

Bands wow 'em at invite

BY DIANE HANSON
SPECIAL WRITER

The Farmington High School "Falcon" Marching Band and the Harrison High School Marching Band put on outstanding shows at the Great Lakes Invitational held at the Plymouth Canton Educational Park Saturday.

Thirty bands performed in Flights I, II, III and IV, determined by school enrollment, not band size. The bands' seven- to 11-minute shows were a pageant of color, dance, drama and music.

Farmington High's band, under the direction of Norman Logan, took eighth place with a score of 75.75 in Flight II with a performance of "All That Jazz."

"The Music of Jethro Tull" was the theme of Harrison band's performance that netted them first place honors for Flight III with a score of 87.25, and caption awards for Best Percussion, Best Winds, Best Marching and Manoeuvring and Best Auxiliary in Flight III.

"They've been working really, really hard this week," said Harrison director, Mark Phillips of his students. "I'm just really pleased with the way they performed."

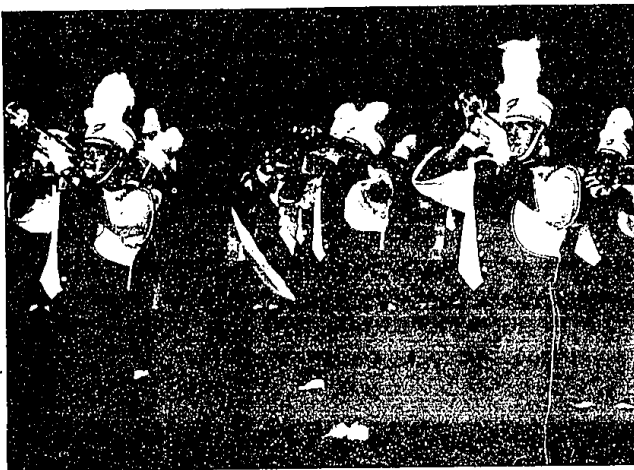
The Farmington marchers gave it their all as well.

"We've rehearsed a lot," said junior saxophone player, Jeff Barrett. Sophomore flutist Pam Ringstrom said: "I have never felt so good about a performance before."

Logan agreed.

"We felt the students did an awesome job," Logan said. He said that although the Falcon band missed the final cut for the state championships by just one-half of a percentage point, they have an exciting trip in their future.

The band will travel to England and Scotland in November to perform in the London Christmas Parade and at locations in



On form: The Farmington High band, under the direction of Norman Logan, took eighth place with a score of 75.75 in Flight II with a performance of "All That Jazz." The band missed the cut for the state championship by half a percentage point, but looks forward to a European trip that includes visits to England and Scotland.

Scotland.

"It's very exciting," said Logan. His band traveled to Indianapolis Nov. 13-15 for the Bands of America Grand National Championships.

The Harrison marchers will also travel to Indianapolis Nov. 13-15 for the Bands of America Grand National Championships.

Both bands have put in many hours of practice and performance with rehearsals every weekday and much of Saturday. Football games, pep rallies and other events add more practice time for the dedicated players.

According to Harrison sophomore tuba player, Stephen Ziemba, to be in the marching band takes "commitment. You have to be able to do all your stuff you want to do in a smaller amount of time. You really have to give up your free time so you can be in the band."

Then he added, "It's worth it."



Tull order: Harrison High solo flutist Anne Yambor leads the performance as the band performs the music of Jethro Tull.

No tax break for Hills senior housing project

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A developer seeking a tax break for an "affordable" senior housing project will have to try again.

Farmington Hills City Council turned down the request by Grand River Estates for payment in lieu of taxes status, which has been granted to three other senior apartment complexes in the city.

Council members voted 6-1 to reject the proposal. Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi dissented, saying he'd like to give the developer a chance to modify the proposal. The proponent can bring the matter before them again, council members said.

Muirwood Enclave would provide 120 units for seniors on the north side of Grand River, west of Drake. But council members didn't agree with the developer's definition of "affordable."

An attorney for the developer, The Bestak Companies, said rent for a one-bedroom unit would be in the high \$700s and a two-bedroom unit in the high \$800s. That doesn't include utilities, he added.

Anyone who can afford nearly \$800 to \$900 a month for rent before utilities, "is not the targeted person we need to be assisting in this community," said Councilman Jon Grant.

Council members said they could sign on to the plan if the

rent was more in the \$500-a-month range. Building costs are much higher today, the attorney said.

"All I'm asking you to do is the same as you do for your other developers," said Mark Sturges, Grand River Estates attorney. "If you're asking for \$500 a month rent, I just cannot do that; it's just not feasible."

Tiapiola Village, Freedom Square and Carrington Place have payment in lieu of taxes status. Instead of paying property taxes, the city would have received 4-percent of the rents collected at Muirwood Enclave.

The city would receive \$50,000 in revenue, which is \$40,000 more than it would get without the project, the developer said. Farmington Public Schools, through such an abatement, would lose \$52,000.

"I dislike tax abatements immensely," Barnett said. "It affects the schools and how they're funded."

Grand River Estates would be regulated through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority and HUD, and be limited in terms of profit. That doesn't provide rent control, council members said. Rents as well as who lives there is up to local management.

"I know what we're giving up... but I don't see what you're giving," said Nancy Bates, Hills councilwoman.

NOTABLES

Alumni board of directors

Howard Weber of Farmington Hills has been elected to the board of directors of the 22,000 member Alumni Association of Lawrence Technological University. The directors are responsible for guiding the association's variety of social, cultural and educational programs.

Weber is a retired master mechanic B.O.C. at GMC Livonia Engine Plant. He has been active for several years in the Lawrence Tech open house and reunion committees, and has participated in the Support Team of Alumni in Recruitment of Students program.

Engineer reappointed

Jeffrey Weston of Farmington Hills has been reappointed to

the Michigan Underground Storage Tank Financial Assurance Policy Board by Governor John Engler. He will review requests for money from the fund to repair leaking underground storage tank facilities. Weston is a district engineer for the Amoco Oil Co.

Mercy honors

Mercy High School in Farmington Hills will honor staff members Marjory Capodilupo and Douglas Engler as National Honor Society Advisers of the Year on Oct. 22.

Capodilupo lives in Livonia and is a member of the science department. Engler heads the counseling department and lives in Rochester. Both have taught at Mercy High for 25 years.

POLICE AND FIRE CALLS

The following are some of the police and fire incidents in the Farmington and Farmington Hills area during the past week.

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

In Farmington Hills: A store owner called police when a repair technician at IBE Computer Repair found nude pictures of children on a unit brought in to be fixed Sept. 12. The repair tech found 100 files of male and female children between ages of 6-16 engaged in various sex acts, including intercourse. Police confiscated the computer, which is believed to be owned by a Farmington Hills male, 16.

GUN FOUND

In Farmington Hills: A Bob Sellers Pontiac/GMC manager called police after finding a 38-caliber revolver underneath the seat of a vehicle rented to a 73-year-old Livonia man Oct. 17. The man told police the weapon is an English Army issue Whitley revolver recovered from a dead German soldier during the Battle of the Bulge. He told police the weapon was never registered.

THEFT

In Farmington Hills: A \$2,500 50-inch color TV, \$2,500 personal computer and \$500 stereo system were stolen from a Crestforest residence Oct. 17. The homeowner believes a cousin is responsible.

Three bikes and returnable bottles were stolen from a garage at a Tulane residence Oct. 18. The homeowner told the owners of the bikes to the nearby 7-Eleven where they saw two teenage boys with the stolen property. The pair fled, leaving the bikes behind. The third bike was later found on a lawn of a Tulane residence.

A gas weed trimmer, gas glower, three hydraulic floor jacks, three roll battery chargers, a \$4,000 recovery/chair station, 21-speed mountain bike, electronic typewriter, air compressor and two battery chargers were among the items stolen from the service area at Bill Cook Buick on Grand River between Oct. 11-13.

A \$400 gold necklace, \$350 woman's wrist watch and three sets of bed sheets were stolen from an Orchard Place Condominium residence Oct. 17.

Police arrested a 19-, 18- and 16-year-old after a person called and said two teens, including one wearing a Red Wings jersey, were checking out cars in the parking lot at Strawberry Lane Apartments Oct. 19. Police stopped a 1995 Chrysler LeBaron on Middlebelt north of 12 Mile and found three cellular phone antennae and hood ornaments.

A \$1,600 set of golf clubs was stolen from a 1984 Ford truck parked at Richard Tool and Die on Grand River Oct. 18.

A Farmington Public Schools bus driver had \$370 stolen from her purse while on her route Oct. 14.

IN FARMINGTON:

A Farmington resident in the 31000 block of Marblehead told officers someone, between 7 p.m. Friday and 4 p.m. Saturday, stole a gray, cement goose dressed in a Halloween outfit from the front porch. It was valued at about \$100.

AUTO THEFT

In Farmington Hills: A \$25,000 red 1997 Ford F-250 truck was stolen from an Ontaga residence between Oct. 17-18. A 1989 Plymouth Horizon and \$100 cash were stolen from a White Lake Township man at the Grand Tulane Motel on Grand River Oct. 18. The man said he met a woman while shopping at a supermarket Oct. 16 and spent the next two days together. The pair checked into the motel. When the man awoke, his vehicle and money along with the woman were gone.

MINORS WITH ALCOHOL

In Farmington: Farmington officers, about 4:40 a.m. Sunday, noticed a suspicious 1988 Chevrolet Cavalier, with two occupants, parked in the west side of a parking lot in the 31000 block of Shiawassee. While police were approaching the vehicle, a white male was seen walking away from it. A 20-year-old Farmington Hills woman remained in the car, sitting in the driver's seat.

An officer went up to the man, a 20-year-old from Farmington, and noticed the strong odor of intoxicants coming from him as he spoke. The man, whose eyes were also glossy and bloodshot, told police he had drunk a few shots of alcohol. A blood-alcohol test was given, which registered .13. He was issued a misdemeanor citation for being a minor in possession of alcohol.

PEDESTRIAN HIT

In Farmington Hills:

A Waterford man was taken to Botsford Hospital with a possible broken leg after he was hit by a 1995 Dodge Neon in the parking lot in front of Lohman's on Orchard Lake at 2:45 p.m. Oct. 18. The driver was ticketed for driving with his license revoked.

PEDICURIST DUPED

In Farmington:

A purse containing \$800 or \$900 in cash and other valuables was reportedly taken about 11:45 a.m. Saturday from Nails Attitude, 1616 Grand River.

According to public safety reports, a customer asked the employee to get her a tub of hot water for a pedicure. Upon returning with the water, the customer was gone, having told someone else she left to get some polish.

The employee then discovered her purse (valued at \$50) was missing. Inside the purse was business money which the employee had not found time to put into the cash register. The purse also contained miscellaneous credit cards, and a 19-karat woman's gold necklace with a rhinestone, valued at approximately \$200.

The customer was described as black, 5-foot-7, 110 pounds, in her late 20s, wearing a black pantsuit, brown blouse and shoes.

PEPPER SPRAYED

In Farmington Hills:

Police had to use pepper spray to subdue a 37-year-old Farmington Hills man after he struggled with officers on Springbrook Oct. 20. Police were called by the man's mother who said his son

It's Fall Family FunCentral at Fairlane Town Center

A full weekend of music, magic,
laughing and dancing!

This weekend, Fairlane is the place to be for family-friendly entertainment. Kids can make something unique with Arts & Scraps...learn to tap dance with the Center for Creative Studies...and enjoy spectacular entertainment for parents and kids alike!

What's happening this Saturday, October 25:



4:30 & 6:30 pm

**Doug Scheer's
Spooktacular
Halloween Show**

Live magic show provides
thrills and excitement for
the entire family.

For a full schedule of Fall Family FunCentral activities,
call Fairlane at 1-800-992-9500

Southfield Freeway at Michigan Avenue in Dearborn
Open 10 am to 9 pm Monday through Saturday, Sunday 11 am to 6 pm

FAIRLANE TOWN CENTER

Please see POLICE CALLS, A10