

Community Calendar

RIDING DAY CAMP

Monday, July 12: Two week session for horse lovers begins at Rochester Hills Riding School with transportation by bus from the Farmington Community Center. Camp includes riding, stable management, crafts and swimming. Registrations taken now in the center.

CHESANING

Friday, July 16: Three buses will leave Nardin Park United Methodist Church at noon for a day's outing and performance of the Chesaning Showboat with Steve Allen. Reservation information will be given by calling the church office.

TENNIS CLINIC

Friday, July 16: Tennis clinic on the courts on the grounds of Ten Mile Elementary School, Ten Mile, east of Farmington Road, at 9:30 a.m. for youngsters and at 7 p.m. for adults with instructor Gary Conell. Clinic will continue every Friday through July 30. No charge.

LILY SHOW

Saturday and Sunday, July 17-18: Lily Show, sponsored by the Michigan Regional Lily Society on the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College from 9 a.m. Saturday and from 10 a.m. 5 p.m. Sunday. No charge.

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, July 18: Open House in Madonna College, on Schoolcraft and Levin Roads, begins with general information session at 2 p.m. and includes programs on all aspects of the college.

TOURNAMENT TENNIS ENTRY DEADLINE

Monday, July 19: Deadline day to enter Farmington Founders Festival tennis and open tennis tournament sponsored by Farmington Area Recreation Commission in Junior, Teen, Adult and Doubles Division. Registration and payment of fees must be made in person at the commission.

office, 31555 Eleven Mile, Farmington Hills. Inquiries will be taken by calling the office at 476-1113. Tournament will be played July 24-25 and July 31-Aug. 1.

SEMINAR FOR WIDOWED

Thursday, July 22: Seminar for widowed persons of any age or religion conducted by June Shada, coordinator of Women's Programs in Detroit Public Schools, in St. Fabian Catholic Church, Twelve Mile Road, between Orchard Lake and Farmington Roads, 7:30 p.m. Admission of \$1 asked at the door.

CHILD BIRTH CLASSES

Wednesday, July 28: Registrations are

being taken now for classes in the Leman method of childbirth, sponsored by the Leman Childbirth Education Association of Livonia, to start this date in Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus. Registration and inquiries taken by Kathy Gray, 427-1000.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brockert

Jennifer Kay Falick and Robert Joseph Brockert were married June 19 in Our Shepherd Lutheran Church in Birmingham. Parents of the couple are Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Falick of Orchard Lake, Mrs. Alfred P. Murphy of Farmington and the late Wilbur R. Brockert.

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CPR classes are slated

The Oakland County Council for Emergency Medical Services is sponsoring cardiopulmonary resuscitation classes in cooperation with the Michigan Heart Association, William Beaumont Hospital General and Pontiac General Hospitals. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation is an emergency first aid procedure which involves mouth-to-mouth, breathing and external heart massage. The classes are aimed at teaching people what to do in the event of a medical emergency when a person's breathing and heartbeat have stopped for less than five minutes.

Classes will take place at Beaumont Hospital on July 14 from 3 to 6 and 7 to 10 p.m. and Aug. 18 from 3 to 6 and 7 to 10 p.m. At Beaumont General they are July 15 from 2 to 5 p.m. and Aug. 19 from 7 to 10 p.m. At Pontiac General they are July 29 from 7 to 10 p.m. and Aug. 26 from 7 to 10 p.m.

Individuals desiring the training may obtain additional information by calling Beaumont Hospital at 549-7000, Beaumont General at 476-7000, ext. 244 or Pontiac General at 467-7322.

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Arts Advocates on the alert

By PATRICIA BEACH SMITH

Isabel Harlan knows that private business isn't run in "a haphazard way as our government" and therefore she is about to do something about the way the government runs. She'll do it, if anyone can, through the Michigan Advocates for the Arts (MAA), an organization which she formed recently to promote awareness of the problems and needs of Michigan artists and arts organizations.

"We organized because we believe aesthetic and cultural values are essential to the well-being of society," she said.

If ever there was an arts advocate, it's Mrs. Harlan. So it's hard to believe

there could be a better person to run such an organization.

She sits on the boards of numerous arts organizations including the Arts Council Triangle (which serves the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Troy areas), the Michigan Foundation for the Arts, and the Cranbrook Writers Guild, among others.

"I'm an information carrier and a gossip. Don't you hear me talking?" she mused. "I was absolutely green when I came into these things and I'm learning a lot."

What she learns, she passes along. She doesn't hoard information for herself, but gladly sends it out in the form of copious letters on MAA letterhead. She can recite chapter and verse on current arts-related legislative activity and her information bank fills an entire room in her Bloomfield Hills home.

"You see many articles in the media on citizen disillusionment and withdrawal. The citizen today apparently feels he has little power to deal with governmental problems," she said.

"Government is a two-way street. The greatest need of the citizens and

their government is to be well informed and respond actively. As taxpayers, we are the employer of our public officials and they are our employees. The monies they distribute are ours," she said.

The monies which interest the MAA the most are obviously those spent on arts related endeavors. She said the legislators and public employees on the other hand, are most interested in votes.

"Votes, as pointed out by a legislator speaking to a group of arts groups in Ann Arbor last week, are the most important thing to legislators. They have the least secure jobs in the government which depend on the public whim."

"So if you can make yourself visible, as a constituent, they will listen to you. We have to make them aware that constituents are a major force in our society," Mrs. Harlan said.

Many groups, she said, organize in hopes they'll get more money for their communities. "But I see the overall need to be informed, a greater one."

One of the first official acts of the MAA was to disseminate information about Senate Bill No. 1264.

"It concerned the abolishment of the Michigan Council for the Arts, substituting in its place an arts commission with a governor-appointed director," Mrs. Harlan explained.

"The Advocates felt that would move us into the realm of the spoils system. Under the present system, the Council's executive director is a civil servant. The Civil Service Commission was created as a solution to the spoils system and we think it's a good solution."

"A lot of people, however, feel a civil servant is impossible to move once he or she is in a position. My personal experience proves that isn't true. But we had a hard time convincing people that the Advocates was not just group formed to support E. Ray Scott (current director of the Michigan Council for the Arts) against Senator Jack Faxon, the bill's sponsor."

"We realize the problem is greater than the conflict between two men," she insisted. The MAA sent out letters about the bill and Mrs. Harlan said the greatest manifestation of support to justify the existence of the Advocates, came in response to the letters.

The response came in the form of letters to the Judiciary Committee which was then holding hearings on the bill. Fourteen of the Advocates made presentations at the hearings and apparently made some impression on the committee.

"To this day, the bill sits in the Judiciary Committee and has not been acted upon. Whatever agency emerges from this dispute should be a long-term activity and should involve many people, not just a few. It has to be responsible to Michigan taxpayers."

"The presentations at the hearings were very impressive. They showed me that most of the people who have an interest in the arts are well-educated

and can speak well for themselves," Mrs. Harlan said.

The presentations also proved the mettle of the Advocates as a lobbying function, Mrs. Harlan said.

"It is an educational activity which anyone can join, but I am more interested in it being a group of organizations than individuals. By involving representatives of organizations, we can inform one person who can go back to his or her organization and inform 100 more. This should minimize the problems of communication, the costs of mailing, etc.," she said.

She said there are about a half dozen of this type of advocate group in the United States. The ones she could remember are in Indiana, New York, Pennsylvania and Minnesota. She said all of these groups are aware of a lack of legal sophistication in arts-related endeavors and on the part of many artists.

"An artist generally doesn't have the business head to make the kind of contracts that could protect him and his work. For instance, an artist sells a piece of his work to a buyer. After the owner has paid for the work he can do with it what he wants, perhaps at an aesthetic loss to the work and the artist."

"A case in point, is the sculpture of Marshall Fredericks which was in a controversy a few months ago. It was designed to be in Ford Auditorium in a particular place and when they decided to change its location, they were thinking of making it smaller. That would have altered the composition of the piece and the artist's intent."

"But what could an artist do? Michaelangelo did a bronze sculpture which was destroyed before he died. What could he do? What could any artist do, but agonize over it?"

"Perhaps we can help. We have already sent out information on Public Act 169 concerning the 'lobbying' section of the Internal Revenue Service code. It concerned the amount of money that can be spent by a non-profit organization to lobby for their cause. The IRS prescribes the amount as 'a non-substantial portion of the group's budget,'" Mrs. Harlan explained.

The information came from the New York advocates group. It said that many groups were in jeopardy of losing their non-profit status through increased spending for lobbying.

Another IRS-related legal problem which particularly bothers Mrs. Harlan is the lack of allowable deductions for artists.

"Did you know that an artist who creates a piece of his work for a museum, say, can only deduct the cost of the materials used in the piece, but that a person who purchases the piece can deduct the entire cost of the item as a charitable donation," Mrs. Harlan asked.

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