

Livonia Family YMCA

Indian Guides

Smoke Signals



December 2002

Volume 34 Issue 4



Federation Chief Report

Hello Big and Little Braves,

Wow, the Holidays are in full swing. They started with the Livonia YMCA Indian Guides marching down Plymouth Road, on a cold and winter day. What a great day it was. There were plenty of doughnut holes to be eaten by all thanks to the Sachem before the Parade started. Then, at the end, there were those Krispy Kreme Doughnuts -- those are the Federation Chief's favorite ones. I hope everyone enjoyed the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Speaking of the Thanksgiving holiday, my family did a fun Community Service project. We helped make Turkey Dinner for 700 people the day before Thanksgiving. We helped out at the Cass Community Social Services. My sons made placemats for people to eat their dinners on. They also made Thanksgiving cards for the people to read while eating. I cooked 200 eggs, squash, and helped clean dishes. My wife helped make jello and guided some of the teens that had never cooked or even made jello before.

Continued on page 2

Upcoming Events

Family Roller Skating
Fri. Jan. 3rd
6-8pm
Riverside Arena



Winter Campout
Jan 17—19th
Storer Camp near Jackson



Bowling
Sat. Feb. 22nd, 9-Noon
Cloverlanes



Don't forget to sign-up for the Winter Campout at the Y by January 10th to reserve your spot!

Attachments in this issue:

- Skating Flyer
- Bowling Teaser

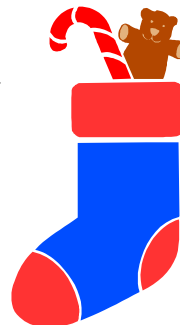
Look us up on the Web! Find previous issues, useful links, maps to events, feather award descriptions, and a colorful Six Aims poster.



<http://lyig.tripod.com>

Federation Chief Report — Continued

This was a very fulfilling experience. My sons said they would like to come back next year and help again for Thanksgiving dinner. We shall see what we can do. But, in the meantime, I talked to the Executive Director, Rev. Faith Fowler, who also was working there cleaning turkeys and preparing meals. She said they would appreciate any help. I explained to her that there were many Indian Guides that would like to do things like this. So here is her phone number: 313-833-2277 in the Administration Building.



Roller Skating is coming up soon. Don't forget to bring the whole family, this is going to be a family event. So, little braves, don't forget to bring your Mom, sisters or little and big brothers. Hope to see everyone there. This is a NO COST EVENT and pizza will be provided.

We have a Winter Campout coming up January 17-19, 2003. This should be a great time. It's at Camp Storer in Jackson, Michigan. The cost is going to be \$123 for parent and child, and each additional child is \$63. Please get your registrations in ASAP so we can get a count for the camp.

If for some reason you can't afford to come to camp because of cost (example if they have just lost a job in these days), please contact me. We can arrange it so you and your little braves can go to camp. Either the Federation will take care of this or the YMCA can with their program to take care of these little problems. There should never be anyone who can't afford to go to camp. Feel free to call me at (734)427-8687, or if you would rather call Rick Dunn at the YMCA at (734)-261-2161.

Little Brown Grizzly, Little Running Bear and I (Big Brown Grizzly) would like to wish to you and your families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Pals Forever,

Big Brown Grizzly, Little Brown Grizzly and Little Running Bear
David Ryktarsyk



Medicine Man Report

Oh Great Spirit of the south, whose warm breath of compassion melts the ice that gathers round our hearts, whose fragrance speaks of distant springs and summer days, dissolves our fears, melts our hatreds, kindles our love into flames of true and living realities. Teach us that he who is truly strong is also kind, he who is wise tempers justice with mercy, he who is truly brave matches courage with compassion.

I would like to welcome Jim Potvin and his two sons to the Livonia Indian Guides. They are now in the mighty Shawnee tribe. I know you guys will never regret being a part of this great program.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and yours!! We'll see you at the next event.

Pals Forever,

Powhatan and Hawkeye
Rick Hassell





Assistant Federation Chief Report

Seasons Greetings Guides!

Hope all of you are having a great holiday season and are enjoying this special time with your families.

I want to thank all those that have sent their fundraising dollars back to me by the December 7th meeting. I have heard from several of the tribes that conducted the Can Drive. Despite the cold, they thought it was a fun experience and that they had fairly good participation. If we decide to do it again next year, we should consider doing it during the warmer fall months.

Since we would like to start calculating the 5% Campout Credits soon, please mail your cash donations, candy sale money, or can drive money to me as soon as possible (15663 Surrey, Livonia MI 48154). We would really like to complete all fundraiser cash collection before the end of the year and to be able to accurately total our returns!

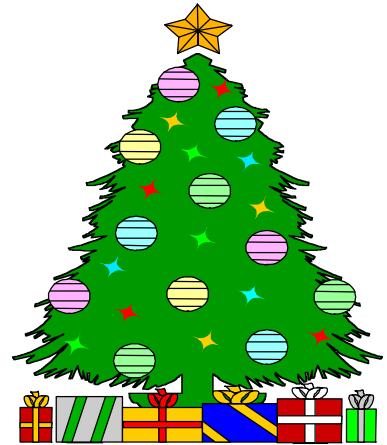
Speaking of the end of the year, we look forward to the FAMILY Skate night on January 3rd at Riverside Arena that the Great Sachem is putting together for us. Hope to see all of you there!

One final note, if anyone has any prizes or an ability to obtain discount prizes for the spring banquet, please let me know.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Pals Forever,

Silver Fox, Golden Fox, and Gray Wolf



Child's Commandments Corner

Commandment No. 4

My feelings are tender. Please be sensitive to my needs; don't nag me all day long. (You wouldn't want to be nagged for your inquisitiveness.) Treat me as you would like to be treated.

Watch each issue of Smoke Signals for more!



Sachem Report

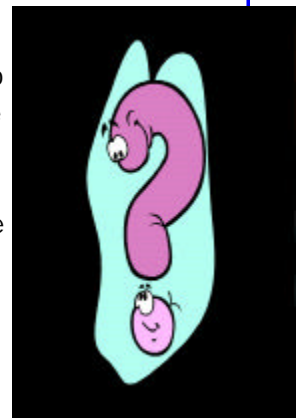
What a great time heading down Plymouth Road for the annual Holiday parade. Lots of credit goes to the kids who patiently waited . . . and waited . . . to get marching. Always lots of fun, and the weather held out great. And by the time you read this we will have enjoyed our Winter Fun night. I'm sure we all had a good time.

I hope to see everyone at Roller Skating at Riverside. Remember it's a family event, with Mom, brothers and sisters, in addition to Indian Guides at NO CHARGE!!! What a great way to enjoy an evening with the family! Friday, January 3rd, 6 to 8pm. The no-fee entry includes standard skates, pizza and pop!!! If you want to rent roller blades, it's \$4, speed skates are \$3. And it's free to watch me fall on my kiester!

When I was young . . . many, MANY moons ago . . . Bill Cosby asked, "Why is there air?" Every year I change this a bit and ask myself, "Why is there Indian Guides?" I have to step back and look where I stand with myself and my family. In addition, I need to see exactly how the Indian Guide program fits into this family picture. What is the purpose of the Indian Guides, and how does it fit into my life? By realizing the answer to that question, everything falls into perspective. I will certainly keep that in mind as we go into this next year.

Pals Forever with my Sons,

Brave Eagle, Brave Sky, Brave Mountain, Brave Night
Chris Gurnee



Crow Tribal Report

After warming up from the mile long trek down Plymouth Road, bringing in old St. Nick, our tribe assembled for the ritual of creating a vest that we will wear and proudly display to onlookers that we are the mighty Crow tribe. We are looking forward to all the cool events like the fun night and roller skating. We are planning to reassemble our tribe prior to the winter campout.

Don't forget to watch replays of the Livonia Holiday Parade on Livonia's cable channel 8 every Friday night during December at 8:30pm. We hope that everyone has a very happy, healthy, safe holiday season.

Respectfully submitted,
Big Chow and Tickle Tiger



Family Roller Skating Event!

**Friday, January 3rd, 2003
6 - 8 p.m.**



**RIVERSIDE ARENA
36635 Plymouth Rd.
Livonia, MI 48154**

**Free for the entire family!!!
Roller skates, pizza and pop provided.**

If you want to rent better skates: Roller blades \$4 Speed skates \$3

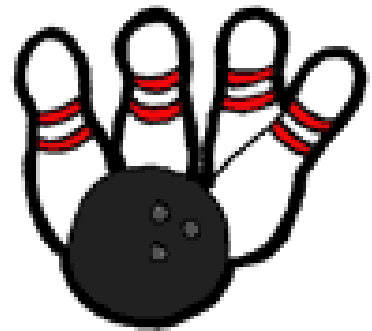
GET READY TO ... **BOWL!**

WHERE: CLOVERLANES
(on Schoolcraft in Livonia)

WHEN: FEBRUARY 22, 2003

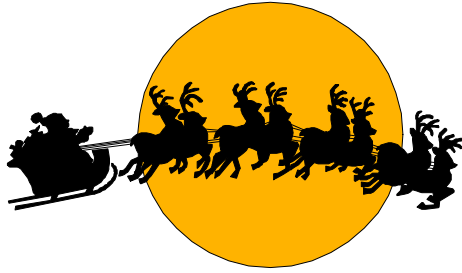
TIME: 9:00am 'til NOON

WHY: PALS FOREVER!



Watch this space in next month's **Smoke Signals** for registration info!

Cayuga Tribal Report of the Long Night Moon



The Mad Moon brings a Federation event that always creates historical adventures to be recorded on the birchbark C-drive. On the 23rd day of the Mad Moon the federation participated in a great march of many diverse peoples and talents called the Livonia Thanksgiving Parade. The Cayuga tribal property was prepared for this great event. The fringe of AOL CDs on the great Cayuga banner, one each to symbolize the light each Cayuga reflects on the world around them, were shined and the banner furled and bound.

The tribal drum and drumstick were checked, we gathered our headbands and feathers, our vests, candy to give away, the camera, and extra gloves. How are going to carry all this stuff? The solution was the blue bag that warriors use to carry their loin cloth to the indoor athletic fields with the swoosh and Nick's name misspelled. We put the smaller items in that, glad that we were not bringing the walking sticks, noise makers, shields, wampum bags, and jewelry collection. And so we mounted our pony car called Windstar and galloped south in great anticipation like Walt Disney's Boatniks heading out on an afternoon cruise with a week's worth of stuff.

We arrived at the gathering area of the multitude with no wheels. There we linked up with the Federation and the rest of the Cayugas. Soon we realized that the other Cayugas had brought all of their stuff too and that we didn't have enough hands to hold the banner high enough and long enough. The magnificent Cayuga brains went to work. We would leave the banner furled but leave one AOL CD dangling out and hold the banner vertically. This would gather a lot of attention for the Federation as parade goers would wonder what the mystery message inside was, or what we were receiving over that antenna. We had our hopes, too, such as that lone CD picking up stray magnetic fields and converting that into heat energy to warm us. It turned out that lightening rod was the more realistic scenario. One last march detail -- who would play the drum? It turned out that handing out candy was more popular and the drum would ride quietly on Running Deer's shoulder.

With the march details taken care of, we moved into position and waited for the great adventure. Big Eagle and I started kibuttzin' in our Cayuga dialect about things that warriors love to talk about: clean water, clean air, sun, warmth, clouds, cold, rain, snow, ice, corn, moon, satellite dishes, bugs, animals. Take for instance animals: Running Deer says "I feel like a beast of burden with this banner and drum and Nick swoosh bag." Big Eagle says "Does this mean I can call you an..." You know, I can't remember what sort of animal that was he mentioned . . . donkey, burro? Oh well. Time passed. As time continued to pass we weren't too worried about who was going to be in front of us but who would be behind us. Our fears were put to rest when we found out Santa was 102, a long way behind our 95. As we approached the starting line we got a glimpse of Santa patiently waving to all the marchers as they passed by. Upon seeing Santa, Talking Rock's expression transformed to half shock and half inquisitiveness that begged the question, "Where is the sleigh?" "Well, Talking Rock, Thrifty Car rental has Santa specials on horse and coach when there is no snow at Thanksgiving. As you can see Santa is maintaining his commitment to driving environmentally friendly vehicles wherever he goes."

The Federation started the march down Plymouth with Straight Arrow shooting ahead and Talking Rock falling behind. A considerate brave offered to carry that blue Nick swoosh bag for which Running Deer will be eternally grateful. The candy was distributed to many a smiling face as Santa brought up the rear to close out another successful march of the multitudes.

Cayuga Tribal Report — Continued

The bottle and can drive was a new experience. Straight Arrow and Talking Rock argued about who got cans and who got plastics. I guess this is good. Talking Rock kept the whole bottle return room up to date as he stood in the shopping cart, put each can in the machine, and read those numbers conveniently illuminated at eye level. Pushing that green button was an exciting end to a big bag of cans.

The Great Spirit brings a wonderful time upon our Federation and all people as the year closes out. Hopefully this will give us all a chance to slow down and dwell on one of the six aims that the Great Spirit inspired: To Love the Sacred Circle of Our Families. May we all nurture that sacred circle so it can expand and bring peace to the larger families of the world that we are all a part of. May the peace that is the lesson of each Christmas season be the guiding light of your New Year.

Pals Forever,

Respectfully Submitted,
Running Deer, Straight Arrow, and Talking Rock



Lost and Found

A racquetball racket was left behind at the winter Fun Night on December 13th. Please call Dave Ryktarsyk at 734-427-8687 to claim it.



Teton Tribal Report

Tetons Help Get Things Sorted Out

"I've got Green Beans!"... "Hey, where's the box for the Corn?"... "I've never seen so many cans of Peas!"
... "I NCOMI NG!!"... "The box for Tuna is right behind you!"... "Gross! Who actually eats canned Spinach?!"

Where could all of this be heard? A food fight at the local grocery store?? NOPE! It was the Teton tribe community service event on December 12. Each year the Livonia Goodfellows help make Christmas a little more special for families in need by collecting canned goods. All Teton braves big and small helped the Goodfellows sort piles of canned items for distribution before Christmas. Thanks to the hard work of the Livonia Goodfellows and by caring people such as the Livonia Indian Guides, over 150 families will receive canned food during this Christmas season. Although every brave was tired and sweaty at the end of the night, we all left with that great feeling you get when you are able to help other people. On this night our tribe learned the true meaning of one of the Six Aims "*Love my neighbor as myself.*"

Pals Forever!

Howling Wolf, Running Tiger, and Swimming Fish
Tim Bumpus

