

She's a Farmington Hills resident Woman maestro strikes up the band

By LANN ORR

Parents, students and interested teachers will get a chance to assess the musical leadership of Marshall's first female orchestra director when she directs the Farmington Hills Orchestra on Nov. 18 at Marshall Junior High.

In her fifth year at Marshall, Hills director, Mrs. Janet Evans, has been a vocal and instrumental force in the school's musical life.

She is a band director at Marshall, usually a male position.

This is a man's field, said Mrs. Evans, who's delighted with her job and teaches a variety of band and orchestra experience to her new position.

She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in instrumental music from the University of Michigan and was first placed in the LM Symphony Band, in addition to her secondary permanent certificate. Her title includes teaching vocal and instrumental at various levels.

She is assistant band director at Thornton from 1974-75 and a pilot program at Adams Elementary last year where she taught band, vocal and instrumental.

Her day at Marshall begins with a first hour of vocalists, alternating band and orchestra students each week. Second hour is devoted to band, predominantly eighth graders. After a third hour prep period, she moves into symphonic band, the first that plays for concerts and assemblies. Fifth hour is assigned to symphonic orchestra, mostly a concert string orchestra, and sixth hour is alternated between seventh grade band and orchestra.

Two kinds of talent it all, but never in one school, she explained laughingly.

With 100 INSTRUMENTALISTS in Marshall, her job isn't a snap. Of course, we're preparing them for high school band, but you also want to advance their musicianship, she noted.

She also has been appointed St. Elizabeth's Association, vice president this year and looks forward to the time extremely limited.

Ms. Evans says, I've recognized the talent that is in this school, but I've not had the time. The Evans live in Farmington Hills with their son, Tim, 12, a swimmer and a tennis player. Evans has a husband, Ted, who is a teacher and instrumentalist in the Oak Park schools. The Evans moved to Farmington Hills when Ted began at the summer music camp.

Mrs. Evans believes having a first hour class is a plus for her treatment of the students, she said.

Band and orchestra are very much a learning experience, but they should be fun. You have to keep them very busy and you can't teach at a fourth level. Music and stimulation are just very important to you, she said.

Between sixth and seventh grades is when the most significant drop in orchestra interest occurs, according to Mrs. Evans.

Any time you have a change of teachers, there's a lot of attrition, and junior high offers so many choices, it's sometimes difficult to keep the students interested in music.

ALREADY IN SEVENTH GRADE, preparation must begin for the symphonic and orchestra bands two years later. Some students wait to switch instruments, so Mrs. Evans is planning to make Friday first hours available to students who need extra help in switching to another instrument after the Christmas season of concerts is over.

Other new additions to the Marshall music program are full efforts selling T-shirts and jackets, and a trip to the Detroit Symphony that 100 students enjoyed last July. I really like my job, observed the director.

She values appreciation of the support from the Band and Orchestra Boosters Club at Marshall, chaired by Pauline Hedge. And she thinks Marshall has an extremely talented vocal music instructor in Lann Peterson, whose students will also play in the Nov. 18 concert, scheduled for 8 p.m. in the Marshall gym.

Parents, students and the public are welcome to attend at no charge and listen to a variety of selections.

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JANET EVANS

Improvement is planned

(Continued from page 14)

Just as it is to improve the contract and a pedestrian bridge on the north side of Shaw Avenue so that the sidewalk area prevents water from pouring the bridge could become part of the area pavement for woodland Shaw Avenue.

Farmington Board will be expected to facilitate more time later. It might be a decision of approximately 200 feet north of Shaw Avenue.

To finance the project the city would in their have to earmark a certain funds in next years budget to cover the city's share of the cost of plan a bonding proposal for the voters during next years election said DeMatteo.

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