

Joel Winterhalter , St. Clair Shores: Deliveryman was friend to all

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Joel Winterhalter was a hard-working and quiet man who could spend hours staring at the tranquil waters of Lake St. Clair.

"He loved the outdoors," said his older brother, Jon **Winterhalter**. "He was just a regular guy. Easygoing and quiet, he was a friend to everybody."

Mr. **Winterhalter** of St. Clair Shores was robbed and shot to death outside a party store in Detroit while delivering newspapers on Sunday, Feb. 4, 2007. He was 52.

Mr. **Winterhalter** had parked his truck near a party store to put newspapers in a dispenser when he was shot and robbed of his wallet, according to a police report.

A Detroit native, Mr. **Winterhalter** grew up in Harper Woods and graduated from Harper Woods High School in 1972, his brother said.

An auto enthusiast, Mr. **Winterhalter** ran his own towing company for several years before joining the Detroit News Partnership as a distribution and sales representative in 1995.

"He loved cars, always did," his brother said.

He also enjoyed riding his bike and spending time with his dog, Zach, who died recently.

His route for the past two years delivering papers to boxes and stores ran from the Grosse Pointes along Jefferson Avenue into downtown Detroit.

"He was a hard-working, everyday lunch-box Joe," his brother said.

Survivors include his brother, nephews Robert and David, and longtime companion Judith Finazzo.

Visitation is at 12:30 p.m. Saturday at Lyle Elliott Funeral Home, 31730 Mound in Warren. A private burial will follow at Indian Fields Cemetery in Caro.

Caption: Mr. **Winterhalter**

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