

Community band spring concert set

The Farmington Community Band's 35th spring concert will be at 3 p.m., Sunday, March 25, at Harrison High School. This year's concert will feature a wide variety of music to challenge both the performers and the audience.

Say good-bye to the winter blahs by enjoying favorite music played by the 60-plus members of the community band, conducted by Paul Barber.

Harrison High is located on 12 Mile between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake. Admission is free. A good will offering will help support the band. For more information, call (734) 261-2202 or 489-3412.

■ Farmington Community Band's show is March 25 at 3 p.m. at Harrison High.

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Vintage Farmington

and put the fire out by stopping the spread of flames.

Most township records were destroyed. The Masonic records, their furniture and clothing was also burned. This led to an alliance between the Masons and the Township who cooperated in a new Township Hall. Local businessmen and the Masons raised \$500. The Township then purchased a cow pasture owned by Cynthia Collins, a pioneer settler of Farmington. The pasture cost \$800. The Masons got a perpetual lease to the second floor of the Township Hall for \$1,150. Another \$3,450 was paid by the Township.

The new building was heated by pot bellied stoves and lighted by kerosene lamps. The Masons met upstairs. Township government was conducted downstairs. On the main floor, taxes were collected, voters registered and community activities were held. There were plays, dances and

lectures. Basketball was also played in the hall.

The Masons got electricity in the upper level by 1905. They used the kind generated by the Detroit Urban Railroad for running trolleys through Farmington. This was a direct current that had to be used in clusters of lamps. The first floor had no electric lights until the electric lines reached Farmington in 1911. The president of the basketball team, Albert Bruner, wired the Town Hall so there could be night basketball.

Multi-purpose

A community band was organized at the turn of the century which presented concerts in the town park behind the Town Hall. A bandshell was built there in 1918. In 1916, a room was built on the north side of the building for a library which was started by the Ladies Literary Society in 1913. At first the library was in

the basement of the Baptist Church.

In the 1920s, the perpetual lease was declared illegal by the courts and ownership of the building was divided between the township, the city and the Masons. In 1923, a memorial monument to the men who served in past wars was erected in the park. The granite monument weighs six tons. In 1924 the building was remodeled. In 1960 when Farmington Township and the city moved to larger quarters, the building was slated for demolition. The Masons purchased and saved it. Then they restored it, doing much of the work themselves.

Thus Farmington has a unique structure in the center of the city, the work of a master builder.

Ruth Mochlman is a local historian and the author of *Heritage Homes of Farmington*.



Nardin Park arts fest to feature pianist

Planiat: Paul Bisaccia, billed as a charismatic performer, winning fans and critical acclaim on four continents, will perform a concert "Stars and Stripes Forever", at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 1, at Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills. It is part of the 2nd annual Let Your Spirit Soar cultural arts celebration running from March 30-April 1. Festivities include an art exhibit, children's painting workshop, a play, and other concerts. Call 477-8860 for more information.

Chat room

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if you weren't a tea enthusiast before a session at her table, there was something about the atmosphere in her kitchen that made the tea enjoyable, necessary even.

A tiny woman of great resolve and determination, she quietly raised her family and held to her faith all of her life. She was one of eight children including a twin sister, and though she had no more than an elementary education, Grandma was one of the most well-read women I have ever known. She perused her paper every day and knew more news than most of us.

Grandma's voice had a lyrical quality to it, and - like many Irish - she used word expressions both poetic and difficult to describe. When she smiled her

eyes did as well, and she also possessed a lifting laughter that in itself made others laugh. Up till her death some 80 years later, she retained the characteristic Celtic accent - called a "brogue" - so thick and richly Irish one can only wonder how it is she kept it through her life in the States, seven times again the length of her years in her native country.

Land of contrasts

Like its people, Ireland itself is a land of startling contrasts: rugged shorelines alternating with soft, green rolling hills and meadows, misty landscapes with green bogs, and just the right sprinkling of castles, interwoven with timeless myths and legends. If you visit the Emerald

Isle, you'll likely hear "Cead mile failte," a Celtic saying wishing a hundred thousand welcomes. Undoubtedly, you'd be invited to an Irishman's hearth and have your socks charmed off all the while. But he forewarned: though beguiling, the Irish are never without at least a wee bit of mischief!

In that spirit, I wish to all readers on this St. Patrick's Day an old Irish toast:

May you be poor in misfortune,
Rich in blessings,
Slow to make enemies,
Quick to make friends.
But rich or poor, quick or slow
May you know nothing
But happiness
From this day forward.

DKC dog shows slated this weekend

The annual Detroit Kennel Club Dog Shows are back this year on Saturday and Sunday, March 17-18, at Cobo Center.

The benched format show is fun for the whole family. Visitors have up-close time with breeders, owners, handlers and over 150 different breeds.

Show highlights include obedience and confirmation competition, IAMS Wonderful World of Dogs performances, demonstrations by the Michigan State Police Canine Unit, specialty

retail booths and more.

The Detroit Kennel Club Dog Shows are recognized as one of the largest all-breed benched dog shows in North America.

Hundreds of exhibitors, some making their only Michigan stop, with unique pet supplies, gifts and accessories will be on hand.

150 breeds

More than 2,500 dogs from nearly 150 different breeds are expected to compete for honors at each show.

There will be demonstrations, workshops and lectures.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children (under 12) and senior citizens. Family packs (2 adults, 3 children) are also on sale for \$30.

Tickets will be sold separately for each show and are good only for that day. The shows run from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the door and through Ticketmaster (248) 645-6696. For more information call 248-DKC-SHOW.

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Ugliest Bathroom Contest

Sponsored By WJR AM 760 Radio, The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Building Industry Association and Mathison Supply of Livonia, Garden City and Canton.

Win A \$10,000 Dream Bathroom!



- Air Massour Massage Bathtub by Jason
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- And More!

Take a photo of your ugly bathroom and bring it into any Mathison Supply store or mail it to WJR, Ugliest Bathroom Contest, 2100 Fisher Building, Detroit, MI 48202.

The winner's bathroom will be upgraded with new fixtures, tile, medicine cabinet and accessories with a value of up to \$10,000.

And, be sure to visit the WJR and Mathison Supply booths at:

GMC BUILDERS HOME & DETROIT FLOWER SHOW
COBO CENTER
MARCH 22-25, 2001



All entries become the property of WJR and must be received by April 13, 2001. No cash equivalents. Judges decision is final. No purchase necessary. Winner will be announced May 15, 2001.

Employees of WJR Radio, The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, BIA and Mathison Supply are not eligible to enter.