

Life Line screening a life-saver for Jess Burdine

Screenings being offered July 23rd at St. John

By Greg Barth
Staff Writer

In July of 2003, after spending a busy morning shoveling sand for a swimming pool, Jess Burdine went in for a Life Line health screening at St. Paul's Church in Oak Harbor.

Burdine felt great and didn't anticipate any problems, but he soon realized he was being held behind while everyone else was coming and going. Finally, after a brief wait, he was apprised of his situation.

"You've got some problems," a Life Line worker gravely informed him.

Burdine was told he had a 7-inch aortic aneurysm (doctors would eventually discover three more aneurysms, but the initial, 7-inch aneurysm was the most serious).

"Six inches is considered critical and mine was seven inches," he explained.

The Life Line workers told Burdine to go directly to his doctor.

"They told me not even to bend over to tie my shoes," he recalled.

Burdine did as they said and went straight to his doctor's office. Once Burdine's doctor saw him and looked over his test results, surgery was immediately recommended.

"They asked, where's *Mardella* [Mr. Burdine's wife]? They had a nurse call her and the nurse told her, Jess has got to go to Toledo," Mr. Burdine recalled.

One week later, Jess had surgery at St. Charles Hospital in Toledo. The surgery was a success and Jess is happy to report that he has been in good health ever since. However, he said if not for the Life Line screening, he may



just before he went in for his screening four years ago.

He said it was an incredibly lucky coincidence that his wife had signed them up for the screenings. He noted that he was very fortunate the problem was caught in time.

"I felt good enough that I was shoveling sand all morning. The next shovel load could have been my last. I can't say enough about it. It's \$125 or your life," Burdine remarked.

Mardella recalled that a 50th wedding anniversary party for she and Jess had been planned for the weekend after Mr. Burdine's health problems were discovered. She said when they first learned of the problems, she had her children call everyone to tell them the party was canceled. However, the doctors in charge of the surgery were unable to reserve a surgery room until the next week, so Mardella and her children once again called everyone and told them the party was back on. Mardella said that

After his surgery, Mr. Burdine spent 19 days at Bethesda Care Center in Fremont receiving physical therapy. He said the physical therapy was necessary because the surgery took a major toll on his body.

"I didn't have the hand-

eye coordination to even hit a nail with a hammer," he recalled.

He said thankfully, after the physical therapy and adequate recovery time, he returned to his normal self.

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Farkas finds Freddie

Maureen Farkas, of Oak Harbor, was the 15th correct caller in our "Freddie the Flamingo" contest.

Be sure to try again next week and win a \$20.00 gift certificate to IGA Community Markets in Oak Harbor, our sponsor of this contest.

For those of you who had a hard time finding "Freddie" he was in Homeville Fruit Stand ad on Page 2!



On special this week in their store is: *Prairie Farms Old Recipe Ice Cream*

56 oz., Select Varieties, 2/\$5.00 & 24 pk. Dasani Water 1/2 liter bottles \$3.99.

Obituaries

Sara Louise (Aylsworth) Durbin

Artmon "Art" E. Perry

Dennis "Dewey" R. Iffland

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However, ever since his ordeal, Burdine hasn't stopped talking about the importance of Life Line screenings.

"I can't say enough. It saved my life and I've told my story over and over to other people," he explained.

Life Line screenings are usually offered once-a-year in Oak Harbor, typically during the summer. This year, screenings will be held on July 23rd at St. John Lutheran Church in Oak Harbor. The cost is \$129.

Life Line leaders, as well as Burdine, said it was important for folks to take advantage of these screenings.

"You may think that your physician would order these screenings if they were necessary. However, insurance companies typically will not pay for screenings unless there are symptoms. Unfortunately, 50 percent of stroke victims have no symptoms," Life Line leaders explained in a recent press release.

The screenings do not take much time and are not invasive.

"Socks and shoes are the only clothes that will be removed and your tests will be completed in less than one hour," Life Line leaders explained.

Millions of people have taken advantage of the screenings ever since they

have been available, Life Line leaders reported.

"Over five million people have participated in Life Line screening's ultrasound tests that can determine your risk for stroke caused by carotid artery disease, abdominal aortic aneurysms and other vascular disease," Life Line leaders reported, adding, "cardiovascular disease is the number one killer in the United States of both men and women- and a leading cause of permanent disability."

To sign up for the screenings in Oak Harbor, call 1-800-636-0017. Spots are limited, so people are encouraged to call as soon as possible.