

Still time to sign up for Memorial parade

BY SUE BUCK
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Farmington will host its annual Memorial Day parade Monday with a representation from the oldest veteran to the youngest Cub Scout.

The parade begins at 10 a.m. at the Grives-Walker American Legion Post #346, 31775 Grand River and proceeds west to Veterans Memorial Park at Oakland and Grand River.

A memorial service at 11:15 a.m. will be followed by an open house for veterans at the post, with presentation of awards and committee plans for future projects.

"The Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion Posts #346 and #180 will again honor those men and women who have given their most precious gift to their country their lives," said Wally Christensen, parade chairman.

"It will always be the duty of those who have served to honor all who have made this supreme sacrifice."

Christensen, a Korean War veteran, has been parade

chairman for 25 years and a participant for 40 years.

"This year's parade will honor all of the Korean-era veterans on the 51st Anniversary of the Korean War, a three-year commemoration along with Vietnam-era veterans on their 26th Anniversary," he said. "A special tribute to our young veterans from Desert Storm who will be celebrating their 10th Anniversary will also be held."

Christensen was finalizing speakers for the service this week. Farmington Mayor William Hartsock and Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates will participate.

Farmington High School is the lead band this year. Farmington, North Farmington and Harrison bands rotate the position annually.

It's also not too late to sign up for the parade, Christensen said. He's particularly interested in anyone with antique cars and convertibles, but any group may apply right up to the first drum beat.

Contact Christensen at (248) 474-8554.

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a mile away from the Players Barn and used to wonder about it as they drove by. After contacting a troupe member, they attended their first play - "The Reluctant Debutante" by William Douglas Home - and signed up.

"You got in front of a live audience, got a little applause and you got hooked," Bill said.

That was also the case for the Salisbury's daughter, Lisa Muscio. Her stage credits could actually be counted before she was born, because Jan was involved with a show while she was pregnant.

Now Lisa's a director, tackling a production of "Once Upon a Mattress" in the Players' 2001-2002 season. A graduate of North Farmington High and theater minor in college, she is a full-time mom and owns Reunions Made Easy, a company that helps people organize class reunions. She believes her love of the theater and desire to direct came from being raised in an acting family.

"I've been in a lot of past musicals. It was a chance to put my experience into a show. It's such a good feeling to be on stage."

Lisa's daughter, Lauryn, extends the family tradition to three generations. The nine-year-old Forest Elementary student may have a hard time putting her feelings into words, but she loves to act and enjoys working with others on stage. "It's cool," she said, with a bright smile.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL HERRICK

Acting Troupe: Three generation thespians Lisa Muscio, her daughter Lauryn Muscio and Grandmother Jan Salisbury gathered to watch the barn razing. Lisa, who will direct a production this spring, literally grew up at the Player's Barn.

The Salisbury and Muscio families watched with mixed emotions as a demolition team from North American Dismantling tore into the barn, careful to preserve siding, which will be recycled. But at least one Barn veteran wasn't really sad to see it go.

"Doesn't bother me a bit," said Don Briggs, a member since 1953. "That's progress."

Briggs' wife Perle, who died last summer, was among the pioneers who organized the Players, with financing from the Association of University Women, he said. They started out in a red barn located closer to a two-lane gravel road that is now 12 Mile then rented the big, white barn.

Don spent most of his time backstage building sets but also appeared on stage. His first role was that of a policeman in "The Red-Haired Man." Perle directed the troupe's first performance in the Barn, "The Grass Harp," an adaptation of a novel by Truman Capote.

After two years of using the stage at Farmington High, members donated \$1,000 each to buy the barn property. They spent another two years renovating the inside of the building. The flooring was tricky, Briggs said.

"They had to put in a floor, and that took some work, because there was an 18-inch slope," he said. "That took care of the waste from the cattle."

While Griggs has been very involved with the Players, he had to spend time at home taking care of Perle while the new barn project began. Still, he has had a strong hand in the organization and looks forward to seeing the new facility, which has been designed with an early 20th century barn exterior though the interior will be handicapped-accessible and contain modern production resources.

"I felt all along sooner or later we'd have to do something if we were going to grow," Griggs said. After the demolition debris is cleared, sewer, water and storm drains will be installed. Barn project director Phil Hadley said site engineering approvals are expected soon. In the meantime, the 2001-2002 season will be hosted again by Barnes & Noble bookstore on Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield.

Hadley, who met his wife through the Players, stood with about 20 or 30 on-lookers who saw the first big bite come out of the barn.

"Everybody was standing here with their mouths open," he said. "There were tears, smiles, even some cheers. It was bitter-sweet."

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STAFF PHOTO BY BILL HERRICK

Capture the moment: Shannon Sniderman stays warm as Beth Egan Bradke makes a few photographic memories.

Lottery winners rake in a million

The six members of an anonymous lottery club from Farmington Hills are a little richer after winning a top prize in the Michigan Lottery's "Viva Las Vegas" Instant Game.

A representative for the lottery club said she was "shocked and surprised" to learn the instant ticket they held was worth \$1 million.

"I almost had a heart attack when I scratched the ticket off," the club's representative said. "I called the other members to tell them the good news. Everyone was happy." She added that all of the lottery club members work about 70 hours a week.

The winning lottery ticket was purchased at Van Horn Market, Inc., in Woodhaven.