

Blackthorn CD release slated March 12

The locally renowned Irish group Blackthorn will appear at a special CD release concert at the brand new Farmington Players Barn Theatre in Farmington Hills on March 12 at 7 p.m.

Blackthorn's new release, "First Light" will be the inspiration for the performance, although many favorite audience-pleasing pieces will also be part of the evening's repertoire.

The group swings its performance from the hilarious to the solemn, as they present a wide variety of traditional and contemporary Irish music. Using 10 instruments including the mandolin, tin whistle, and bodhran, Blackthorn's music covers a vast repertoire from haunting melodies to hand-clapping comedy. The instruments are complemented by the lead vocal of Belfast native Richard McMullan and a tight blend of four-part harmony from the group collectively. The camaraderie and good-natured jokes flung across the stage add to the evening.

The Blackthorn concert marks the second concert presented by the City of



Farmington Hills Cultural Arts Division at the new Players Barn Theatre, located at 32332 W. Twelve Mile between Orchard Road and Middlebelt.

On March 8, members of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's Ambassador String Quintet will perform "Kids and Strings" for a young audience. The Players Barn Theatre boasts wonderful acoustics, comfortable seating, and the intimacy of a small theatre, lending itself well to the

rapport Blackthorn creates with its audience.

Seating is limited for this special performance; tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors and students, and are available in advance at the Costick Center, 26600 West Eleven Mile, Farmington Hills. Some tickets may also be available at the door.

For more information, call the Cultural Arts Division at (248) 473-1857.

Applicants sought for music education awards

Applications are available for students in grades 7-12 who plan to compete in Farmington Musicales Awards for Musical Excellence. This annual competition offers cash awards to further music education.

It is open to students who attend Farmington public or private schools, to children of a Farmington Musicales member and to those whose primary residence is in Farmington or Farmington Hills, but who attend school elsewhere.

Applications are to be distributed the week of Feb. 2 to the music departments in all Farmington-area middle and high schools. They may also be

obtained at the Farmington Public Libraries. Applications must be completed and returned, postmarked by midnight, Friday, March 7.

This year the competition will be held Saturday, March 29, at Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills. Categories will be: piano, string/harp/classical guitar, wind/brass/percussion instruments divided into three grade levels: 7-8, 9-10, 11-12.

The vocal category will be divided into two grade levels: 9-10, 11-12. Cash awards will be given in each grade division.

First place winners will perform their winning solos in recital at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 13, at Antioch Lutheran Church.

Awards will be presented at that time, as well as the Strey-McCallum Piano Award, which is presented to the student who is judged to be the "most outstanding pianist" regardless of grade level.

The recital is open to all free of charge. The Farmington Musicales is a member of the National Federation of Music Clubs.

For more information contact Susie Hensoldt at (248) 471-6017.

Right to Life holds baby shower March 9

Right to Life - Lifespan will hold its 14th annual Baby Shower Sunday, March 9, at 42 locations in the metro Detroit area. The public is invited to bring new or gently used baby or maternity items to the nearest shower location. Gift drop-off locations in the Observer readership area are:

- Resurrection Church, 48755 Warren Road, Canton
- Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 23615 Power Road, Farmington
- St. Gerald Church, 21300 Farmington Road, Farmington
- St. Dunstan Church, 16466 Belton, Garden City
- St. Raphael Church/Recreation Room, 5775 Merriman, Garden City
- St. Genevieve Church, 29015 Jamison, Livonia
- St. Maurice Church, 32765 Lyndon, Livonia
- Our Lady of Good Counsel, 47650 N. Territorial,

Plymouth

- St. Kenneth Church, 14051 Haggerty Road, Plymouth
- Hosanna-Tabor Church, 9600 Lawrence, Redford
- St. John Bosco Church/school hall, 12170 Beech Daly Road, Redford
- St. Valentine Church/rectory meeting room, 25881 Dow, Redford

Drop off items after church services. For additional locations, call Right to Life - Lifespan at (248) 777-9090. A shower will be held at 2-3:30 p.m. at St. Mel Church, 7506 Inkster Road, Dearborn Heights.

Right to Life - Lifespan is a non-partisan, non-sectarian and non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of vulnerable human life from conception to natural death. Established in 1970, it is the largest and oldest pro-life organization in southeastern

Michigan. Lifespan serves Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

Choir at Carnegie Hall

The Livonia Ladywood Angelic Choir performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City on Jan. 20. The performance was in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and included 150 other members of a nationwide chorus. Under the direction of Juanita Moore-Jeffries the 26-girl choir began practicing for their performance early last March. Pictured (left to right bottom row): Ashley Barnes, Ann Marie Nelson, Jenny Rice, Megan Gill, Patty Kolinski (Farmington Hills resident), Erin Griffin and Katherine Gatliff. Middle row (left to right): Brittney Olsen, Leah Darnay, Mary Martin, Elise Schenk, Juanita Moore-Jeffries (choir director), Jessica Swancutt, Andrea Savickis, Violet Harper, Noel Phipps, Melissa Evans and Jennifer Reuk. Top row (left to right) Cristina Ryzyl, Sara Sharp, Kathy Reuka, Becky Beglin, Katie McDonald, Marie Philbin, Patty Hoeg, Casey Konkel and Katie Hoeg.

Buddy's presents check to MDA

Buddy's Pizza owner Robert Jacobs recently presented a \$2,500 check to the Muscular Dystrophy Association at the Farmington Hills restaurant following the conclusion of the *Sometimes You Just Need Some Buddys* charity campaign.

This has been the first time

Buddy's has been involved with the MDA organization," owner Robert Jacobs said. "It is a real honor to present this check to such an incredible charity."

MDA district director Carol McQueen attended the luncheon/presentation accompanied by Annette Jones and her two sons, Ben, 11 and Alex, 13.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

POTPOURRI

Family Fun Night

Bring the whole family and enjoy family fun night 6:30-9 p.m. Saturday, March 1, at the Farmington YMCA. Refreshments will be served at 7:45 p.m.

Vegas Night

The Finnish Cultural Center in Farmington Hills will host a Vegas Night 8 p.m. midnight Saturday, March 1. The cost is \$10 per person and includes food and drinks. Call (248) 478-6799.

Chili Cook Off

Farmington/Farmington Hills will hold its annual Chili Cook Off 1-4 p.m. Sunday, March 9, at Page's Food and Spirits in downtown Farmington. All proceeds will benefit the Farmington Hills Police K-9 Unit.

Miss Jane Pittman

The Farmington Community Library will hold a discussion about *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* by award-winning author Ernest Gaines at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 4, at the Farmington Hills Library.

Sunday Brunch

Enjoy Sunday Brunch at the Finnish Center in Farmington Hills March 9, April 13 and May 11 (Mother's Day). Call (248) 478-6799.

Parent Meeting

The Family in Action sector of the Call to Action Coalition invite parents to meet and discuss children's issues 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 5, at the Grand Cafe in downtown Farmington. Call (248) 471-4475.

Stranger Women

Strengthen your body, soul and spirit 9:30-11:30 a.m. every Thursday morning through April 3 at Faith Covenant Church in Farmington Hills. This program offers aerobics and walking, speakers, crafts and food. Baby-sitting is available for children up to five years old. Call (248) 661-9991.

Child Health Clinics

Oakland County Health Division offers free well-care services for children birth through school entry. Call (248) 424-7066 or (248) 976-3341.

KID STUFF

Kids & Strings

Introduce your child to the wonders of live music at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 8, at the Farmington Players Barn Theatre. For children aged 4-7 and their parents. Presented by the OSO's Ambassador String Quartet. Tickets are \$11.

Drawing

Kids ages K-2 and 3-5 can learn step-by-step drawing in this six week course beginning Thursday, March 6, at the Heritage Park Studio. Call (248) 473-1857.

CLUBS

Farmington Artists

The Farmington Artists Club will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 12, at the Farmington Hills Library. Catherine Peet will give a presentation.

Hill & Dale

Hill & Dale Garden Club will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 13, at the Heritage Park Visitor's Center. The topic will be *Wildflower Pilgrimage - Smokey Mountain Magic*.

North Farmington Garden

The North Farmington Garden Club will meet at noon Tuesday, March 11, at the Aldo Vagazzio Visitors Center in Heritage Park. Call (248) 553-2368.

Farmington Garden

The Farmington Garden Club will meet at noon Monday, March 3, at the Longacre House in Farmington Hills. Jen Dolan will demonstrate basic flower arranging.

Embroiderers

The Farmington Hills Embroiderers Guild meets at 9:30 a.m. the first Monday of each month at Faith Covenant Church in Farmington Hills. There is also an informal gathering at 10 a.m. the third Wednesday of each month in a member's home. Wednesday, March 5. Call Vivette at (248) 348-1931.

Musicals

The Farmington Musicales presents *Voices Across the Ocean* at 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 5, at Hammill Music Auditorium in Livonia. Guest fee is \$3.

Career Women

The National Association of Career Women will meet at 11:45 a.m. Tuesday, March 11, at Ernesto's Restaurant in Plymouth. Donna Marie, president of Donna Marie Consulting in Farmington Hills, will be the guest speaker. Call Brenda at (734) 462-4670.

Exchange Club

The Exchange Club will meet at noon, Wednesday, March 5, at the Brass Pointe Restaurant in Farmington Hills.

Northville Genealogical

The Northville Genealogical Society will meet at 2:30 Sunday, March 9 at the Northville District Library. Call (734) 595-7806.

SENIORS

Senior Tax Help

Tax help for the elderly will be available through April 15 at the following locations: 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills; or noon-2:30 p.m. Fridays at the downtown Farmington Library.

Senior Lunch

The Finnish Center in Farmington Hills offers lunch for seniors at a minimal cost beginning at noon the third Wednesday of the month. Call (248) 473-1857.

CLASSES

0350

Senior Talks
The Farmington Community Library will hold a Senior Synergy Discussion: *I Didn't Know I Could Lose My House*, 10:30 a.m.-noon Wednesday, March 12, at the Farmington Hills Library. Call (248) 553-0300.

CLASSES

Internet Travel Secrets

Learn all about Internet Travel Secrets 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, March 3, at the Farmington Hills Library. To register call (248) 553-0300.

Hawaii Jars

Create delicious Hawaiian Wedding Cookies layered like a rainbow inside a canning jar 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 5. Bring your own quart true canning jar with lid, cutting board, sharp knife, \$15 materials fee. Participants will also receive a book of exotic Hawaiian recipes and learn about traditional dishes that Hawaiians enjoy. For location and registration information call (248) 489-3333.

Parenting Bright Kids

The DELTA Gifted Department at Farmington Public Schools will offer a series of parenting classes for parents who want their bright children achieve in all aspects of their life. The sessions run 9:30-11 a.m. or 7:30-9 p.m. Mondays beginning March 3 through April 7 at the Farmington Training Center. To register call (248) 489-3399.

Home Selling

Get some tips on how to maintain and add value to your house, and sell in today's buyers market 1-4 p.m. Saturday, March 1, at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills. No cost. Call (248) 473-1816.

Builder's License

Prepare for the Michigan state builder's license examination 6-10 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 11-20 at the Farmington Community School. For more information call (248) 489-3333.

Basement Remodeling

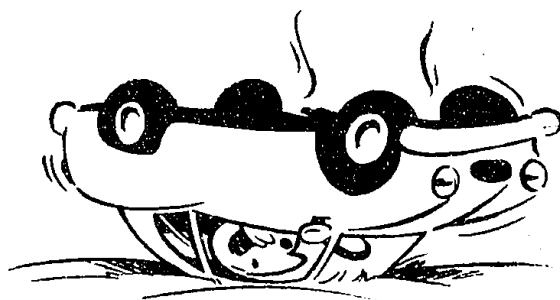
Make better use of your basement space and learn remodeling tips 6-9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, March 4 and 6 at the Farmington Community School on Shilawessee. To register call (248) 489-3333.

VOLUNTEER

Alzheimer's Volunteers

The Alzheimer's Association, Greater Michigan Chapter, Detroit Region is recruiting volunteers to assist with the In-Home Respite program. The next two-day training session will be held March 19 and 20. Call Ben Godanowski at 1-800-377-3827, Ext. 225.

Hello, Citizens?



When an accident turns your life upside down, your Citizens agent takes over. We understand how unsettling disruptions to your daily life can be — even if they're minor. Our pledge is to get you, your family, and your life back to normal as soon as possible.

Citizens Insurance Company of America has been providing auto, home, and business insurance to the people of Michigan since 1915. To find your local independent Citizens agent, look in the yellow pages or visit www.citizensinsurance.biz.

Discover the Benefits of Citizenship.

CITIZENS
INSURANCE

www.citizensinsurance.biz

