

'Be My Valentine'

Seniors, handicapped called out for concert

By LORAIN McCLISH

For the third consecutive year, volunteers are being rounded up to give Farmington area senior citizens and handicapped persons an afternoon out for a concert and reception.

The concert is called "Be My Valentine," with the Farmington Community Concert Band, set for 2:30 p.m. Feb. 13 in Harrison High School auditorium.

The push to get seniors and the handicapped out into the community, rather than bring an afternoon of music to them, was initiated by the now-dissolved Farmington Area Arts Council and handed down to the Farmington Area Arts Commission. It is made possible by a grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts.

Ed Dodson, of Metropolitan Bank in Farmington, for the third consecutive year has taken on the biggest job of the volunteer staff for the project—furnishing the transportation.

He is now lining up buses and specially equipped vans which lift wheelchairs; enlisting manpower to physically help those who are immobile; and securing drivers for those who need transportation direct from their homes.

"IT TAKES a lot of time to coordinate this thing, but it is very gratifying for us and we wouldn't do it if it wasn't. Some of these people never get out unless someone takes them out. For some of them it is the only time of the year they do get out," Dodson said.

Dodson works with his wife, Audrey, toward concert day. Both are musicians, and their daughter Melodye is a member of the community band.

Neither are unfamiliar with nursing homes. They visit, to tell the residents of the upcoming concert, leave posters for reminders and "have come to realize how important this day out for them is."

Mrs. Dodson baked 75 dozen cookies last year for the after-concert reception and expects she will do the same

'Some of these people never get out unless some one takes them out. For some of them it is the only time of the year they do get out.'

—Ed Dodson,
Metropolitan National Bank

this time "because that little social hour helps stretch the afternoon out for them," Dodson said.

This year, as before, there will be buttonholes and corsages for the honored guests and souvenir programs for everyone.

Dodson has also been instrumental in arranging another bonus for the guests; two local musicians will play during intermission.

Dr. Tom Clark, organist, add Wilma Arnsman, organist for Clarenceville United Methodist Church for the past 30 years, have both volunteered to play during intermission "for those who are unable to leave their seats during that time," Dodson said.

THE CONCERT is free and open to the public.

Marlow Belanger, chairman of the Farmington Area Arts Commission and initiator of the first concert, called the 1977 concert "bigger and better, with more people involved, more nursing homes contacted and more emphasis put on the handicapped."

Although former concert-goers have filled the high school's auditorium in the past, she believes the expansion of people involved has come in part because more national emphasis is being put on the arts now as a rehabilitation tool.

Farmington Arts Commissioners will act as ushers this year. Boy Scout troops and the Farmington chapter of

Job's Daughters have already volunteered manpower. Vickie Vanderbilt, activities director at Oak Hill Nursing Home, says she will be calling relatives of residents there, asking them to act as chaperones "because more often than not I need at least one escort for each resident who will be going."

MS. VANDERBILT added to Dodson's comments about nursing home residents getting out into the community by saying, "It is not unusual for us to get a call asking if we can use some play tickets, for example. We surely would like to, but what our caller generally does not understand is that there is no way we can get our immobile patients there without a lot of physical help.

"We feel lucky when we can get a relative to help push a wheelchair downtown for an hour or so."

Buses to drive seniors or the handicapped will leave at 1:15 p.m. Sunday from Our Lady of Sorrow Catholic Church parking lot; Nardin Park United Methodist Church; Farmington Masonic Temple; Baptist Manor and Clarenceville Methodist Church.

"If you can't get to any one of those places, call me. I have a big crew of volunteer drivers to pick people up at their homes and I don't want to leave anyone out," Dodson said.

For persons needing transportation, Dodson will take calls at his office, 474-1000, until Feb. 11.



Farmington Observer
Suburban Life

Monday, February 7, 1977

(F) 1B



Residents in Oak Hill Nursing Home were invited to the concert this week by Vickie Vanderbilt, (standing from left) Ed Dodson and Bill Conroy. Ms. Vanderbilt is activities director for the nursing home; Dodson is coordinating transportation for the concert; and Conroy serves as narrator for the concert program with the Farmington Community Concert Band. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

When they cry 'help', Family Focus listens

By ALICE COLLINS
Suburban Life Editor

"The caller said, 'help me . . . stop me . . . I know when my child comes home from nursery school, I'm going to hurt her.'"

"That woman was at the end of her rope when she called me. I spent several hours on the telephone that day working through the agency to get her help."

Neither the woman who called for help nor the woman being quoted will be identified here in order to protect the confidentiality of those involved and the effectiveness of the counseling work of Family Focus.

Family Focus is a Birmingham-based, all-volunteer agency dedicated to the problem of child abuse and related family situations.

Under the direction of Dee Dize, the agency works throughout Oakland County. It maintains a 24-hour crisis telephone, has trained parent aides who work on a one-to-one basis with families in trouble and offers educational programs to students and young adults.

WHEN THE CHILD came home from nursery school on that particular day, her mother was able to deal with her without abuse.

"That was because the mother had been able to talk out her problem on the phone," continued the Family Focus volunteer involved with the case.

"The last time I talked with the mother that day, she said she was so happy. I was with my child and I didn't touch her," she told me.

The volunteer aide said Family Focus got the mother into a child abuse program at a local hospital.



DEE DIZE

"After many years of need, the woman is finally getting the help she needs," said the aide.

"This woman had been seeking help for sometime . . . wanting to be stopped without actually coming out an saying 'I hurt my child,'" continued the aide.

"THE FAMILY WAS well off financially, so she took the child to a pediatrician regularly. The signs of abuse were always present.

According to the mother, every time the pediatrician would ignore the signs and come up with another reason for what was evident.

"The mother was so upset about that," continued the aide. "She was crying out inside for the doctor to recognize the truth and get her help. But he never did."

"Of course there are many pediatricians who do identify the problem and do something about it. But there are many who just avoid facing the involvement," she said.

This mother, like many child abusers, was a victim of abuse herself. "Her parents, and even her boyfriends beat her as she was growing up."

MRS. DIZE, WHO'S headed Family Focus on a full-time, volunteer basis since its inception in 1970, said the abuser is "often one who has been abused himself or herself." The highest percentage of abusers, she continued, are adolescents who are single parents.

"There are many times when intervention can help future abusers as they are growing up. Even as early as kindergarten."

"Young children can be taught how to work out their frustrations and how to get along with other people and how to deal with them positively."

"Another time for intervention," continued Mrs. Dize, "is in high school where youngsters can be taught parenting and interpersonal relationships."

"What Family Focus is trying to do now," she said, "is to pick up the pieces because of a lack of educational and good mental health programs."

CHILD ABUSE IS A widespread problem, "but one we're convinced can be helped through intervention," Mrs. Dize said. "There are agencies like Family Focus popping up all over the country. In one city it's called CALM, another NOW and another Mother-to-Mother."

"But we're all trying to accomplish the same thing. We don't want retribution or punishment for the abuser. We want volunteers who have sympathy for the abuser as well as the abused."

"They're people who can be helped, the problem can be broken, and we're trying to do that."

Family Focus is headquartered in a crowded little room in the corner of Birmingham's Redeemer Lutheran Church at 1800 West Maple. The walls are papered with signs, posters and articles about abuse situations clipped from newspapers and magazines.

There are also dotted maps indicating the area where the approximately 45 family aides live. Aides are usually matched with families in

(Continued on page 4B)



JEAN WARNER

**Farmington
artists
host OCC
printmaker**

Jean Sewell Warner will be the guest speaker for the Farmington Artists Club when it meets at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 9 in Farmington Hills Community Library on Twelve Mile. The meeting is open to guests.

Ms. Warner's area is silkscreening and lithography. She is currently teaching printmaking on the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College. She has a master of fine arts degree from Michigan State University and is the recipient of the Calder Art Award, given for excellence in the field.

During her visit to the artists club, she will demonstrate calligraphy, a method of using collage in creating prints.

Clearance

BEDSPREADS FROM OUR MOST PRESTIGIOUS MANUFACTURERS

A marvelous opportunity to save on our excellent selection of bedspreads. Find most everything from fine, hand-guided quilted spreads to handsome woven spreads with beautiful textures and shadings. Also, unquilted spreads in many fabrics from elegant formal to rugged and practical.

Jacobson's

stores for the home

Woodward at Willits, Birmingham

NEW HOURS: Shop Jacobson's Thursday and Friday 'til 8 P.M.
2 Hours Free Parking . . . When You Make A Purchase