

CHAT ROOM



May Arvo

Sweetest Day - a 'Grand Night for Music'

When the historic home now known as Longacre House was given to our community 30 years ago, it included an ornate Weber piano. Unfortunately, it was never able to hold a tune very long and was not a candidate for restoration. Several years ago, the Farmington Musicale donated seed money to obtain a suitable instrument for the sort of elegant music programs that the ambience and acoustics of Longacre House provided an ideal setting for.

The Farmington Musicale is a member of the Michigan Federation of Music Clubs and the National Federation of Music Clubs, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. It has become the largest philanthropic music organization in the world. The Farmington Musicale's purpose is to develop the musical talent of its members, foster musical talent in young people, encourage high musical standards and stimulate musical interest in the community.

In order to foster musical talent in young people, the club holds a music scholarship competition each spring. Besides presenting awards to winners, it also presents first place winners in concert and provides them other opportunities to perform. As a part of our endeavor to encourage music, some years ago we made a gift

Please see CHAT ROOM, B2

Indian lore

YMCA program fosters parent-child relationship

■ An interactive program based on Native American values promises to bond child and parent in this offering from the YMCA.



BY KATHIE O'DONOHUE
SPECIAL WRITER

If you're searching for something to do with your child after school, envision this: an activity involving parents and children that weaves together recreation, entertainment, education and a generous helping of good old fun.

Some Farmington area parents and children believe they have found such a winning combo in the Indian Guide program at the Farmington YMCA.

Lesley Weber has participated in the program for the last few years and "really enjoys it." A mom-daughter combination is termed "Indian Maidens" and each tribe - consisting of about 10 mother-daughter combinations - chooses an authentic Indian name. Weber's tribe is the "Naptapony."

Weber became interested in the Farmington Y-Indian Guide program after her husband and son participated in the Livonia Y program. Watching their involvement grow and how much fun they had, she decided to try it with her daughter, Stephanie, 8.

"What I enjoy most is the personal one-on-one time with my daughter," Weber says. Stephanie's favorite part is "going on campouts and staying in cabins."

"It's also nice to be with other moms and their daughters. You get out of it what you put into it. You are free to choose or turn down any activity," Weber continued. "One advantage about this program is, it's fair. All the moms get involved as opposed to one leader."



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

Drumbeats: Jessica Mehalic beats the tribe's tom-tom before the ceremony of the talking feather.

Weber would recommend the program to "anyone who's interested in spending quality time with their child in a structured setting."

There is a monthly meeting and craft session, each held at a member's home on a rotating basis. There is one activity per month as well as activities, such as camping, trips to water parks, horseback riding, sledding, paddleboat races and pine car derbies.

Through the Indian program, friendships form, sometimes enduring permanently. Coincidentally the phrase "Friends Always" appears on the

group's manual and seems to aptly describe the program.

There are five branches of Y-Indian Guides, Y-Papoose for a preschool child and parent, Y-Indian Princesses for fathers and daughters; Y-Indian Maidens for mothers and daughters; Y-Indian Braves for mothers and sons, and Y-Indian Guides for fathers and sons.

A recent offshoot is the "Trailblazers" program for older children who have participated and wish to continue. Indian Princess is the most popular program.

Participants wear traditional head-

bands and vests and earn badges and accomplishments. At certain levels in the federation hierarchy, full feather headresses are worn. Candle-lighting ceremonies, a variety of nature crafts, holiday parties, charitable work, even devotional songs inspired by Native Americans are part of the program.

Why a Native American-based program? Established in 1926 in St. Louis, Mo., the first Y-Indian Guide program was developed to support parents' vital role as teachers, counselors and friends

Please see YMCA, B2

STATE FARM ALERT:

YOU CAN HELP PREVENT FROZEN PIPES.

Here are a few tips to help you avoid the unpleasant consequences of burst pipes:

- DISCONNECT garden hoses from outdoor faucets.
- SHUT OFF and drain water supply to outdoor faucets.
- INSULATE pipes in your crawl space and attic.
- WRAP approved heat tape around vulnerable pipes.
- LEAVE cabinet doors open beneath sink to let in warm air if pipes aren't insulated.
- LEAVE the heat set no lower than 55 degrees Fahrenheit/12 degrees Celsius to discourage pipe freezing when you're away.
- Ask a neighbor to check your house daily.
- KEEP water dripping from the faucet farthest from your home's main water line. Shut off and drain water supply if leaving for the winter season. (Be aware this will deactivate your fire protection sprinkler system.)



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