

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1992

FARMINGTON NOTES

Dancing champions

The Northville-based Piazza Dance Company is making news again — and a Farmington Hills woman is leading the way. Michelle Esper, an instructor at the school and a Farmington Hills resident, received a gold medal for her lyrical routine to "Stormy Weather" to help Piazza Dance shine in the recent National Performing Arts competition in Orlando, Fla. The company raked in two gold medals, one special award for "Outstanding Musical Theatre Performance," one high silver award and two silver medals. "The girls all gave outstanding performances in Orlando," said Gina Piazza, co-owner and instructor. "I'm very proud of all of them."

Sports equipment sale

The North Farmington High School's All Sports Equipment Sale will be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31, at the school on 13 Mile Road just east of Farmington Road. People with items to sell should bring them to the school's front lobby from 2:30-5 p.m. Thursday, 2:30-7 p.m. Friday and 8-9 a.m. Saturday. Sellers will get 80 percent of the selling price and the sponsoring North Farmington senior class will get 20 percent. Some of the available items will be hockey sticks, ice skates, skis (downhill and cross country), sleds, toboggans, golf clubs and bowling balls. For more information, call the school at 489-3535.

Floral designer speaks

E laine Gunderson, a master floral designer, will be the guest speaker at a meeting of the Farmington Garden Club beginning with refreshments at noon on Monday, Nov. 2, at The Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road. Guests are welcome to attend. Gunderson, a gardening consultant who is qualified to judge flower shows, will speak on "The Basics of Flower Arranging." Chairwoman for the day will be Evelyn Kennedy, and Rose Smitka will provide the special table centerpiece. For more information about the event or the club, call Gerry Tobin at 478-9710.



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEHMAN

It's haunted: Gordon Eich, a Farmington Harrison High School junior, helps construct a haunted house to be enjoyed by younger subdivision kids.

Teens haunt house with the fright idea



A group of high school students are getting downright ghoulish in an attempt to help the younger kids have a safe — and fun — Halloween in a Farmington Hills subdivision.

BY MARY LOU SONG
STAFF WRITER

The ghost of the morgue-keeper wanders Farmington Hills on Halloween night, preying on innocent trick-or-treaters in search of his next torture victim. . .

At least that's how the story goes at the Haunted Morgue, a haunted house run by a group of high school students on Halloween night for area children.

For the second-straight year, James Haynes and his friends Gordon Eich and Steve Craine, all 16, are organizing the Haunted Morgue in the Haynes' backyard.

About 20 high school students are helping build and play characters in the Morgue. The Morgue begins with the Grim Reaper and a story (fictional, of course) of how the Haynes' house is built where a morgue once stood. The teens requested that not all the surprises be given away.

But the Haunted Morgue which is filled with things like people jumping out of dark corners and sound effects like a revving chainsaw (minus the chain).

While the Morgue will have a few special affects, Gordon says the Morgue doesn't depend on them for fright. James says the Haunted Morgue rivals haunted houses put together by adults.

"Adults don't know how to scare people," he said. "Adults are just not creative. Any crazy idea we have, we'll use it. We go more for the scare, surprise and suspense. If it's gory, it's not very scary."

Some adults may also lack these kids' sense of thrift. According to Gordon, the Haunted Morgue cost \$75 to put together. Most of the wood, cardboard and props were salvaged

from the garbage cans of neighbors. The costumes belong to Gordon and Steve, who dabble in film-making. "We do it for the Halloween spirit," Gordon said. "Ever since we were little, we were."

"Fanatics," Steve finished. Last year, trick-or-treaters were ringing the Haynes' doorbell and the Morgue was less than ready. Douglas Haynes, James' father, was assuring parents that the Morgue was appropriate for children and in the backyard, the teens were screaming at each other to get things organized.

That won't happen this year, James said. Details are being kinked out, and by Halloween night the Morgue will be, um, brought to life.

See HAUNT, 17A



Hobgoblins: Steve Craine (left), a Southfield-Lathrup junior, and James Haynes, a Harrison junior, prepare some Halloween fun.

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