These annual outdoor events signal the beginning of Advent

By Vera Hogan

Something magical happens at this time of year all across Northern Europe, especially in Germany. Quaint little stalls huddle together, filled with glittering decorations, handmade figurines, and local produce. The sounds of children’s laughter, sleigh bells, and choir singers fill the night air. Mouth-watering aromas of sizzling bratwurst, gingerbread, and toasted almonds waft through the stalls.

The Christmas markets are here, signaling the beginning of Advent. For centuries, Christmas markets brought cheer to around the world

This is the 23rd story in a series about popular travel destinations.

Christmas markets at a glance

Germany’s largest Christmas market: Nuremberg’s Christkindlesmarkt

Open market dates: Most open on the Friday before the first day of Advent, Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018 and close one or two days before Christmas Eve

Munich, Germany: Has 24 Christmas markets

Best way to visit markets: Travel by German rail, book a commercial tour or hire a personal driver

Market food and drinks: homemade chocolates, candy floss, candied almonds, roasted chestnuts, Stollen, Christmas cookies, gingerbread, all varieties of bratwurst. Hot drinks will include mulled wine (Glühwein) and hot cider (Appelwoi).

Traditional figurines for sale: 350 varieties of Zwetschgenmannle, well-loved figures made of prunes

Distance from Fenton, Michigan to Nuremberg, Germany

4,326 MILES

Christmas market in Nuremberg, Germany. Photo: reisedeals.com

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Queen biopic plays for fans, celebrates Mercury’s life

By Tim Jagielo

“Bohemian Rhapsody,” like many biopics, is a basic summary of history, with an eye on simplifying for brevity and drama. Some basic events in their timeline were changed by years, to squeeze everything into a story that can triumphantly end with Queen’s Live Aid performance.

It’s a glossy, colorful and even tender reminder of singer Freddy Mercury’s (born Farrokh Bulsara of Indian-Parsi descent) incredible influence today. With a PG-13 rating, the movie was tuned for a wider audience. The film was directed by Bryan Singer and runs 2 hours 14 minutes.

This movie slightly pushes the PG-13 rating with language and depictions of Mercury’s lifestyle, telling the story of possibly the 20th century’s most famous bisexual man. Parental guidance is suggested, but themes stay within safe bounds for teens.

Casting is uncanny — in fact the player who looked the least like the real-life icon was Egyptian Rami Malek, who stepped into Mercury’s life and embodied him, nailing his flamboyant swagger, and his voice.

Because the production used the official band archivist, details like bass player John Deacon’s sock choices were accurate to real life.

Queen guitarist May and drummer Roger Taylor had been pushing for a biographical movie for many years, and were often on set, even helping the actors with the music.

Their goal, according to History vs. Hollywood, was to tell the story holding everything “in balance,” which they did. The movie highlighted the individual band mates’ brainy science-based educations, and never ignored their musical contributions. Of course, Malek’s Mercury was the center of the show, as he was in real life.

At the start of the film, his portrayal seemed exaggerated, like a James Bond movie villain with jutting teeth. Mercury’s real teeth were actually a source of insecurity for him, and Malek wore prosthetics for the film.

The movie detailed his growing isolation from his band family due to lifestyle differences — as they were getting married and having children, Mercury was not. He hid behind drugs, alcohol and sex.

Longtime friend Mary Austin, portrayed by Lucy Boynton, brings him back down to earth leading to a resolution with the band.

The live rock performances are somberly muscular, and punched with color and lights, taking the viewer closer to the show than they ever could have been.

The stunning Live Aid stadium performance was practical work shot the real thing, bringing the story to a crescendo.

The movie grabbed me emotionally. Mercury died in 1991 when I was 10, before I could appreciate the performer that he was. Overall it was a fun movie, made for fans, but probably won’t ever make the Criterion Collection of important classic films.

There were major breaks from reality. For example, the band never broke up as depicted, and there was no record executive (played by Mike Myers) refusing to release “Bohemian Rhapsody” as a single.

This scene was funny and intentionally ironic, considering Myers fought for the song to be used in “Wayne’s World” (1992), bringing the song to American teens and revitalizing their popularity.

NOV. 21

1934: A young and gangly would-be dancer, Elia Fitzgerald, took to the stage of Harlem’s Apollo Theater to participate in a harrowing tradition known as Amateur Night. Finding herself onstage as a result of pure chance after her name was drawn out of a hat, the aspiring dancer spontaneously decided to turn singer instead — a change of heart that would prove momentous not only for herself personally, but also for the future course of American popular music.

NOV. 22

1963: The nation is shocked by the assassination of its president, John F. Kennedy. Kennedy was riding in an open car in Dallas, Texas, when a gunman named Lee Harvey Oswald fired three shots at him from an upper-level window of a nearby building. Kennedy was pronounced dead upon arrival at a Dallas hospital. He was the fourth president in U.S. history to be assassinated.

NOV. 23

1966: The first issue of the pictorial magazine Life is published, featuring a cover photo of the Fort Peck Dam by Margaret Bourke-White. When the original Life folded during the Great Depression, the influential American publisher Henry Luce bought the name and re-launched the magazine as a picture-based periodical. By this time, Luce had already enjoyed great success as the publisher of Time, a weekly news magazine.

NOV. 24

1971: A hijacker calling himself D.B. Cooper parachutes from a Northwest Orient Airlines 727 into a raging thunderstorm over Washington State. He had $200,000 in ransom money in his possession. At 8:13 p.m., as the plane flew over the Lewis River in southwest Washington, the plane’s pressure gauge recorded Cooper’s jump from the aircraft. Wearing only wraparound sunglasses, a thin suit, and a raincoat, Cooper parachuted into a thunderstorm with winds in excess of 100 mph and temperatures well below zero at the 10,000-foot altitude where he began his fall. The storm prevented an immediate capture, and most authorities assumed he was killed during his apparently suicidal jump. No trace of Cooper was found during a massive search. The fate of Cooper remains a mystery.

Source: history.com
uses for WD-40

1 GETTING GUM OFF YOUR SHOE
If, by bad luck, you step into chewing gum, this product can help. Just spray the WD-40 on the gum where it’s stuck to the shoe, and peel it off.

2 CLEANING SCISSORS
Spray some WD-40 into a cloth and wipe the blades of the scissors to sharpen and clean them. This will make using the scissors easier.

3 DEFEATING RUST
Rust does not stand a chance against this oil. If you have a rusty lock that needs to be opened, spray WD-40 on it to clean the rust off.

4 CLEAN DRIP PANS
Metal range tops can get gross, especially with grease and drip pans. But using WD-40 on the metal will help you wipe any grime and dirt.

5 DEFROSTING CAR WINDOWS
Because it was invented to protect against corrosion and rust, this product helps repel ice, too. Wipe a thin layer of WD-40 on your windshield before the frost hits, and find that it’s much easier to get ice off. This is also good for preventing your car doors from freezing shut.

6 REMOVING STICKERS
Use it to remove old bumper stickers from cars, or anything with a sticker.

7 LOOSEN A STUCK ZIPPER
WD-40 can help loosen a zipper that’s stuck in a garment without ruining it.

8 PROTECT YOUR SHOES
Spray WD-40 on your shoes and leave it there to add a layer of protection against water. It also removes any salt stains.

9 KEEP SQUIRRELS OFF BIRD FEEDER
If you’re battling squirrels eating from your backyard birdfeeder, wipe some WD-40 on the handles. Their weight will be too much, and they will slip.

10 CLEAN TARNISHED SILVER
All silver will eventually get old and will start to tarnish. Instead of simply getting new silver, let the utensils soak in WD-40 for 10 minutes and then wipe everything down with a washcloth and warm water.

By Hannah Ball
WD-40 is known to make sliding doors open and close smoother, and to sharpen blades. But, there are dozens more uses for the product. Here are some lesser known uses for WD-40.
Citizens can make a big difference

There is an old saying that “the squeaky wheel gets the grease.” That came to mind this week when thinking about one of those squeaky wheels—a man named Pete Medor.

I will never forget this even though it has already been an unbelievable 20 years. In 1998, I covered Fenton City Council meetings. At almost every meeting, Pete, an eight-year employee of the Department of Public Works (DPW) at the time, addressed the council during public comment.

Pete complained to the council about the working conditions at the DPW garage, which was then located on Lincoln Street, between the St. John Church property and Bush Park to the north, and Silver Lake Road to the south.

He described some deplorable conditions and told the council that he was fearful for the health and safety of his co-workers and city residents. His complaints usually fell on deaf ears. I am actually surprised because I often sat there thinking, “Man, you are so fired.” But that didn’t happen.

After one of those meetings, Pete, who I had never formally met, and I happened to be leaving the building at the same time. I asked him if the garage was as bad as he said. He paused for a moment and replied, “Would you like a tour?”

We arranged to have him show me around the building that week. Pete was right. The DPW was housed in an unheated, dilapidated building on Lincoln Street, where millions of dollars of equipment trucks sat on dirt floors, and where raccoons had their run of the place.

Oh yeah, I had to write about this for sure. After that, the Fenton City Council and administration began paying more serious attention to what then-DPW director, the late Leslie “Les” P. Bland, and Pete had been complaining about for years.

A lengthy process ensued, which included an investigation by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Because of the very close proximity to the Shiawassee River, the concern was that road salt stored in one of the out buildings, and fluids (gas, oil and more) dripping or leaking from DPW trucks and equipment sitting inside buildings on dirt floors, could be contaminating the nearby river.

Fortunately, the DEQ’s investigation showed that all was good and no harm was done.

Eventually the City Council and Downtown Development Authority (DDA) found a way to work together to provide the new facility on Alloy Drive. Funded through the DDA, the new $2 million DPW facility was built without an increase in taxes.

The official ribbon cutting, marking the opening of the new DPW offices and garage took place in November of 2002, four years later. Pete, a very humble man, would not take credit where it was due and did not partake in the ceremony. The Lincoln Street buildings were razed and all that remains is a grassy field.

Coincidentally, both Les and Pete continued serving the city. Both ran for office and were elected to the Fenton City Council (at different times). Last July, following Les’ untimely death in May, the Alloy Drive facility was named the “Leslie P. Bland Public Works” in honor of his more than 41 years of service as the department’s director. The sign outside the building to honor Bland was the idea of the current public works director, Dan Czarnecki, and his crew.

Another time I’ll tell you about another “squeaky wheel” whose endless trips to the public comment podium got the ball rolling on the state-of-the-art water plant on North Road.

CHRISTMAS

Continued from Page 1B

A weary villages and added a touch of light and color to the long winter nights.

Meike Blonsky, 35, lives in Rodenbach, Germany. She has visited relatives throughout the U.S. and in Fenton.

Blosnsky said she visits Christmas markets to look for gifts as there are no such markets in smaller German towns.

“I have a Christmas market in Rodenbach,” she said. “It takes place for just one weekend in December and is organized by our local stores and societies. On the market, you can buy all kinds of things like self-made scarves, gloves, caps, Christmas ornaments, jewelry, candles, pottery, cookie cutters and more.

“You’ll get hot spiced wine (red or white), hot orange juice, cocoa with whipped cream (with or without booz), sausages, dumplings, raclette cheese and my favorite—garlic bread,” Blonsky said.

“Oh course, you’ll get sweets, too, like roasted almonds in different flavors, fruits in chocolate, cookies, waffles and crepes.

“My favorite Christmas market is in Steinheim. It’s not very huge but feels really cozy,” she said. “And a Steinheim bakery sells pyramid cake. I just love it. Seligenstadt also has a lovely one. Oh my goodness, there are so many…”

How it all began

It all began in the late Middle Ages in parts of the former Holy Roman Empire. The precursor to Christmas markets is thought to be Vienna’s Dezembermarkt.
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FENTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
is seeking applicants for the part-time position of Director of Youth Ministries. Application and job description may be obtained in the church office (119 S. Leroy Street, Fenton, MI 48430). Completed applications and a resume must be returned by November 26, 2018. For more information, contact Pastor Jeff Jaggers at (810) 629-2132.

SIGN UP
For Text blasts to receive local help wanted listings. Text JOBS to 810-475-2030.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES
is looking for a dependable newspaper carrier for downtown Fenton routes. Papers must be delivered by 2 p.m. every Saturday. Ages 12 and older are welcome to apply. Contact Jill at 810-433-6797 or email circulation@tctimes.com.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FENTON
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED & ADOPTED
ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

At their special meeting on November 14, 2018, the Fenton Township Board took the following actions relating to Zoning Ordinance amendments:

1. Adopted Ordinance No. 803, an emergency Zoning Ordinance amendment to revise provisions relating to household pets.
2. Conducted the first reading of a proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment to revise provisions relating to accessory buildings.

The second reading of the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment will be conducted at the November 19, 2018 Fenton Township Board meeting.

Complete copies of the adopted and proposed ordinances may be obtained at the office of the Fenton Township Clerk, 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, MI 48430. The ordinance is also available on Fenton Township’s website at www.fentontownship.org.

ROBERT E. KRUG
FENTON TOWNSHIP CLERK

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FENTON
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS
NOVEMBER 14, 2018

The Fenton Township Board held a special meeting on Wednesday November 14, 2018 at the Fenton Township Civic Community Center, 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, Michigan and took the following actions.

1. Supervisor Mathis convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.
2. Authorized an offer for the Planning/Zoning Administrator position, and approved the hiring of the candidate upon acceptance of the offer.
3. Adopted Ordinance No. 803, an emergency Zoning Ordinance amendment to revise the definition of, and other provisions relating to household pets.
4. Conducted the first reading of a proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment regarding accessory buildings.
5. Approved a motion to discontinue investigation into taking over privately owned community water systems.
6. Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

A complete copy of the minutes of this meeting and any ordinances adopted at the meeting are on file and available for review at the Fenton Township Office, 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, MI 48430. The ordinance is also available on Fenton Township’s website at www.fentontownship.org.

ROBERT E. KRUG
FENTON TOWNSHIP CLERK
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VILLAGE OF HOLLY
LIFESTYLES
NOTICE OF VARIANCE REQUEST
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Village of Holly Zoning Ordinance, the Village of Holly Zoning Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing on a request for a variance of Ordinance 157.036(B)(1)(a) and (b) on December 3, 2018 at 7:00 PM (or as soon thereafter as possible) in the Board of Education Room located at 920 E. Baird Street, Holly, Michigan.

An application for a variance was filed by Ronnie Antoon – Holly Group, LLC. The property is located at 15201 N. Holly Road, parcel number 01-27-151-008. The applicant is requesting a variance of Ordinance 157.036(B)(1)(a) and (b) which determines the location of waste receptacles.

Written comments may be submitted to the Village Clerk/Treasurer, 300 East Street, Karl Richter Center, Holly, Michigan 48442 prior to the hearing and may also be submitted at the meeting. All documents pertinent to the application are available for inspection in the Village Offices, located at 300 East Street, Holly, Michigan.

Interested persons are encouraged to attend the meeting. Handicapped persons needing assistance to attend are asked to contact the Village Offices at least 48 hours prior to the meeting at (248) 634-9571 during regular business hours.

Deborah J. Bigger
Clerk/Treasurer
Village of Holly

HOLLY TOWNSHIP
LIFESTYLES
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Holly Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on:

DATE: December 4, 2018
TIME: 6:30 PM or as soon as possible thereafter
PLACE: HOLLY AREA SCHOOLS BOARD ROOM
KARL RICHTER COMMUNITY CENTER
920 E. BAIRD ST.
HOLLY, MI 48442
PHONE: 248-634-9331 Ext. 301

The purpose of the public hearing will be to consider the proposed amendments to the Township of Holly Code of Ordinances to:

CHAPTER 32 ZONING, ARTICLE IV SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS: ADD SECTION – WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEMS ORDINANCE

The hearing is open to the public to voice their views and/or to submit written comment. Citizens are encouraged to attend and participate in the hearing. The Holly Township Planning Commission will consider any public comments received at this time. Written comments may be submitted prior to the hearing by writing to: Clerk at 102 Civic Dr., Holly, Michigan 48442.

A copy of the proposed ordinance revisions may be reviewed at the Clerk’s office at the above-mentioned address during regular business hours Monday through Friday 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. except holidays.

Handicapped persons needing assistance to attend or participate in this hearing are asked to contact the Township Clerk at 248-634-9331 x 301 or by writing to the above-mentioned address at least 5 business days prior to the meeting.

Karin S. Winchester
Clerk/Zoning Administrator

Weekend Sudoku
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

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Answers in this edition of the Tri-County Times

Weekend Crossword
PUZZLE CLUE: ODD MUSICAL COUPLE
KING

Weekend Scrambler
Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Answers in this edition of the Tri-County Times
William “Bill” Glozier

Martin M. Gregory
Martin M. Gregory - age 94, died November 11, 2018.

Sarah June Williams
Sarah June Williams - age 92, of Linden, died Wednesday, November 14, 2018. Private services have been held. She was born July 29, 1926 in Gaines, the daughter of Ephraim A. and Olive E. (Voorhees) Judson. She was a hometown woman who enjoyed nature, wildlife and driving through the country. Surviving are: four children, Rick (Sylvia) Williams of Linden, Robert (Elizabeth) Williams of Swartz Creek, Candice Marston of Macomb, and Jay (Sherry) Williams of Willis; 10 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by: her husband, Marshall Williams and brother, David Judson. Tributes may be share at www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.

Joseph K. Cmejrek, Jr.
Joseph K. Cmejrek, Jr. - age 81, of Fenton, died November 12, 2018. A memorial service with Pastor Michael Anderson will be held at 2 PM Monday, November 26, 2018 at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Rd., Fenton. Visitaton will begin at 12 PM. Instead of flowers, please consider your favorite charity. Joe was born in Flint, on February 15, 1937 to Joseph Cmejrek Sr. and Besie (Smok) Cmejrek. He married Phyllis Nielsen August 16, 1956. Joe was a proud graduate of Fenton High School class of 55 and U of M Flint. He was employed by Chevrolet V-8 Engine for over 30 years. He was a member and former President of FHS Alumni Steering Committee and Tyrone Township Historical Society. Survivors are loving wife, Phyllis of 60 years; son, Jeffrey, daughter, Debra (Chuck) Kehoe; “daughter,” Kimberly Roberson (Carrol Baker); grandchildren, Jessica (Brett), Chuck, Kristen, Ashley, Madeline, Molly; great-granddaughters, Lili, Ava, Mia; sister-in-law, Joyce Gulbaull; nephew and nieces. He was preceded in death by infant son; parents; brother, Jim. Tributes may be shared at www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.

Lezlie A. Bridson
Lezlie A. Bridson - age 63, died November 7, 2018.

Marcella Dennert

Marian Smith

Diana Frances Mayfield
Diana Frances Mayfield - age 80, of Fenton formerly of Pittsburgh, PA, died Monday, November 12, 2018. Services will be announced later in Pennsylvania. Arrangements provided by Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Rd., Fenton. The family would appreciate memorial contributions be made to the Parkinson’s Foundation. Diana was born March 24, 1938 in Pittsburgh, PA, the daughter of Remigio and Angeline (Paladine) Cappelli. She was a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Fenton. She was a homemaker and enjoyed sewing, crocheting, and jigsaw puzzles. She is survived by her children, Matea A. (Robert) Krause of Fenton, Duane Mayfield Jr. of Pittsburgh, PA, six grandchildren, Jason, Daniel, Sara, Ryan Krause, Ashli and Brandon Mayfield; nine great-grandchildren; brother, Ralph Cappelli of Fenton; sister, Angela Falobrink. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Bernard Mayfield. Tributes may be shared at www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.

Daniel Adams

Kung Yang

Simone Wunsche

Daniel Neil Butts
Daniel Neil Butts - age 67, of Fenton, passed away Thursday, November 8, 2018. Funeral services were held 1 PM Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Rd., Fenton. Interment was in Beebe Cemetery, Holly. Visitation was held 2-8 PM Monday, November 12, 2018 and 11 AM - 1 PM Tuesday. Dennis was born March 12, 1951 in Holly, the son of Neil and Venona (Eddy) Butts. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. Dennis retired from Ford Motor Company after 42 years of service. He was a life member of the Fenton VFW. Dennis loved to cook and bake, take pictures, work on cars, most of all he loved his family. He had a huge heart and a positive attitude. Surviving are: his wife, Valeria; five children, Theresa (Deryk) Roberson, Tiffany (Vance) Huff, Jason (Melissa) Butts, Angela Bowling, and Joanne (Wayne) Allen; several grandchildren, Janie, Jack, Jenna, Keidin, Reagan, Rachel, and Squeeker; siblings, Linda (Rog) Sutton of Durham, Virginia (Joseph) Burcoki of Atlanta, MI; Jamie Brothers, Barry Brothers, JoAnn (Glenn) Tower and Timmy Brothers; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by: his parents; two brothers, Leslie and Gary; and wife, Gail. Tributes may be shared at www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.

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Navigating aging with senior pets

Spunky pups and curious kittens draw the attention of people eager to welcome new pets into their families. As pets begin to age, owners of senior animals may find that they struggle with their pets’ emergent needs in this stage of life.

Senior pets may experience dementia, mood changes, inactivity, pain, and incontinence. But thanks to improved veterinary care and dietary habits, pets can live longer than ever and remain comfortable well into their senior years.

Cats and dogs are generally considered geriatric at the age of seven, offers the American Veterinary Medical Federation. Even so, many pets go on to live 12 to 15 years, which can be the equivalent of age 75 to 85 in humans. Geriatric pets are susceptible to the same conditions seen in older people, including cancer, diabetes, weakness, senility, joint or bone diseases, and heart disease. It is essential to keep an open dialogue with a veterinarian to discuss any potential health issues aging pets may encounter.

According to veterinary behaviorist Nicholas Dodman, coauthor of “Good Old Dog Healthy, Happy and Comfortable,” pet owners must realize that older pets are less able to thermoregulate, so they’re more sensitive to extreme temperature changes. Pets may need blankets or sweaters. They also may need to spend more time indoors when the weather is harsh.

Dietary changes may need to be made. Older pets may eat less, but they should be fed high-quality, nutritious foods that help keep their weight in check. Excess weight can put added stress on sensitive joints and may contribute to problems with diabetes.

Veterinary Pet Insurance, a division of Nationwide Insurance Company, says there are new, alternative treatments available for aging pets, often used to treat pain, pet arthritis and cancer. Cold laser treatment directs light to stimulate cells and increase blood circulation to ease aches and pains.

Medical acupuncture can help reduce pain and inflammation. Radiosurgery can target cancerous tissue with a very high dose of targeted radiation while avoiding doses to surrounding tissue. In addition, monoclonal antibodies can be attached to cancer cells to boost natural immunity to cancer and germs.

Older pets require different care and more patience. Owners of aging pets should speak with their veterinarians about caring for pets as they grow older.

As pets age, their needs change and pet owners must adjust how they care for their pets. Thanks to improved veterinary care and dietary habits, pets can live longer than ever and remain comfortable well into their senior years.

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