

# Sounds at Schmidt

## Officials hope community tunes into auditorium

By MARIE CHESTNEY  
STAFF WRITER

If only the ghosts of Clarenceville's Louis E. Schmidt Auditorium could talk.

They'd tell of concerts and ballets, trumpeters and drummers.

They'd tell of names glistened in American music history: Harry James, Count Basie, Woody Herman, Stan Kenton, Glenn Miller.

They'd tell of the love affair Americans had in the '50s and '60s with big-band sounds and with that novel blend of American music, jazz.

The ghosts might even remember the night in 1974 when Buddy Rich brought his big-band machine to Clarenceville on his birthday and the students surprised him royally when they dropped hundreds of balloons on him from ports in the roof of the auditorium.

"This so surprised Buddy that the audience got a brief glimpse of the softly beneath the 'Peck's Bad Boy' guise he most often exhibits," a publicist wrote back then.

Those were the old days for the auditorium, named after Louis E. Schmidt, the district's superintendent from 1948-1966, who went on to become a state

lawmaker.

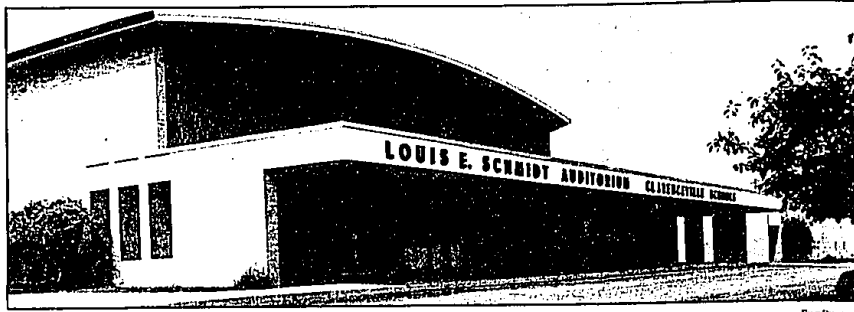
And Clarenceville would like to bring those days back, not necessarily this time with world-renowned musicians but with just plain folks who need a nice place to meet.

Once widely known throughout southeast Michigan as the place to be, the Schmidt Auditorium on Middlebolt Road next to Clarenceville High has in recent years sat lonely and forlorn. But no more, if school officials have their way.

"The auditorium was always a source of pride for Clarenceville, and we want to bring that back," said Cheryl McDonald, the school district's cable TV manager. "For a long time, it was the focal point of the Clarenceville community. Everybody knew about the Schmidt Auditorium. Once again, we want to make it a community auditorium. We want to encourage people to use it once again."

"To make that happen, the district held a "Grand Reopening" of the auditorium on Jan. 26.

Helping to kick off the new era for the auditorium was Wayne County Executive Ed McNunara and Oakland County Executive Brooks Patterson, both of whom



FILE PHOTO

Clarenceville facility: The auditorium is named after Louis E. Schmidt, the district's superintendent from 1948-1966, who went on to become a state lawmaker.

will have a lot to say not only about the future of Clarenceville but of the whole southeast Michigan area.

The "Grand Reopening" featured a reception and a "Town Hall" talk by the two county executives. The reception and talk

were the first of many town hall meetings the district plans to hold in the auditorium in the months and years ahead.

"In the 1960s the auditorium helped put Clarenceville on the map," said Rose Gozig, the district's continuing education man-

ager. "It's now the '90s and time to bring back that same enthusiastic use."

The modern auditorium, which features some of the finest acoustics in the tri-county area, seats about 1,000 people. There are full stage crews, and dressing, practice

and reception rooms are available. To rent the auditorium for a business meeting or special event, call Gozig at 473-8933.

The Clarenceville District includes the southeastern section of Farmington Hills.

### OBITUARIES

#### VLASTA STICKNEY

Mrs. Stickney, 82, of Farmington Hills died Nov. 20 in Bataford Hospital, Farmington Hills.

Born in Karlin, Mich., Mrs. Stickney was a homemaker.

Survivors include her son, Kenneth; daughters, Ruth Barker, Lois Edwards and Maxine DeLauder; six grandchildren.

Services were at the Centralline Funeral Home, Northville, with the Rev. Douglas W. Vernon officiating. Burial was in Oakland Hills Cemetery, Novi.

#### NANCY JEWELL WINTERS

Mrs. Winters, 83, of Farmington Hills died Jan. 30.

Born in Gracey, Ky., Mrs. Winters was a homemaker.

Survivors include her daughters, Laura Kathryn Winters, Mary Jo McCalley, Norma Jean Gostomeki, Judy Niewiecki and Nancy Davis; sons, Buck Scott and Steven; five sisters; several grandchildren and several great-grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

Services were Feb. 2 at the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Harry R. Winters Jr. of Akron Christian Reformed Church officiating. Burial was in Parkview Memorial Cemetery, Livonia.

#### ROBERTA ANN LAUDERBACK-SCHNEIDER

Mrs. Lauderback-Schneider, 51, of Highland died Jan. 31.

Mrs. Lauderback-Schneider, who was born in Detroit and grew up in Farmington, was a self-employed hairdresser.

Survivors include her husband, Joseph; sons, Christian and Andy; daughters, Wendy and Amy; mother, Marion Schreiber.

Services were Feb. 3 at the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Victor Halboth of Grace Lutheran Church officiating. Burial was in Ottawa Park Mausoleum, Waterford.

#### MERLE F. VALADE

Mr. Valade, 76, of Farmington Hills died Jan. 30.

Born in River Rouge, Mr. Valade was a chemical engineer. He was a member of the Society of Automotive Engineers and the Knights of Columbus.

Survivors include his wife, Vera; sons, Jerry, Brian, Lee Gregory, Alan and step-daughters, Sharon Gallo, Susan Bur, Mary Levin and Laura Valade; sister, Rita Sheeham; 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mass was celebrated in St. Fabian Catholic Church, Farmington Hills. Arrangements were made by the McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington Hills.

#### ANN L. HANNA

Mrs. Hanna, 86, of Farmington died Feb. 2.

Born in Medina, New York, Mrs. Hanna was a shipping clerk and keypunch operator at Westward Washing Machine Co. She retired after 20 years.

Survivors include her son, Harold McDonald; step-sons, Neil and Samuel Hanna; daughter, Ruth Scanlon; step-daughters, Katherine Kur, Jane Storski and Jacalyn Spal; many grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

Mass was celebrated Feb. 4 at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, with the Rev. William Tyndall officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. Memorials may be made to the Livonia Heart Fund.

Arrangements were made by the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

#### SISTER MARY LA SALETTE RUDDY

Sister Ruddy, 81, of Farmington Hills died Feb. 2.

Born in Ruthven, Iowa, Sister Ruddy was a nurse at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. Since 1985 she was a patient visitor of the rehabilitation unit, Sioux City, Iowa; Marion Health Center, administrative assistant 1979-1985; St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, hospital administrator 1968-1979; St. Joseph Mercy Hospital operating room supervisor 1963-1968; Mount St. Mary's Hospital in Detroit, administrator 1957-1963; supervisor of nurse anesthetists 1951-1957.

She is survived by many nieces and nephews.

Services were Feb. 3 at McAuley Center in Farmington Hills. Mass was celebrated at McAuley Center Mercy Chapel.

Arrangements were made by the McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington Hills.

### LWV offers information

Looking for information about state government? The League of Women Voters has a toll-free telephone service (1-800-292-5823) that may be helpful.

The league's Citizen Information Center in Lansing offers to help people find out about such things as pending legislation, the state constitution, election laws,

voicing regulations or tax information.

The telephone is answered from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays.

The telephone service is paid for by the league's education fund. The League of Women Voters is a non-profit organization that works to keep voters interested and informed about governmental issues.

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