



Clowning around

There was plenty of time for clowning around at the recent Farmington Nursing Home's annual summer picnic. Resident Christine Flomming (center) visits with her daughter Marjorie, Allen and her son-in-law

Bob Allen, both of Farmington, as Key De-loras, the nursing home's favorite clown, looks on. This year's picnic featured banjo music and home-cooked favorites like fried chicken, corn on the cob and cherry pie.

Folktown opens season

The Folktown Coffeehouse of Southfield, the "Best Folk Club" according to the Detroit Metro-Times, begins its 12th season with Claudia Schmidt and Sally Rogers in their first metro area joint appearance. Schmidt and Rogers will appear Sept. 14.

The series will take place at 8 p.m. every Saturday night through Dec. 7 (except for Sept. 28 and Nov. 30). Schmidt packed the house in her first appearance at Folktown during the early days of the coffee house. This will be her first appearance in several years.

SHE SINGS and plays the dulcimer, guitar and piano (native Michigan instrument). Schmidt plays traditional and classical material in folk music and jazz. In this concert she will be joined by Sally Rogers. Rogers sings and plays guitar, banjo, and lap dulcimer. While the

two performers have recorded together, they rarely perform live together. The concert will be in room 115 of the Parks and Recreation Building in the Southfield Civic Center, 26000 Evergreen (at 10 1/2 Mile). Admission to the concert is \$12.

ON SEPT. 21, Folktown will continue the series by presenting two young performers from the Chicago folk scene, Catherine Hall and Mark Dvorak. Hall is known for her interpretations of traditional folk songs and Irish ballads. She plays Irish tunes on flute and tin whistle and accompanies her singing on lap dulcimer and guitar. Dvorak performs in the tradition of Woody Guthrie with folk ballads, blues, and old-time tunes, on five-string banjo and six- and 12-string guitar.

This concert will take place in the

Marquette Room of the Civic Center. Parking is free in the underground parking lot on the east side of the center.

Admission for the Hall-Dvorak concert is \$8. Tickets to all concerts will be available in advance via Ticketmaster at 645-6666 or at the door while they last.

Crafters are needed

Crafters are needed for a bazaar that will be held 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21, at the Hawthorn Center For Medium Care, 30223 13

Mile, Farmington Hills. For more information, call Mary O'Neal, resident services director, at 737-8830.

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Ballet: a happening for performer and her father

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

QUENTIN EATHORNE says one of his most vivid memories is seeing his daughter perform as The Snow Queen in Evelyn Krasson Dance Studio's annual Christmas ballet of "The Nutcracker" when she was a budding ballerina.

She is now Jill Eathorne Bahr, co-owner and resident choreographer of the South Carolina-based Charleston Ballet Theatre, in demand by the nation's leading ballet companies, and most recently recipient of rave reviews for her latest work, "The Wild Swans," performed by the Boston Ballet this spring.

Critics hailed her choreography as "A spirited work of hope and beauty." Bahr started ballet lessons at the age of 3 when orthopedists advised her parents that the exercise would strengthen weak muscles.

"That became her whole life," Eathorne said. "And all of the parents' input into the act as well. We all did whatever we could to promote the dancers, and more so than ever when we realized how serious these young people were."

EATHORNE TOLD the story of a couple of his daughter's friends who became snow-bound while visiting in his home and were forced to stay overnight.

"Do you know how they used their time? They rehearsed their ballet steps for two solid days. They were about 10 or 12, I think. I'd say that was serious," he said. Bahr's best friends in her growing-up days were Karen Zelimba and Mary Krasson, who stuck together

Ballet 'became her whole life. And all of the parents got into the act as well.'

— Quentin Eathorne
ballerina's father

through Gill Elementary School, Powers Junior High and Farmington High School.

Zelimba is enjoying a successful career as a dancer on Broadway now. Krasson is now mother of three, "and sure to get back into the arts one way or another," Eathorne said.

BAHR GRADUATED from University of Akron, and then studied with Robert Joffrey, director of Joffrey Ballet; Norman Vesk, director of Metropolitan Opera Ballet; and Bruce Marks, Boston Ballet's artistic director.

Her career as a dancer came to a sudden stop when she was dropped

by her partner when she was 19, but her career in dance was not to be deterred.

She headed up her own dance company, was interim artistic director for Mississippi Ballet Theatre, resident choreographer of Memphis Ballet and did freelance choreography for about 10 years. After that she returned to New York to open Urish-Bahr and Dancers.

It was at Urish-Bahr where she developed her style, which she calls "sculpting dancers rather than creating steps."

She became part of the Charleston Ballet in 1987 when the company had two dancers and a budget of \$100,000. Today it has 12 dancers, 10 apprentices and a yearly budget of \$500,000.

Her philosophy on ballet is that it should not be thought of as stodgy or a luxury. Her aim is to turn it into a happening experience for all ages.

She is working 14 hours a day now as a choreographer and coach, and loves it.

Center plans open house

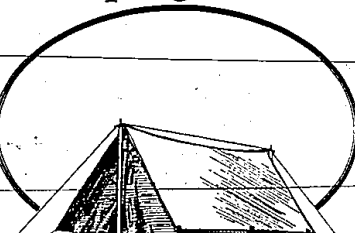
The Farmington Community will hold an open house from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 8, at 24705 Farmington Road. There will be food, entertainment, pony rides and more.

The Community Center has a Performing Arts Workshop for ages 13-17 with exceptional talent in vocal music, dance and drama. The first of 10 sessions begins Monday,

Sept. 23, at 7 p.m. Cost is \$85. Enrollment is limited. Call 477-8404 for an audition.

The center also sponsors The Chocolate Chip Players for children with theatrical flair. This class offers instruction geared to performance, including training in acting technique, voice projection and articulation. Call 477-8404 for details.

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