a Log Cabin Lunch in Holyoke, Mass., at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 25. Entertainment is provided by the Mills Brothers. For information, call Mary-Ida Olson, 742-6488.

EAST HARTFORD

Today

7 p.m. Economic Development Commission, Town Hall

Seminar

"The Seminar that Helped Me Buy My First Home" will be available from 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, March 30, at Raymond Library, 840 Main St. For information and to register, call John Veldez, (860) 874-9222.

Music/art festival

The 19th annual Inter-Elementary Honors Music and Art Festival will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 29, in the auditorium of the East Hartford Middle School. Featured will be several hundred talented elementary students in music and art from 10 schools. The public is invited and there is no admission charge. For information, call Emil Kopcha, 622-5971.

HEBRON

Day trip

The Gardeners Roundtable affiliated with the Douglas Library will offer a bus trip to Litchfield to the White Flower Farm for a 1½-hour tour of the gardens and facilities, and a behind-the-scenes tour of history of the White Flower Farm. Lunch will be at the Bistro East inside the Litchfield Inn (four choices for lunch); then a tour of the winery and vineyards, and taste testing at Haight Vineyard. The cost is \$38. For information and reservation, call Helen, (860) 228-1159.

MANCHESTER

Art museum trip

The Manchester Art Association will sponsor a day trip to New York City on Saturday, April 22, to visit the Museum of Modern Art in the morning and the Salmagundi Club in the afternoon to see the American Watercolor Society exhibit. The bus will leave Manchester at 7:30 a.m. Tickets are \$55 per person and include the bus and entrance to MOMA and Salmagundi. Deadline is Saturday, April 1. For information call Penny Brandt, (860) 643-0531, or visit the Web site www.geocities.com/maa06040

REGIONAL

Prison arts program

The 26th annual exhibition of work from artists in Connecticut's prisons will be at the Hartford Stage, 50 Church St., Hartford, in conjunction with the Hartford Stage production of "Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune" by Terence McNally from May 18 to June 18. A reception will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 24. For details call (860) 527-6151.

SEND NOTICES TO:

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Notices should be sent two weeks in advance of events and include the name and telephone number of someone who can provide more information.

Blood drives Wednesday, 3/29



Lestloyd F. Alleyne Jr. / Journal Inquirer

Christopher Prior places a food item on a collection table while classmate Giovanni Mazzone looks for a spot for his canned good as part of the Birthday Club kickoff to benefit the Manchester Area Conference of Churches food pantry at Assumption School in Manchester.

Mom launches 'Birthday Club' to spur MACC food donations

By Christine McCluskey
Journal Inquirer

MANCHESTER — The mother of an Assumption School student has come up with an idea she hopes will keep donations to the Manchester Area Conference of Churches food pantry coming in steadily all year.

Children in the "Birthday Club" will encourage their birthday party guests to bring nonperishable foods that can be donated to the food pantry.

Kate Darcy Hohenthal, who has been organizing the program, said that in addition to providing MACC with a consistent level of food throughout the year, the project aims to give parents a way to teach their children that "everybody is a community member and has a responsibility."

Hohenthal will study the project's outcomes over the next two years and publish her research as she continues working on her doctorate in educational leadership at the University of Hartford.

She said she wants to measure how many donations come in

through the Birthday Club and whether it has any negative effect on the level of donations to already-established food drives.

Hohenthal also will study the effect that the Birthday Club has on those who participate — for example, asking parents whether they found the program to be a good way of teaching their children about the issue of hunger.

She wants "to see if Manchester could actually be a model for other cities and towns throughout the U.S.," she said.

She said she and her husband have collected food for donation at their two children's birthdays for the past two years.

Hohenthal has been publicizing the program through parent organizations, the Girl Scouts, and the Boy Scouts.

She said that many older people are already collecting donations of nonperishable foods on their birthdays for donation to MACC, and that she will work with the Senior Center to encourage more people to participate.

For details, call MACC, 647-8003.

2 go to hospital after bus hits building

By Journal Inquirer Staff

SOUTH WINDSOR — Two people were taken to Manchester Memorial Hospital after a school bus crashed into a building at 490 Burnham St. today, police said.

The bus was traveling east on Burnham Street at about 8 a.m. when the driver suffered a medical emergency and lost control, police spokesman Officer Caleb Lopez said today.

An emergency worker on the scene said he might have suffered a seizure.

The vehicle veered to the north and crashed into the

