

Costick hosts Earth Angels fund-raiser

The William Costick Activities Center is hosting the annual fund-raiser for Earth Angels, a non-profit group that travels all across the country to perform concerts of vintage music for people in need.

Group spokeswoman Bonnie Murphy said this year's fund-raiser is set from 6-10 p.m. Saturday, March 31. Tickets (\$10) must be bought in advance; they will not be sold at the door. Call (734) 326-5469 or (248) 477-3639 for more information.

The event will feature the Earth Angels' performance. The group will sing and dance their way through songs from the 1950s and '60s.

The \$10 ticket includes a pasta dinner provided by Farmington's The Pasta Stop Restaurant, dessert and beverages, games, door prizes and a raffle, Murphy said.

The Costick Center is on 11 Mile, east of Middlebelt, in Farmington Hills. Murphy said capacity for the event is 400.

Teacher needs locale for benefit concert

By TIM SMITH
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Around Thanksgiving Day 1989, then-Central Michigan University student Debby Schultz learned her best friend and sorority sister Heather Lichtle was killed in a car accident. Lest in the same crash was Heather's brother, Matthew Lichtle.

Heather and Matthew, who attended Ferris State University, were traveling to their parents' house for the holiday when their time blew out.

A couple weeks later, Schultz felt compelled to write a guest column titled "Tragedy separates best friends, for now," published in the Dec. 8, 1999 edition of *Central Michigan Life*, the CMU student newspaper.

In the column, Schultz said she wrote it "because I don't want Heather and Matt to be just 'the names of those college students' who were killed on the way home from school. I



Matthew Lichtle

want you to know how special they were. So special, in fact, that more than 1,000 guests attended the viewing, and 650 guests attended the heart-wrenching funeral."

Something special

The shock and pain of that tragedy are still etched on the face of Schultz in 2001, who today is a kindergarten teacher at Alameda Early Childhood Center in the Farmington school district.

Schultz, a Novi resident, also wants to do something special to honor the memory of her friends.

"I want to start a scholarship fund at CMU and at Ferris," Schultz said. "But I'd need to raise at least \$10,000 for the first scholarship (at CMU, in Heather's memory) and then raise that same amount of money for the Ferris scholarship."

In order to raise that kind of money, Schultz is investigating the possibility of staging a benefit concert, silent auction and raffle, perhaps to take place this summer.

She knows of a band that could perform free of charge. But it can only do so on a Saturday night because of other scheduling commitments.

And so far,

Schultz is having a tough time finding an establishment willing to designate a portion of their facility for such an event.

She sent out an open letter last November, around the first anniversary of the accident, to procure a facility willing to close a portion of their bar or restaurant for the concert.

"I hope there is someone out there who is willing to find me a place," she wrote.

Four months later, however,

those efforts have not been productive. Schultz is still looking for a venue, searching for an answer that will enable her mission to proceed.

Part of that mission is for the ongoing scholarships at CMU and Ferris to lighten the load for the victims' surviving parents, Thomas and Betty Lichtle of Royal Oak. Schultz met them at Heather and Matthew's funeral.

"They are two of the most amazing people I have ever met," continued Schultz, in her open letter. "They lost their only children, but have managed to put everyone else's needs before their own."

Today, Schultz hasn't forgotten that meeting with the Lichtles. She hopes to do something just as unforgettable to honor her friends and their parents.

Anyone interested in helping Debby Schultz stage the benefit concert for the late Heather and Matthew Lichtle, please e-mail her at axemu1975@aol.com or telephone her at (248) 624-5182.



Heather Lichtle, left, Debby Schultz, right

Commission OKs funeral home, church plans

By TIM SMITH
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Projects for two Farmington fixtures were given the go-ahead Monday night by the Farmington Planning Commission.

With the approval of their site plans, representatives from Thayer-Rock Funeral Home and Our Lady of Sorrows Church and their architects now can proceed with their respective building additions.

According to planning commissioner Marty Stirling, exterior lighting really was the only issue with the plan to add an

800-square-foot lounge and kitchen onto the west side of the funeral home, located at 33603 Grand River.

Thayer-Rock owner Robert Rock and project architect Carl Gaier were told by commissioners to fine-tune the exterior lighting so that it not be intrusive to nearby businesses and residents. Stirling explained following the meeting.

A Detroit Edison light pole also will be taken down.

Commission Chair Terri Morency, meanwhile, said the Sorrows plan was also approved without much debate.

Architectural firm Integrated Design Solutions will inform the church that it can begin installing a handicapped-access elevator on the south side of the facility.

"If they want to move someone (in a wheelchair) from the worship area into the fellowship hall, they have to take them out of the building and around," Morency explained. "This enables them to move them from one floor to another."

Construction on the elevator is hoped to begin "as soon as they can safely start building," she added.

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