

'Don't worry about winning' led Harrison to honors

By TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
tsmith@ecce.com

"Do your best; don't worry about winning."

According to Harrison High School Marching Band Director Mark Phillips, that was the extent of his advice to the band before it captured the Michigan Competing Bands Association Flight III State Championship Oct. 30 at the Pontiac Silverdome.

The formula worked perfectly. "We really went there and emphasized doing the best we could do," said Phillips during the Tuesday, Nov. 30 Farmington Board of Education meeting, where the band was honored. "So that when we walked off the field, we would know we did the best we could" no matter the outcome.

The band was honored during the "Evidence of Excellence" portion of the meeting, at the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center.

Besides Phillips, representing the band at the school board meeting were Harrison music teacher and assistant band director Joannie Benson and two

students: drum major Mike Garvey and clarinetist Katie Perry. Seating them was Superintendent Bob Maxfield, who attended the Silverdome competition.

"All three (high) schools justifiably should be proud of what they accomplished this year," Maxfield said. "At Harrison, it was special, though."

The band earned top marks for Best Marching, Best Music and Best General Effect for its per-

formance of music from "Hair."

A videotaped segment was played for the board's behalf, drawing applause from the school officials. It featured music

such as "Aquarius," late '60s attire (tie-dyed shirts, for example) and concluded with the band's formation of a peace sign.

Phillips and Garvey both commented on the band's winning despite being displaced from Harrison last spring and summer during bond issue construction. The band resurfaced during that period at Beechview Elementary School, and its 123 members practiced at several other locations.

"That (Beechview) was our home for the summer," Phillips said, "we had several rehearsals (the) month before we went to camp. And then, when we came

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back, the parking lot was gone. We were literally rotating."

Garvey, a senior, said "It would have been a lot easier to give in this year" because of the displacement. "But we made it work."

Board President Priscilla Brouillette presented the honored guests with certificates.

Civic

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Details of the unvelving weekend were finalized by the city council Monday night, during a special meeting with Denise Tawyes and Suzanne Paul, who are heading up publicity efforts for the big event. (The council is officially hosting the grand reopening weekend.)

Both agreed with Hartscock about the importance of ensuring that all citizens could participate if they wanted to.

"The council wanted to make sure ticket prices were affordable to the general public and that all festivities would be available," Tawyes said. "That's why there's more than just the gala evening."

Following are some of the highlights on the schedule:

■ Ticket prices will be 25 cents for adults and 10 cents for those 12 years old and under, for both Friday and Sunday screenings. Movies will be contemporary titles, and will be shown at usual times.

■ An auction of classic theater memorabilia is set for 11 a.m. Saturday for the first 268 people who arrive. Admission into the auction is free.

■ The biggest highlight of the weekend is the Saturday, Jan. 8, Civic gala. Tickets (priced at \$50 each) must be purchased in person at the offices of Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff, 23800 Liberty Street. They will be available beginning Thursday, Dec. 9, on a first-come, first-served basis, and must be paid for by check or cash. There only will be available seating for 268 patrons.

"Since it is a limited number of tickets, and because we really feel a lot of people are going to want to attend, we want to be as fair as possible," said Paul about how the tickets will be sold. "Also, the mail is unrollable at holiday time ... and this will just mean less room for error."

■ The gala will also include a "vintage" movie, the unvelving of the Civic Theatre mural - which is currently being created in the lobby - cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at Legato (next to the Civic) and valet parking.

Meanwhile, according to Paul, the gala will be "a festive and dressy affair" with attendees encouraged to wear 1940s-style clothing.

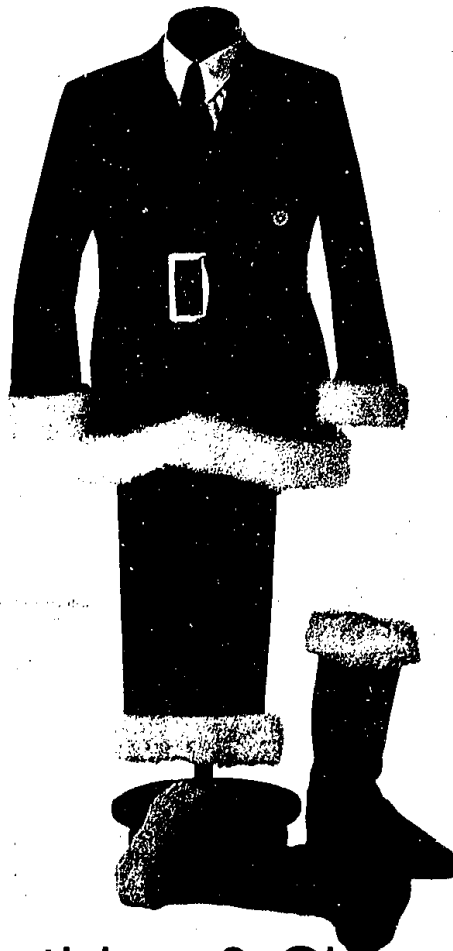
Also spurring enthusiasm is the auction of items, such as 50 original theater seats, a wall sign exclaiming "Betty Boop Says 'Please, No Smoking'" and a large, Tiffany-style "Drink Coca-Cola" ceiling light fixture.

Proceeds from the auction will help the Civic with continuing renovations.

"Anybody who has been a loyal attendee of the theater, we hope they will attend," Tawyes said. "We're sort of starting new memories. But there's a lot of old memories connected with the theater."

For more information contact Suzanne Paul at (248) 477-8548, or Denise Tawyes at (248) 478-8600.

(Everyone needs a new look for the holidays!)



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