

# around Farmington

All announcements for this column must be mailed to Around Farmington, Observer, 33202 Grand River, Farmington 48924. Deadline is noon Monday for the Thursday publication and noon Thursday for the Monday publication. Requests for announcements will not be taken over the phone.

**MOVEMENT WITH MIME**  
Thursday, July 27: "Movement With Mime," workshop for 10-13-year-olds led by Mime Ensemble of Oakland University at 1 p.m. in The Community Center. Fee is \$15. Registrations taken by calling the center, 477-8404.

**PUMP-OFF**  
Thursday, July 27: Pump-Off weightlifting seminar with nutrition and training tips led by Peter Nelsen and competition of top bench press lifters in four categories begins at 8 p.m. in Peter Nelsen's Eye of the Tiger Total Fitness Center, 23311 Orchard Lake Road. No admission charge for spectators.

**STORY HOUR**  
Saturday, July 29: Borders Book Shop in the Novi Town Center, off Novi Road, south of I-96, hosts a sto-

ry hour for children and adults which will include sign-language interpretation for the hearing impaired at 2 p.m. No charge.

**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**  
Saturday-Sunday, July 29-30: "We're Making It On Our Own," conference for people with developmental disabilities, at 8:30 a.m. both days in Madonna College, Livonia. The event is sponsored by the Interdependent Living Council of Michigan. For information, call John Sigworth, 455-8800, Ext. 227.

**MUSICAL REVIEW**  
Sunday, July 30: Marcus Belgrave and Phase II combine award-winning jazz with improvisational dance in their musical revue at 7 p.m. in the amphitheater on the grounds of The Community Center, Farmington Road north of 10 Mile. Tickets are \$6 at the door. Guests asked to bring their own blanket or lawn chairs.

**CHRISTIAN CONCERT**  
Sunday, July 30: Crystal Lewis, Christian songwriter and vocalist, in concert at 8 p.m. in Detroit First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty Road. No admission charge.

**VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL**  
Monday through Friday, July 31-Aug. 4: Nardin Park United Methodist Church will be visited by real live disciples at this year's annual vacation church school 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The church is at 29887 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. In addition to singing, crafts, stories and Disciples the children will have the opportunity to walk where Jesus walked on the Nardin Park version of the Holy Lands, a huge map painted out on the church parking lot. Children entering kindergarten through 5th grade are welcome. For more information call the church office, 476-8960.

**DIGGING DINOSAURS**  
Monday through Friday, July 31 to Aug. 4: "Digging Dinosaurs Camp," for 7-11-year-olds 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day led by Living Science Foundation staff in The Community Center. Fee is \$180. Registrations taken by calling the center, 477-8404.

**AFRICA**  
Wednesday, Aug. 2: Three films on Africa conclude Summer Travel Film Series at 7:30 p.m. in Farmington Branch Library, 23500 Liberty

Street. No charge.

**YOUR TOWN — MY TOWN**  
Wednesday, Aug. 2: "Your Town — My Town" program led by Ruth Moehlin, author of "If the Walls Could Talk," who discusses and shows slides of the historic homes in Farmington and Farmington Hills, at 7 p.m. in The Community Center, Farmington Road north of 10 Mile. Fee is \$6. Registrations taken by calling the center, 477-8404.

**FASHION LUNCHEON**  
Friday, Aug. 4: Fashion Focus Luncheon, with Pendleton fall '89 collection shown at noon in Jacobson's Livonia. Cost is \$5. Reservations are necessary, made by calling 591-7698, Ext. 263.

**MEDICARE**  
Monday, Aug. 7: "Catastrophic Medicare Bill and Ways to Combat the Effects," seminar hosted by financial consultant Andrea Kotche with guest speakers at 7 p.m. in Carlsberg Branch Library, 30100 Seven Mile Road. No charge.

**FREE IMMUNIZATION**  
Wednesday, Aug. 5: The Oakland County Health Division offers an immunization clinic for Farmington

and surrounding areas from 9 a.m. to noon at Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20500 Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile. A parent or legal guardian must accompany a child under 18 years of age.

**5-6-7-8 DANCE**  
Wednesday, Sunday and Friday, Aug. 9, 13 and 16: "5-6-7-8 Dances," performance by Summers Arts Program students, at 8 p.m. Aug. 9; at 7 p.m. Aug. 13 and at 8 p.m. Aug. 16 in Wallace Smith Theatre, Orchard Ridge Campus, Oakland Community College. Tickets are \$6, or \$5 for seniors, reserved at the box office, 471-7700.

**BACK TO SCHOOL FASHIONS**  
Thursday, Aug. 10: "Worlds to Explore," back-to-school fashion show for teens at 7 p.m. in Jacobson's, 37500 Six Mile, Livonia.

**WEST SIDE STORY**  
Friday, Wednesday and Saturday, Aug. 11, 16 and 19: "West Side Story," performed by students in the musical theatre classes of Summer Arts Program at 8 p.m. each night in Smith Theatre, Orchard Ridge Campus, Oakland Community College. Tickets are \$7 or \$8 for students and

seniors at the box office, 471-7700.

**OPEN HOUSE**  
Wednesday, Aug. 12: Kollia Chiropractic Family Life Center hosts open house 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 28800 Eight Mile Road. Free scoliosis screening, free exam and X-rays for new patients, food, clowns and entertainment. For more information, contact Christine at 471-6440.

**A LION IN WINTER**  
Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday, Aug. 12, 15 and 17: "A Lion in Winter," staged at 8 p.m. each night in Wallace Smith Theatre, Orchard Ridge Campus, Oakland Community College. Tickets are \$6, or \$5 for seniors and students at the box office, 471-7700.

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**  
Wednesday, Aug. 16: Neighborhood Watch orientation meeting at 7:30 p.m. in Farmington Hills City Council Chambers, 31555 11 Mile, corner of 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Road. Any resident of an existing or newly established Neighborhood Watch subdivision who has not yet attended an orientation meeting is urged to attend. For further information, call 473-9640.

# Ham radio operators converse with the world

By Rebecca Haynes  
staff writer

**THEY TALK** with people from Europe, South America, the Soviet Union, Indonesia, Australia and many other places around the world, and they don't even run up their telephone bills.

They're amateur radio operators, otherwise known as hams, and there are thousands of them in the Detroit area. Some do it just for the fun of talking to interesting people, while others also enjoy lending aid during emergencies and helping families who are separated by large distances communicate with each other.

Dave Benedict is the president of

the Catalpa Amateur Radio Society, which includes members from all over Oakland County.

"I used to listen to the short wave radio when I came home from school," the Troy resident said. "My father died when I was quite young and I knew he had been into radio and I thought it would be a nice thing for me to do."

"So one day I asked my barber if he knew anyone who was a radio operator," Benedict said, adding he was about 12 at the time. "He gave me two names and it was these people who got me started."

To become a ham you must be licensed by the Federal Communications Commission.

"There are five classes and you have to pass tests to achieve them," he said. "The tests involve Morse code and electronic theory."

A NOVICE is the lowest class, followed by technician, general, advanced and the highest, extra class.

"The class of your license tells you what bands you can operate, with the more desirable bands reserved for the higher classes," Benedict said. "Most people don't use Morse code, they use voice, but you still have to know it."

Radio amateurs mostly monitor themselves, said Birmingham's Dr. Earl Weston, who became licensed as a ham in 1946. Other radio amateurs know him as W8BXO, his station call letters.

"There are some official observers who just sit and listen, they don't send any messages," Weston said. "Mostly I think we're pretty honest people who monitor ourselves."

"I got interested in it way back when my father built a radio and I started hearing the amateurs talk," he said, laughing. "It just seemed that I never had the time and the money to do it at the same time, what with medical school and the war."

Ham radio isn't expensive, Westin said. It adds about the same amount to the electric bill as it would playing the stereo. The major cost comes in purchasing the necessary equipment.

A transceiver, which is a receiver and transmitter combined, runs about \$1,000 for a top-of-the-line new model, but good used ones can be found for about \$300, Westin said. This is the major piece of equipment needed to send and receive messages.

someone that sounds interesting. When they've finished talking to whoever it is they're talking to, I'll call them.

"It's a lot like going fishing," he said. "You don't know who you're going to talk to. Sometimes you call CQ, which is a code that means you want to talk to anyone who is listening."

"You might get a young kid home from school, or a retired person, they really come from all walks of life — that's what makes it so interesting," Benedict said.

One typical day at W8BXO included brief conversations with Peter Curtis, a ham from Cardiff, South Wales, and John Hillier, from Stamford, England, who Westin caught at tea time. Other calls came in from Indonesia, Brazil, Phoenix, Ariz., and Arlington, Texas, all in a span of about a half an hour.

frequency used to communicate severe weather information to a country control station. "Those of us in Skywarn are trained in meteorology and are taught what to look for, what it means and what we should and shouldn't report. A lot of the times the warnings you see on TV have come from local hams."

Weston has also helped during several emergencies, including the Mexican earthquake. A letter from the president of Ford, Mexico is among his most prized possessions. The gentleman, who was in Detroit for meetings when the earthquake hit, was thankful for information Weston was able to find that not only had the man's son survived unharmed, but the Ford plant had as well.

# A real 'bash'

## Fox Theatre plays host to DIA benefit

It will be a theatrical evening Tuesday, Aug. 15, when the Fast Bash premieres at the Fox Theatre in Detroit.

The annual fundraiser for the Detroit Institute of Arts is sponsored by the DIA's Founders Junior Council, J.L. Hudson's and Northwest Airlines. Proceeds help to support programs and buy acquisitions for the art museum.

The evening will begin at 5 p.m. with a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres,

cash bar and music by Top Drawer in the Fox's Grand Lobby.

The show will start at 7 p.m. with the fashion show, choreographed and directed by Myron Johnson, artistic director of the 16-member Minneapolis-based Ballet of the Dolls. The show also will include a special appearance by actress Joan Collins, known for her role as the evil Alexis in the TV series "Dynasty."

A live auction, conducted by DuMouchelle Art Galleries and featur-

ing, trips and shopping sprees, will follow the fashion show. There also will be dancing and music by Norma Jean Blue and the All Stars in the Grand Lobby until 11 p.m.

Tickets for the evening cost \$25 for sponsors and \$50 for patrons (including premium seating and access to a private reception area). They are available at the DIA, TicketMaster outlets, the Fox Theatre and at the door.

For more information, call the DIA ticket office at 832-2730.

ALTHOUGH THE doctor bought a large beam antenna and installed it atop a telephone pole behind his house, he says it's not necessary to be able to communicate effectively.

An inexpensive wire-type FM radio antenna can be sufficient. Many people around the world that Weston talks to use this type of antenna.

Each day of hamming brings something new.

"If I wanted to spend a half hour on the radio I'd select the frequencies that come in well at that time of the day," Benedict said. "Then I'll listen and tune around until I hear

ASIDE FROM the entertainment value, both Benedict and Weston run what are called phone patches. These patches are used to help people who aren't ham radio operators speak with friends or relatives who are long distances away and have no access to telephone lines but can access a local ham radio operator.

"I run them a lot for missionaries in South America who want to speak to their families here," Weston said. Hams also help out when bad weather is in the area.

"Whenever we have severe thunderstorm warnings the Skywarn net activates right away," Benedict said, explaining that Skywarn is a specific

THE DOCTOR also sends messages and runs phone patches regularly for people who loved ones are flown to the Detroit area from many foreign countries for intensive medical treatment. Just recently he was keeping one mother, whose daughter had become paralyzed and was being treated at Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor, in touch with her husband back in a small country in west Africa.

"You learn so much about geography and other countries," Weston said. "Once I talked with a direct descendant of the man who started the mutiny on the Bounty."

"It's a debatable point as to how we got the nickname of hams," he said, laughing. "Basically you meet a lot of really nice people who'd rather spend their time learning and doing this than sitting in a bar."

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