

# Arts & Entertainment

GALLERIES ■ THEATER ■ DANCE ■ DINING

THE FARMINGTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY  
FARMINGTON HILLS BRANCH  
32737 W. 12 Mile Road  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334-3302

## Hot tickets

### See Scandinavia

The Woods Gallery is exhibiting William Hame's photography in a show called, *Clear, Clear Scandinavia*, through Feb. 12.



Meet the artist from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 16, in the Huntington Woods Library, 26415 Scolia, Huntington Woods. (248) 543-9720.

### On stage

Stephenie Samuel of Warren (left) is Velma, Jamie Richards of Birmingham is Billy and Carrie Wickert of Novi plays Rosie in Stepecrafters' production of



the musical *Chicago*. The show runs Jan. 17 through Feb. 9 at the Historic Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette, in downtown Royal Oak. Tickets are \$14 on Thursdays, \$16 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. All seats are reserved. (248) 541-6430.

### Two for one

The Farmington Community Band and Birmingham Concert Band will perform at 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19, in Farmington Harrison High School, 29955 W. 12, between Orchard Lake and Middlebelt roads, Farmington Hills. The bands will play separately and together. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted. (734) 261-2202.

### Autograph signing

Otis Key, a member of the Harlem Globetrotters, will sign autographs and greet fans from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 20, at the Burger King restaurant at 910 Opdyke, Auburn Hills. The Globetrotters will play at the Palace of Auburn Hills at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1. Tickets range from \$12-\$100. (248) 645-6666.

### Erie Ice Daze

See presentations on ice harvesting, dog mushing, fire-starting, history of fur trade, and fish decoy carving from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 18-19, at Lake Erie Metropark Marshlands Museum and Nature Center in Brownstown Township. The Silver Strings Dulcimer Society will perform and a bonfire and star watch will be held from dusk to 10 p.m. Saturday. (800) 477-3169.

## State of the art

### Farmington Players' new theater cause for celebration

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER

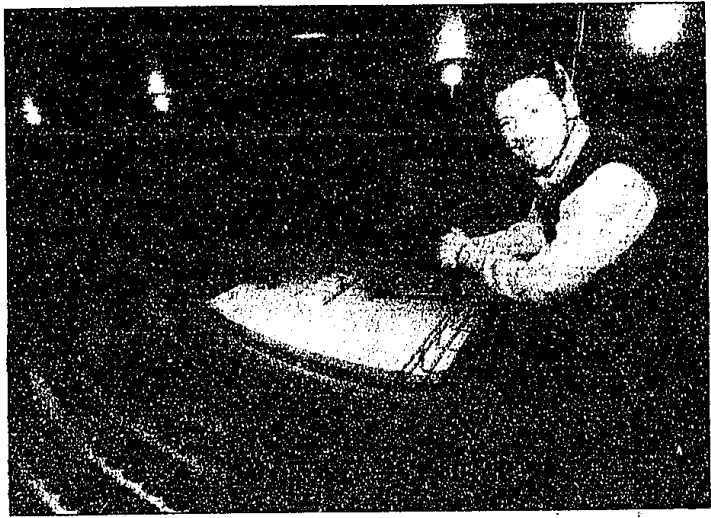
It's been five years of planning, delays and waiting for permits, but the Farmington Players don't seem to be counting. They're too busy celebrating the opening of their new barn theater with a gala Saturday, Jan. 25, in Farmington Hills.

The 11,000-square-foot structure is quite a departure from the old 4,000-square-foot dairy barn-turned-theater. The audience won't freeze in winter with the fully functioning modern heating and cooling system in place. Casts used to rehearse in the cold, and summer productions were out of the question, but no longer — the state of the art building has all the bells and whistles that \$1.4 million dollars can buy.

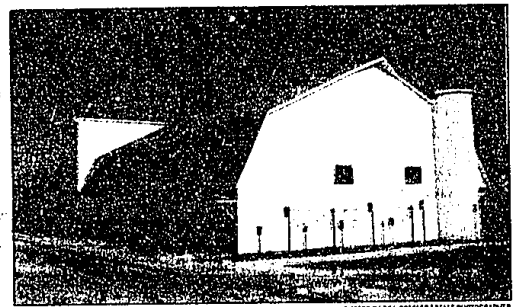
"What an undertaking this has been. It's just so crazy," board member Cynthia Tupper said. Tupper was president for the first three years of the struggle to build the theater. "There's so much that has to happen yet. We had to move everything out of Barnes & Noble in West Bloomfield, where we performed for the last season and a half. We had three huge work days before Christmas cleaning out members' basements, which were used to store costumes and props. It's overwhelming, but I know it will get done."

The project might not even have been considered if not for Sunrise Assisted Living, which contacted the Farmington Players about moving the barn or selling it part of the property so it could build a facility next door. Instead, Tupper and the rest of the members decided to develop the theater of their dreams. Sunrise Assisted Living contributed \$175,000 to the cause. Membership threw in more than \$200,000. A major partnership with the city of Farmington Hills helped secure grants from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. Rochester architect Gerald Yurk came up with the original concept. Sachse Construction of Farmington Hills fine-tuned the design and helped lower the cost. The Players broke ground Jan. 23, 2002, and began moving into the building in November.

"Who knew Sunrise's request was going to change the future of the players. It was a window of opportunity. The mortgage rates went down, but we saw the donor



Phil Hadley perches on the catwalk overlooking the Farmington Players' new theater.



Rochester architect Gerald Yurk came up with the original design of the new barn theater.

"There's so much that has to happen yet. It's overwhelming, but I know it will get done."

Cynthia Tupper  
board member, Farmington Players

base disappear because of the economy, so we turned to our members and the partnership with the city of Farmington Hills," theater project manager Phil Hadley said. "In the end, we built a state of the art

small theater with all capabilities of a professional theater. We're exceedingly proud of that."

Tupper's especially proud of the five-stall bathroom for women, an upstairs costume storage room, light and sound command, dressing rooms and a spotlight booth. Hadley proudly points out the orchestra pit and five handicapped spaces on ground level.

"As a public space, it's a 21st century building with heating and cooling, more restroom facilities than the state requires, a concession area for catering parties, and

PLEASE SEE PLAYERS, B2

### FARMINGTON PLAYERS

What: Present a fund-raising gala to celebrate their new theater, evening includes strolling supper, silent auction and performance of Noel Coward's *Present Laughter*

Where: 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25. *Present Laughter* continues Jan. 31 to Feb. 22 with tickets priced at \$13, seniors half price on Sundays. Show times are 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 31-Feb. 1, Feb. 7-8, Feb. 14-15, Feb. 21-22, and Thursday, Feb. 13 and 20, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2, 9 and 16.

Where: 32332 W. 12 Mile, west of Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills

Tickets: \$100, call (248) 219-0800 or visit the Web site at [www.farmingtonplayers.org](http://www.farmingtonplayers.org)

## Gallery showing proves Max is back



Peter Max visits Park West Gallery in Southfield Thursday, Jan. 23. His one man show features 150 vibrantly colored works.

List most kids in the late 1960s and early '70s. I grew up loving Peter Max's bold colors and comic characters. His art was all part of the culture at that time. The Beatles especially spring to mind when someone mentions Max. He inspired their animated film *Yellow Submarine* and I'm sure their music inspired his upbeat art that at various times has been labeled pop and neo-Pop and expressionist.

Max admits fame came too quickly and before long his posters, ties, watches and jeans became a \$1.1 billion dollar industry. He found himself spending more time away from his easel. At one time he'd painted with more than one brush at a time but appearances on the *Ed Sullivan Show* and photo sessions for the cover of *Life* magazine drained his artistic spirit. By the early 1970s he'd had enough. Max found jobs for all but six of his 75 employees. Those he took with him into private retreat. For the

next 19 years, all he did was paint. He re-emerged in 1989 with the same vibrant colors and bold lines. When he came to town in 1994 to exhibit at Park West Gallery in Southfield, I had the opportunity to interview him in person. This time we talked by phone about his latest show opening Thursday, Jan. 23. He's no less in love with his work now, probably even more — as one can tell by the 150 paintings, drawings, collage, serigraphs and mixed media in the show.

Maximum Max Park West Gallery owner Albert Scaglione has pulled out all the stops for this exhibition. It's a compliment to Max, who he's known since both were in their mid-20s.

"Spend a day at my studio and you'll see, look at my floor. I sometimes paint five to 10 hours a day," Max said.

### LOVE FOR AMERICA

Certain themes appear over and over again in the work. It's nothing planned. The paintings and drawings simply happen. Max will tell you a painter's inspiration frequently comes from outside. An assistant might say, "Are we going to do the Statue of Liberty for the Fourth of July?" Painting Lady Liberty is something he's done every Fourth since 1976. Max has a strong love of America, even though he was born in Germany and spent the first 10 years of his life growing up in Shanghai, China, where his father owned a department store specializing in European tailoring. It's a long story, but one Max is only too happy to tell.

PLEASE SEE PETER MAX, B3

## Ballet Shoes or Wing Tips?



Makes no difference as long as you take time to put your feet up, get comfortable and spend some time with us.