

Buy tickets now for 'Murder at the O&E'

Anyone interested in attending the Blue Circle's "Murder at the O&E" April 13 will want to make their reservations soon, so they can learn which role they'll play in this interactive murder mystery.

The story centers around an attack on 1940s era newspaper publisher "Nathan Power," an upstanding member of the community whose sense of honor results in his making enemies—at least one of whom wishes him

dead.

In each round of the play, guests will unveil information about their characters and clues that will help everyone solve the mystery.

In addition, hors d'oeuvres, drinks and dessert will be served at several locations in downtown Farmington.

Guests are encouraged to come dressed in 1940s style.

For information, call (248) 478-6500.



Victim? Scott Freeman plays "Nathan Power."

Classes held for caregivers of aging parents

As the aging population continues to increase, more individuals and families are finding themselves caring for an aging parent, relative or friend.

Oakland County Health Division's Services to the Aging You and Your Aging Parent class series will offer life management

tips for caregivers.

Classes begin at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 9, at the Coddick Activities Center in Farmington Hills and will run through the month of April. The series is open to the public for a charge of \$10 per family.

Topics addressed include physical and emotional changes as you grow older; caregiving techniques; feelings and needs of caregivers; living arrangement options; and community resources available to caregivers.

To pre-register call the Coddick Activities Center at (248) 473-1830.

Pro-register call the Coddick Activities Center at (248) 473-1830.

Longacre from page A1

"Without their support, we would not be able to have this success or this house."

Items up for auction include a colorful crystal decanter and wine glasses, lily-shaped bud vases, sports memorabilia, an autographed Red Wings jersey and themed baskets.

One of the baskets entitles the owner to a privately catered barbecue dinner for 20 people, prepared by the Longacre House's executive chef, Russell Chessin. "Board members will make the side dishes," Deichert said.

The original artwork by local artist T.S. Costa is colorful and intriguing, with images representing the past 200 years of U.S. history, up to and including Mickey Mouse.

A "Familiar Yourself" basket includes everything for a relaxing evening at home, including a self-help book. Another basket has items sure to win the attention of any gardener.

Funds raised from the sale will go toward maintaining the house, which is rich in history. Acquired by Farmington pioneer Luman Goodenough in 1916, the Longacre House was built by Palmer Sherman in 1869. A hundred years later, Eleanor Goodenough Spicer donated the 20-room house and surrounding five acres of land for use as a community center.

A non-profit venture, the House relies solely on community support, receiving no assistance from the cities of Farmington or Farmington Hills. Smaller fund-raisers this year have included a bridal show and mystery dinner theater, but Deichert is quick to point out the House isn't always just extending a hand for donations.

"We're not always begging for money, we're giving back," she said, noting charitable efforts like hosting a visit from Peter Rabbit for Head Start kids and

participation in the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which grants wishes to sick and dying children.

Deichert has also offered the house as a meeting place for Blue Circle, the Jaycees and other community groups. Any organization is welcome to book the house, which has undergone a number of renovations and improvements, for events. Rates are very negotiable, and can mean simply donating a portion of event proceeds.

With the retirement of former director Ben Marks, things have changed a great deal at the House. But one thing remains the same: the need for community support and involvement, whether through funding, volunteers or simply the use of a facility whose history is tied so much with the Farmington area.

"We really want to start drawing the community in," Deichert said.

Sewer from page A1

of the nearly five-inch downpour that hit the metro Detroit area in a matter of several hours one day in August 1998.

No drainage system could be designed to accommodate such a rare and heavy storm, he said. However, the city did settle many cases with residents seeking help with sewer backup damage.

But Brock said he believes the ruling is fair and proper.

Attorney Tim Ferrand has defended the city in the longtime lawsuit. He agreed the new ruling is better for municipalities, but that it also makes sense. Under the old statute, he said, if the city owned the sewer line, it had responsibility for it.

Cases in the past have been filed under a nuisance/trespass clause, but Ferrand said that avenue didn't always apply. He said the Supreme Court decided rightly to show that a plaintiff needs to demonstrate negligence when seeking damages.

Attorney Peter Masuga has represented the plaintiffs in the case.

"I don't see why the city won't settle," he said. "The city was responsible for the flooding."

He said if the city doesn't settle, he has no problem continuing the case in Circuit Court.

The lawsuit, as of Friday, had not yet been returned to the Circuit Court where the Supreme Court ruled it be tried, Ferrand said.

DDA from page A1

square foot office available with adjacent secretarial space as well as use of a conference room.

The rent for the office space, on the north side of Grand River east of Farmington Road, is \$600 monthly, which includes utilities.

"Mrs. Ned Oglesby does not require a lease of any of the tenants," Downey said.

The landlady Downey refers to is the mother of Ron Oglesby, president of the DDA board.

Farmwell Properties told Downey several of their properties would be vacated this year so they didn't think they could release the DDA from their office lease before December.

Downey asked whether they would consider having the DDA

pay one-half of the remaining six months of the lease.

"This would be a cost of \$750 to the DDA," Downey said.

Joyce Cornwell, a member of the DDA board and a partner in Farmwell Properties, planned to relay the request, Downey said.

Following the move, Downey wants as large a sign as possible to "catch the eye" of motorists as well as pedestrians.

Get the scores in Sports

Do You Want to Honor a HomeTown Hero?

Your Observer & Eccentric, Mirror and HomeTown Newspapers, in conjunction with the United Way Volunteer Center of Oakland, are calling for nominations for the HomeTown Heroes Awards, which reward outstanding volunteers who have given selflessly of themselves to support the community in Oakland County. Awards will be recognized at the HomeTown Heroes Luncheon on Wednesday, June 5, 2002 at The Community House in Birmingham.

NAME OF NOMINATOR: _____ BY GROUP, CONTACT PERSON: _____

ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____ E-MAIL: _____

CATEGORIES: ☐ DIRECT SERVICE ☐ SENIOR ☐ YOUTH ☐ GOVERNANCE ☐ FAITH-BASED ☐ BUSINESS

NAME OF NOMINEE: _____ AGE: _____

(Must volunteer for an Oakland County non-profit organization)

ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____ E-MAIL: _____

PLACE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE: _____ YEARS OF SERVICE: _____

AVERAGE NUMBER OF HOURS WORKS PER MONTH: _____ SCHOOL ATTENDING (if applicable): _____

TYPE OF WORK PERFORMED: _____

On a separate sheet, in 200 words or less, tell why you have nominated this individual on business. Describe the nominee's major accomplishments, commitment, self-motivation, problem-solving skills, and measurable impact upon the community. For Business Champion nominees, please indicate the name(s) of the community organization(s) that have benefited from these efforts. Entries must be typewritten. Do not staple pages. Optional: Include a photo (no larger than 5" x 7") of the nominee's person or group, or for Business Champion nominees, include a photo of person participating in the volunteer activity. Entries must be received by Friday, May 3, 2002. Mail or fax forms to HomeTown Heroes Awards, c/o United Way Volunteer Center, 50 Wayne Street • Farmington, MI 48342 • Fax: 248-456-8809 • For questions or further information go to www.volunteer.oakland.org or call 248-974-1633.

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