

## Teen musicians backed at FHS

# Boosters will persist in top-drawer manner

By LORAIN McCLISH

Young musicians from Farmington High School are getting ready to take take off for band camp, the every year end-of-August event sponsored by the school's Band Boosters.

"That's when we ride herd," said Nick Palice, who has been working all summer in preparation to begin his first season as the high school's music director this fall.

"We have to. There is not that much time on the calendar to shape up before we march out on that field for the first football game."

John Brubaker, newly elected president of Band Boosters, added "When Nick takes the band out on the field, the spectators want a show. In fact, they expect it."

Dedicated commitment by both parents and students have switched the look and sound of the marching band from what Katie Lipsky described as "a rag-tag bunch three or four years ago to a first class group of musicians."

Testimony of this came in the form of an invitation for the band to participate in the Miss America Parade this fall, but it was declined, Brubaker said. "For a little lack of money, a little lack of time and a change of directors. Maybe next year. The invitation still holds."

WITH HIS NEW position as Band Booster president, Brubaker inherited some old bills to be paid; a fund that has to reach the \$40,000 mark for new uniforms due to be replaced in a few years; and a host of goals that must be carried out "to maintain the band as the high class unit that it is."

Mrs. Lipsky's comment on this was: "There is a lot more to a marching band than gold braid and brass buttons."

The boosters plan, act as chaperons, and subsidize the band camp to the tune of about \$1,000; give scholarships, where needed, for band camp, school for drum majors, Blue Lakes Fine Arts Camp and Interlochen; help with fundraisers; check and, or, care for music, instruments and uniforms; buy whatever they can that the director feels is necessary.

Meanwhile, the students keep up practice all summer; some leave summer jobs early to attend band camp; are back a week before school starts when rehearsals step up pace in readiness for the first football game; and give up after-school time for practice.

BAND BOOSTERS raises its money operating Bingo games at the Founders Festival, and splitting Tag Day proceeds three ways with the music patrons of the two other high schools.

The minimal operating budget stands at \$2,000 a year, and that does not include additional funding set aside for specific purposes.

A music-shopping trip by Palice this

summer revealed that one new piece of music for the band would cost about \$300, and with those prices to be faced, Brubaker does not think the boosters

are going to be able to hack it by themselves.

Brubaker and Mrs. Lipsky were both adamant that the boosters were going to persist in a top-drawer manner, and to do this, more money was going to have to come from the board of education.

"I don't discount athletics, and the money that is spent there, but I also don't believe in tradition, and because we've been in the back seat for so long is no reason to stay there," Brubaker said. "The same tax dollar that is supporting other areas of education should be put in music education and I am willing to get involved in that kind of debate on the part of the parent organization with the powers that be."

GOALS THAT Palice has set for himself will add to what is already on the agenda for the new music director, as well as Band Boosters.

He wants to create a bigger feeding system into all areas of instrumental music into the school for symphony band, stage band, concert band and orchestra, coming from Power, East and Dunckel Junior High Schools.

"Just a few years ago nobody dreamed of the number of kids that would come up as music majors," he said.

But even so, he wants more youngsters to make music a big part of their lives.

His plan of action would be educat-

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age parents to encourage their children to stick with the arts.

"I want to keep more kids coming to us so we can keep upgrading. The high school band is no Mickey Mouse stuff. Our kids are playing the music now that the colleges were playing only a few years ago, and they (the colleges) keep upgrading constantly," Palice said.

"More kids are going into the music profession now than ever before, and I think a lot of this has to do with the professional attitude of the teachers and directors," Mrs. Lipsky said.

"Band used to be in the same class as recess. Now teachers are demanding the same kind of performance and tests demanded in chemistry and math."

PALICE IS a saxophonist and flutist who traveled as an entertainer for 15 years; then went to work as a substitute teacher for three years before deciding he wanted to make teaching his fulltime profession.

He worked in junior high schools in the Detroit area, the latest one, Power in Farmington, before his first go on the high school level.

His summer work, which has taken a minimum of three days a week, he says is all part of the job, getting ready for a total of about 30 performances he will be directing in the school year.



JOHN BRUBAKER

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—John Brubaker



KATIE LIPSKY

There is a lot more to a marching band than gold braid and brass buttons."

—Katie Lipsky



NICK PALICE

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—Nick Palice

## Greenhouse gardening

By MARGE ALPERN

Each year, good or poor growing season, the creative gardener experiments with new plants and new techniques. Through our experiments we undoubtedly learn more than we could from reading all the best books on gardening.

I'd like to pass on a few insights gained this summer.

First is the value of heavy mulching. It saves hours of weeding and watering. The leaf grinder is one of our valuable pieces of equipment.

Shredded leaves, primarily oak, were used to cover the wild flower garden, perennial and vegetable gardens last fall with extra mulch mounded as a mulch bank around the rhododendron and other shrubs and trees.

After the annual seedlings were well established in the garden in June, another batch of mulch was placed in the beds. A three inch cover kept the weeds to a minimum and even those that poked through were easily removed.

IT HELD MOISTURE, kept the ground cool and enriched the soil as it rotted away. This heavy mulching has transformed some of my areas into quite professional looking flower beds. I'm convinced it's more satisfying to start some annuals from seed than to buy seedlings. My favorite cut flowers—ginnias, marigolds and cosmos—were planted as seeds on May 30.

Z are now tall and vigorous. They began blooming just a week or so after the seedlings of the same type put in next to them as an experiment. Without the trauma of being transplanted, seeded plants develop a stronger root system and survive dry periods better than seedlings. These more vigorous plants produce blooms long after transplanted seedlings have given up and withered.

This year I learned to pass up the over-liferous hanging basket that looks so tempting for one that shows good vegetative growth in the early spring and just beginning to flower.

I see too many baskets of flowers and indoor plants, such as spider and wandering Jew, being sold in the garden centers just as they are ready to peak out. Such baskets can't maintain their beauty and bloom throughout the summer.

When judging a hanging basket, remember the amount of growth seen above the soil line is about equal to the mass of the root ball. So the more green you see, the more roots there are.

TO KEEP THE BASKET SHAPELY and full, pinch the long shoots back rather regularly. However, you can only cut back top growth for so long and continue to get blossoms. Eventu-

ally the container will have too many roots, too little soil and not be able to hold sufficient water. Next spring remember the biggest hanging basket may not be the best.

Hanging baskets require continual care, extra watering and frequent fertilizing.

The magic of white flowers in the shade garden is another discovery. No other color can be seen as well from a distance—day or night.

On the edge of the woods wimpypatiens sparkle against the dark background of trees and underbrush. The dwarf red salvia, which I hesitated to use there, is a lovely contrast. Of

course, they are not as full of bloom as they would be in a sunnier spot, but they are more than satisfactory.

Oriental poppies and peonies were exceptionally beautiful this spring. Because the weather was cool then we had a steady progression of cut flowers to be enjoyed in the house, instead of just one brief burst.

When cutting flowers, the aim is to help the stem maintain ability to take up water. To achieve this, cut the stem under warm water. Cold water at a cut stops the cells of the stem from taking up water. By making the cut under water, preferably with a serrated knife (scissors close the pas-

sage), you insure immediate uptake. Air bubbles or sealing film won't form. I place the stem in the divider between my two kitchen sinks and allow warm, not hot, water to run on it as I cut. Cutting the stem at an angle helps to expose more open surface.

IMMEDIATELY PLUNGE THE STEM into a deep container of warm water that comes up almost to the flower head. Place the container in a cool, dark place such as a garage or cellar for at least an hour, preferably overnight. This technique of conditioning or hardening, as it is called, is used by florists. It keeps the stems and

leaves crisp and prevents the flowers from opening.

Morning and evening are the best times to cut flowers. Stems and blossoms are filled with water and in good condition to survive. Avoid cutting during the heat of the day, the water is in the roots at that time. Some people carry a bucket of warm water into the garden to put cut flowers in.

I go through the cutting process again after the flowers are "hardened" before putting them in an appropriate vase. This time, however, I strip off the leaves beneath the water line.

WITH THIS TECHNIQUE, it isn't necessary to add chemicals. Oriental poppies lasted six days and

peonies a week when I repeated the warm water treatment every three days. Success became most apparent with a phalaenopsis orchid spray. I carelessly knocked over the plant in the greenhouse and broke the stem. Little did I realize then that the flowers would last three weeks with every bud maturing and opening.

This "under water" cutting method has worked equally well with roses, dahlias and daisies. It may not work for all kinds of stems, but I suggest you give it a try.

I delight in the beauty of my garden but the sense of discovery is pleasing too.

On the edge of the woods white impatiens sparkle against the dark background of trees and underbrush. The dwarf red salvia is a lovely contrast.



MARGE ALPERN

## Hadassah set to meet here

Metropolitan Detroit Chapter of Hadassah will have its opening meeting at 12:45 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 12 at Cong. Bnai David.

Guest speaker will be Dr. David Sidorsky, whose topic will be "Crises: Arab and Jew Together?" Dr. Sidorsky is a professor of philosophy at Columbia University and has been involved in Jewish communal activity on many different levels. He will give an update of the current Arab-Israeli political situation and of Arab-Jewish relations.

Chapter president Inge Kramer of Southfield will bring greetings and Vivian Berry of West Bloomfield will give the Invocation. Annette Mestkin of Southfield will give an update on Hadassah Medical Organization. Joan Provizer of Farmington Hills is vice-president of program and chairwoman of the day.

A Thrift Shop van will be on the premises for "gently used clothing" to be contributed.



HOME FASHIONS SALE

"Brittany Gardens" bed fashions... sprays of softly muted flowers on a ribbon trellis. In polyester/cotton percale, from Springmaid. Flat/litted sheets: twin \$6; full, \$7; queen, \$10; king, \$13. Pillowcases: standard, \$5 pair; king, \$6 pair. Bedspreads to match: twin, \$30; full, \$35; queen, \$40; dual, \$50.

Sale ends August 31, 1978.

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