

# Class songs will take dinner dance guests down memory lane

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Take your old high school yearbook off the shelf.

Those who purchase a ticket to the Farmington High Falcon Society's Nov. 16 gala dance and auction can have their class song played during the event. "Through the Years...At Farmington High" starts at 6:30 p.m. at Vladimir's, 28125 Grand River in Farmington Hills.

Organizers say it doesn't matter whether you graduated from a high school in Farmington, Livonia, Dearborn or the east or west side of Detroit — everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy the music of their era.

The Falcon Society was established by parents, alumni and faculty with one common interest: improving outdoor athletic and band facilities. Proceeds will go toward projects not included in recent school bond improvements.

"We want to tap into the entire community, not just parents who have students in the school,"

said Phyllis Surma, a committee member. The group will solicit support from all the school booster groups and clubs.

## Half-way there

More than half of the \$120,000 needed for Phase One has been raised, mostly from commemorative brick sales, business and alumni donations, and the Falcon Open Gold Outing last May. But more is needed for the multi-stage project.

"Brick sales continue to be very popular, with orders coming in from alumni all across the United States," said Sue Boskey, treasurer. "Work just began on the installation of the pavers."

Cindy Walsh, a Farmington High School parent and a kindergarten teacher at Flanders Elementary stressed the renovation is benefiting the whole school, not just the sports teams. "You don't have to have a child playing sports," Walsh said. "We want to cultivate a sense of community spirit."

Walsh displayed an artist's rendering of the project, done by

Kristel Stricker, a recent FHS graduate. Walsh, who's taught at the school district for 14 years was Stricker's kindergarten teacher, so there is a special element of pride.

"She's an exceptionally talented young woman who's going to school in Georgia this year, where she will be a freshman," Walsh said. "She was in my first graduating class."

## On the plaza

Students will be able to eat lunch at the outside brick plaza. Last year, citing safety reasons, officials stopped allowing high school students to leave the campus at lunchtime.

The brick plaza, which is part of Phase One, is expected to be ready for the first FHS football game Aug. 24.

Not a cent is coming from the Farmington Public School District budget, committee members said.

The silent auction will feature a variety of goods, including \$20-\$100 gift baskets, Waterford crystal, Kinkadee prints,

sports paraphernalia, autographed items, weekend trips, golf outings, restaurant gift certificates. To donate items, contact Boskey at 471-4228.

At \$50 per person, the ticket price includes a sit-down dinner, an open bar and entertainment.

For dinner ticket information call Linda Hellebuyck at (248) 478-5648. Checks should be made payable to Farmington High School, 32000 Shiawassee, Farmington, MI 48338.

Two big winners will split 50/50 raffle proceeds, which will be announced at 10 p.m. The winner doesn't need to be present to win. More than 30 people bought raffle tickets at the

recent Farmington Area Founders Festival.

"We hope to raise \$25,000," Boskey said. "It depends on how many auction items we can come up with."

A maximum 1,000 tickets will be sold. To purchase 50/50 tickets call Debbie Washer at (248) 477-8810.

Farmington teachers who are in charge of clubs will also be asked to generate interest in this event and the outdoor school renovation. "We want to involve the teachers and staff at Farmington," Walsh said.

Phyllis Surma, another committee member, said a group of parents laid 100 yards of sod

near the tennis courts recently.

"We want to turn that area into a park-like setting for better viewing," she said.

The Falcon Society also believes the project will have an even broader ranging impact beyond the school.

"This will positively impact the many companies that are headquartered to do business here," Boskey said. "It is a wise investment for local businesses, above and beyond the goodwill it will generate."

Mary Miller and Colleen O'Brien are also on the dinner dance committee.

## Organization:

Committee members (standing) Sue Boskey, Colleen O'Brien, (sitting) Phyllis Surma and Cindy Walsh are planning ahead for the Falcon Society's November dinner dance, a fundraiser for improvements to the school's athletic and band facilities.  
STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRIDGEMAN



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