

# Friends compete for pageant crown

Miss Farmington (Marlo Ponos) and Miss Redford Township (Stacey Heisler) are friends even when they're competitors with eyes for the same prize.

The two local pageant winners will be in Muskegon this week to participate in the Miss Michigan Scholarship Pageant.

"Marlo and I have been friends since our early teens," said Heisler. "The fact that we will be competing at Miss Michigan together is really a coincidence. We have requested to room together."

Heisler and Ponos have been working out together in a Farmington gym in preparation for the Miss Michigan competition.

The winner will represent Michigan at the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City in September. Contestants will report to Muskegon on Sunday and the pageant finals will be Saturday, June 13.

There has been several videotaped "mock interviews" with different judging panels to help sharpen the candidate's interview skills as well as sessions to focus on walking, pivoting, and poise.

The state pageant is a three-night event.

The 29 contestants are divided into two groups with the first half performing their talent presentations the first night followed by the second half competing in swimsuit and evening gown. The following night the order is reversed.

The preliminary points are then added up to reveal the top 10. The top 10 then repeat all phases of competition during the final night which culminates with the crowning of the new Miss Michigan and her court.

Heisler and Ponos are in the same half of competition so they will be performing their talent the same night. Heisler will be playing "Carmen Fantasy" on the violin. Ponos is a vocalist.

"It will be the battle of the swimsuits the first night between Stacey and Marlo," said Sheila Sigro, who is training Heisler. "Both of them have been working out very hard at the same gym to get themselves into top physical shape. They look great."

Both Heisler and Ponos were in the Redford Memorial Parade on May 31 and both were in the Farmington Memorial Day Parade the weekend before.



Another pageant: Marlo Ponos, last year's Miss Farmington, is getting ready for the Miss Michigan Scholarship Pageant in Muskegon.

# Students, seniors create prom memories

Generations united for an afternoon filled with music and dancing as Harrison High School students hosted the inaugural Student/Senior Adult Prom in Harrison's gym, May 21.

The intergenerational dance was co-sponsored by Farmington Community Education and the City of Farmington Hills Senior Adult Division.

"Courses for the seniors were made by the students at Oakland Technical Center in Wixom, a vocational school serving Oakland County high school students."

"I haven't had this much fun in a very long time," said one senior

adult. "I hope these kids can keep up with us."

More than 30 Harrison students from Mark Phillips' Jazz Band and Jan Brachel's Concert Choir provided musical entertainment as the 125 Farmington area senior adults arrived.

An additional 25 Harrison students from nine school groups danced and socialized with the senior adults.

"This was a service project we really had fun doing," said president Wendy Lehmit. "We wanted to show the seniors they could have fun in school."

About half of the senior adults were from senior resident sites

around Farmington including American House, Carrington Place, Detroit Baptist Manor, Farmington Hills Inn, Farmington Place and Marian Oakland West.

Transportation was provided by volunteer drivers from the City of Farmington Senior Adult Centers vans and the senior resident site vans.

"The prom was a cooperative community project involving two very active community agencies — namely the city of Farmington Senior Adult Division and Farmington Community Ed," said Terry Leland, Farmington Community Ed supervisor.

"It was a great intergenerational partnership between these agencies and Harrison students. We hope to make this an annual event."

Disc jockey Randy Long kept the students and seniors dancing together to the stroll, the twist and the bunny hop. One senior adult gentleman concluded the dance by taking the microphone from the disc jockey and thanking everyone involved for providing the seniors with an afternoon of fun.

"The prom was a good opportunity for senior adults and students to see each other in such a positive way," said Annette Gasparotto, adult coordinator.

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