

'Swing into Spring' Sunday

The Farmington Community Band's March concert — "Swing into Spring" — will take place at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 26, in the auditorium of Harrison High School on 12 Mile Road between Orchard Lake and Middlebelt roads.

Light, spring-oriented music will be played. For more information about the Farmington Community Band, call 476-5014 or 489-3412.

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Purim praise: Botsford Continuing Health Center music therapist Rose Morgan (center) has plenty of praise for volunteers (from left) Itzik Prikupets, Pearl Biber, Stefa Kupfer and Susan Kraus. They brought a Purim celebration to the center's residents.

Purim at center: service, gifts, pastry

For more than 25 years the Jewish residents of Botsford Continuing Health Center have enjoyed celebrations during the holidays.
 Pearl Biber, a Bingham Farms resident and volunteer, wouldn't have it any other way.
 On March 14, Biber continued the tradition by organizing a Purim service for residents of the Farmington Hills long-term care facility.

Purim, which began last Wednesday, marks the deliverance of the Jews from a massacre in the 6th Century B.C.
 After Rabbi Chaim Bergstein delivered the message of Purim and presented a gathering of residents with gifts, Biber joined with fellow volunteers Stefa Kupfer, Susan Kraus and Natalie Sunshine to serve the residents matzahs (a traditional Purim pastry), apple juice and fruit.

Accordianist Itzik Prikupets also provided his upbeat music for residents, as he has for many years.
 Biber and her volunteers are members of Ahava Chesed Bikor-Cholem (Jewish Visiting Service). They not only visit Botsford Continuing Health Center during the holidays but also make personal visits with residents twice a month.
 "Volunteering is a rewarding experience," said Biber. "It has

brought me lifelong friends."
 Rose Morgan, the center's music therapist, has witnessed the work of Biber since she began volunteering there.
 "Pearl is wonderful," said Morgan. "We're extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated and caring volunteer. The residents love her."
 Botsford Continuing Health Center is a Medicare-Medicaid certified facility.

Hills employees Finnish lunch with pasties

Thursday, March 16, they were wearing the green — and purple — at the Farmington Hills City Complex on 11 Mile at Orchard Lake.
 No, city employees weren't celebrating St. Patrick's Day early. Thanks to the efforts of Community Development Coordinator Rick Lampi, the more than 150 people who gathered in council chambers to chow down on pasties and to celebrate St. Urho's

Day, were taking part in a Finnish tradition.
 Lampi, who started the tradition to honor the Finnish saint seven years ago, said the colors have significance. There are St. Urho T-shirts and banners in the colors and employees were wearing them on everything from ties to shoes.
 "St. Urho chased the grasshoppers out of Finland,"

said Lampi, who is of Finnish descent. "That stopped them from eating the grapes that were used to make wine. He is just legendary."
 And why the green and purple? You guessed it. The grasshoppers were green and the wine grapes were purple.
 And why the pasties? Lampi isn't saying, but it might be that the meat pies famous in Michi-

gan's Upper Peninsula are associated with the relatively large number of Finns who settled the area. Lampi hails from Southfield.
 But some of the anxious looks at city hall at noon were there because the delicacies were a little late arriving from Redford. But Lampi, like his patron saint, was redeemed as the pasties arrived, still warm, at city hall.

Local program has meals, but needs wheels

The Meals on Wheels program has enough meals — but is short on wheels — in Farmington and Farmington Hills.
 Diane Gaydek, spokeswoman for the program based at the Farmington Hills Activities Center, said two drivers had to take time off because of injuries and that several new clients have been referred to the federally subsidized program.

"Usually we get more people into the program in the fall, when the weather turns cold," Gaydek said. "They tend not to want to go out in the colder weather when it's more dangerous (for falling)."
 "But we've had a real influx of referrals," she said. "We want to add another route but we can't unless we use our substitute drivers. Then we wouldn't have them

for backup."
 The Meals program at the activities center now includes 13 routes. Volunteer drivers bring hot and cold meals to senior citizens who need them five days a week, but also deliver extra meals for holidays. The program serves about 145 seniors.
 "We've had eight new referrals in the last couple of days," Gaydek said. "I don't know why we've

had so many all of a sudden."
 Although many drivers are retired senior citizens, woman with children who attend school and people who have flexible work schedules also participate in the program.
 Anyone interested in volunteering or needing more information about the program should call the program at 473-1825.



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UPDATE ON: Obstetrics & Gynecology

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Presented by **James Stubbs, Jr., M.D.**