

The Nutcracker Ballet

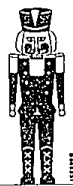
— presented by —
The Michigan Classic Ballet

Saturday, Dec. 5 ~ 1:00 and 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 6 ~ 3:00 p.m.

Merys Auditorium
5250 W. 11 Mile Road • Farmington Hills

Reserved Seating
Adults \$15
Children & Seniors \$12
Group Tickets Available

For Ticket Information
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Bush from page A1

growth has been phenomenal. The Farmington branch has gone from 60 employees and a \$480,000 annual budget to one with 180 workers and a \$4 million yearly operation.

The Y's expansion culminated with the 16,000-square-foot expansion at 18 Farmington Road facility two years ago. The \$2 million project has allowed the Y to grow at a 15 percent a year clip, Bush said.

"The thing I'm most proud of is our ability to reach youth and families," Bush said, "and provide a wholesome environment to learn new skills through a diverse number of activities, and develop healthy lifestyles."

"The challenge has been to satisfy the diverse needs that accompanied the sprawl of the surrounding area during those 18 years, Bush said. As a result, the Y has veered into child care and after-school programs.

"He has been a forward thinker," said Dave Kenerson, Farmington Y board chairman-elect. "He was always looking at

ways to improve the way in terms of service to our members and improvements to the building itself.

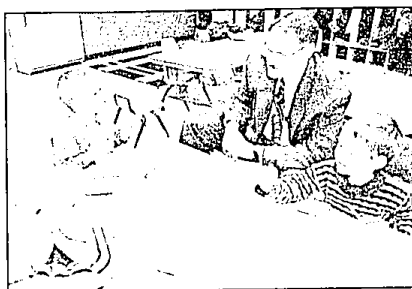
"I'm sure if he stayed around another five years, he'd be looking to expand to the east with another gymnasium, racquetball court and wellness center."

Bush's tenure has seen the YMCA well-represented in the community in other ways. He's involved with the Rotary, Optimists, American Heart Association and Commission on Children, Youth and Families.

"We're stronger if we connect and support one another," he said.

In his position, Bush will help the 18 Y branches in the area — including Farmington's — raise money and support programs.

The nice part of the new job is he won't have to uproot his family, which includes wife Mary Ann and children Katie, 16, and Shawn, 11. He'll work out of the Detroit Y's office in the PVS Chemical on Harper Avenue. The Metropolitan Detroit



STAFF PHOTO BY LIZ COCHRAN

Friends: Outgoing Farmington YMCA director Kevin Bush spend some time with his smaller friends (from left) John Antishin, Simon Helmig and Thomas Lindbert.

YMCA's main office was shut down to make room for the new baseball stadium downtown.

He is native Detroit and graduate of Salesian High. He earned his bachelor's degree at Wayne State University and his

master's at the University of Michigan.

His advice to his replacement is to be visible and active in the community. "And be a good listener," Bush added.

Meanwhile, Bush will continue to promote the YMCA's guiding principals: caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.

"I believe the YMCA can be an important part of a person's life. Why not share a good thing?"

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