

LET'S GO!

Your guide to suburban entertainment

Let's go to the Theater

Let's go Dining

Let's go to the Movies

Let's go Traveling

Let's go Listen to Music

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THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1995

ON THE MARQUEE



KEELY WYGONIK

Heritage Park concert stars Farmington band

Memorial Day weekend officially marks the start of the summer season. Kicking it off is the Farmington Community Band with the first of three outdoor concerts.

The band will be performing at 8 tonight in Heritage Park on Farmington Road north of 10 Mile in Farmington Hills. Farmington Community Band returns to Heritage Park 8 p.m. Thursday, June 22 and 8 p.m. Thursday, July 20. The July 20 concert will be a salute to jazz. Farmington Community Band travels to Northville to present a concert as part of that city's Clock Concert Series at the Main Street Gazebo 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 9.

The band will help the AAA Farmington Hills branch celebrate its first anniversary 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 21, by presenting a musical program on the lawn at that branch, 38751 W. 12 Mile Road, between Halstead and Haggerty Roads in Farmington Hills.

■ Mark your calendars! Livonia Symphony's annual "Chip in for the Arts" golf outing is Wednesday, June 28, at Fox Creek Golf Course on Seven Mile Road, east of Newburgh, Livonia. The cost is \$30 per golfer and includes greens fees, cart, prizes and refreshments. Continental breakfast served during registration at 7:30 a.m., shotgun start at 8:15 a.m., lunch, prizes and awards at noon.

Hole sponsorship available for \$100, be a golf patron for \$500. Call (313) 421-1111 for information. Event proceeds to benefit the Livonia Symphony Orchestra.

■ Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills, is hosting Culinary Classic, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 24.

Join Chef's Milos Cikelka, Jimmy Schmidt, Peter Loren, Lorraine Platman, and others for an exciting day of food, wine and culinary wisdom including seminars, and wine tastings.

See MARQUEE, 2B

Now showing



See restaurant specials to learn more about Cafe Cortina's special dinner featuring seafood dishes from the Italian Riviera on June 28 at the restaurant in Farmington Hills.

Check out Entertaining Choices to find out what's on stage in your community.

Mel Gibson takes a gamble with "Braveheart" an epic drama about a patriot who unites various clans in Scotland against King Edward I, winning several key battles in the 13th century.

Readers share "Wish You Were Here" pictures, and memories of vacations to places near and far away.

Dink's limitless sound has helped put Kent, Ohio, on the musical map.

Looking ahead

► John Monaghan reviews movies.

► What's on stage in your community.

Singer chases dream to NASHVILLE

BY RALPH R. ECHTINAW
STAFF WRITER

Gary Powell has spent most of his life in Michigan, but his heart is in the South, at least so far as his music is concerned.

Next month Powell plans to move to Nashville full time and try his hand at making a name for himself in the music business.

As far back as the Plymouth resident can remember he has been enamored of country music. As a teenager in the 1960s, when his contemporaries were listening to Jimi Hendrix and The Doors, Powell couldn't get enough of Floyd Cramer, Boots Randolph and other country greats of the day.

When Powell was 13, his mother bought him a guitar for Christmas. He took lessons, but couldn't learn to read music. So he quit and taught himself how to play the guitar.

In 1975 Powell started writing and singing songs of his own, but he didn't have the nerve to hang his future on it until now.

"It's basically a shot in the dark," he said. "But I've gotten a lot farther with it than I ever thought I would."

Indeed, Powell's first album, called "Havin' Fun Tonight" is available for sale at Repeat the Beat, Dearborn Music and Plymouth Party Store.

Two singles from the album, "Memories of You" and "Let's Go Out Tonight" are played by the WYLLAM-based radio station WSDS-AM (1490 kilohertz).

WSDS program director Chris Sharp said folks seem to like Powell's songs. And requests for the two singles are apparently not coming from family members, as is the case with many local artists, she said.

Powell "is better than the average independent artist," she said. "I think he probably will do really good. A lot of the independent artists really don't have the voice. He definitely has the voice for it."

Powell's opinion of his voice is not as high as Sharp's, but he looks at it this way: "If Kris Kristofferson can make it anybody can, I guess."

The compact disc album contains 10 songs written by Powell



BILL EBERLE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Swing your partner: Gary Powell, a Plymouth resident who is trying to make a name for himself in the world of country music, cuts a rug with dance instructor Vicki Sim at Club Canton.

"I'm just a regular dog. I run around. I jump the fence now and then, but I always come back home"

— Gary Powell

and runs approximately 29 minutes. He sings nine of the songs, leaving the remaining tune to his sisters, Denise Reynolds and Amy Preston, both of West Virginia.

The tunes are straightforward, pleasant and lively, but no one will mistake Powell's soft singing voice for Hank Williams Jr. or David Allan Coe.

The lyrics draw from Powell's 40 years of experience in life, including two marriages, a couple jobs and a dash of hell raising.

"I've fallen on my butt several times in my life," he said. "And somehow I always come out smelling like a rose. I'm just a regular dog. I run around. I jump the fence now and then, but I always come back home."

Powell, however, isn't one of those country artists who are paid millions for their work. In fact, it's more the other way around.

Powell went to the Music Machine Studio in Nashville, Tenn., and "I pay them to do all the recordings, basically. I'm taking off on this on my own."

At the moment, Powell toils over the songs for a second album, but he writes them at a gas station in the middle of the night.

Everyone has to pay the rent, and Powell does it as a midnight cashier at Stevenson Shelli on Ann Arbor Road at Sheldon.

"What I do is lock the door, grab my guitar (a Yamaha FC411), sit down and write," he said.

This process might seem difficult for a man who can't read or write music, but Powell manages. "I just mess around with it until I get it the way I want it," he said. "The way I look at it, I'm getting paid to write music."

'Rip Van Winkle' awakens young talent

BY BANDRA DALKA-PRYBYL
SPECIAL WRITER

All the world may be a stage, but for a group of area children, their stage is at the historic Players Club in downtown Detroit.

"I have grown up doing plays," said Mary Denawatz, 13 of West Bloomfield who plays Harpata Knickerbocker in the Sunday cast of "Rip Van Winkle," the story of man who sleeps for 20 years, the current Paper Bag Production.

"This is my fourth season, and I really enjoy having an opportunity to perform. Being on stage has made me more outgoing and given me more confidence."

Dane Joseph, 11 of Southfield, also loves the applause, and said he didn't wait until he found the stage to get it. "From the time I was three years old, I would make up my own little productions and then perform for my family and their friends in the living room," he said. "I've always been an entertainer."

Joseph, who has been in a number of area children theater productions, plays "Nicholas Vedder," in the Sunday cast.

Alyson Adams, 11 of Farmington, shares Joseph's passion for theater. "I've been acting since I was in kindergarten and it has helped me feel more comfortable in front of a group of people," she said. Adams plays "Wolf" in the Sunday cast of "Rip." She also did the show's choreography. "I like performing in plays that have a long run, such as the Paper Bag Productions. If you have to memorize lines, using them every weekend for 15 weeks makes me feel it's worth the effort," she said.

Her sister Kimberly, 14, has also performed in Paper Bag Productions, her mother, Nancy, de-



PAPER BAG PRODUCTIONS, LTD.

PREVIEW

"Rip Van Winkle"

Theater: Historic Players Club, 3321 East Jefferson, (across the street from Harbortown) Detroit.

Curtain time: Lunch, noon, show 1 p.m. Saturday, May 27; lunch 1 p.m. show 2 p.m. Sunday, May 28.

Tickets: \$7 per person, call (810) 469-7548

Talented cast: These young thespians are members of the cast of "Rip Van Winkle," an original musical presented at the Historic Players Club by Paper Bag Productions, Ltd.

See TALENT, 2B