

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL HERRICK

Instruction: Art teacher Mary Schmidt teaches her young charges how to draw a pig.

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but for us, it's "We're a house," he said. "It makes us unique, but also a challenge."

"That challenge is preserving a piece of Farmington area history, but also making it useful to the people who live here, Ferreri said."

"The once known community center still offers classes that improve the lives of people through art and culture, as was its mission statement 33 years ago when the house and grounds were donated to the city by the Goodenough family."

For Ferreri, who handles several roles, scheduling programs and classes that are interesting to residents is his main job. "Some work and some don't," he said of class themes.

"Everything we do we have to justify the space," Ferreri said of the mansion, which has hosted everything from belly dancing classes to piano lessons. There's also a banquet hall. "We're our own entity."

For Ferreri, keeping the house useful is a way to preserve an important piece of local history and help people in the community enjoy their lives.

"We're rare because people don't really respect history," he said. "When something's gone, it's gone, people don't think about it."

Keeping a nonprofit afloat is a challenge, as it is with any other charitable organization that tries to stay alive.

"It's a constant struggle to keep it together," he said.

Terry Deichert, acting director, serves on the board of directors for the house. She said about half of the house's budget relies on donations.

Since the September terrorist attacks, donations have fallen drastically, as have those for most nonprofits.

"We have a handful of volunteers," she said of trying to run the house without enough funds. "You can only put so much on

other people."

An important event coming up that helps keep the house open is its largest fund-raiser of the year, "Some Enchanted Evening," Sunday, April 14.

The event will include a bachelor auction, live and silent auctions, champagne raffle, appetizers and hors d'oeuvres.

Ferreri said the auction is vital. The organization sent out 4,300 letters to area residents and businesses requesting donations to be auctioned at the event.

People and businesses "can donate items, anything they think of as a service," he said.

Deichert said the auction brought in \$10,000 last year. The funds from this year's event will go toward the operating budget.

To donate items for the auction or learn more about the Longacre House, call them at (248) 477-8404.



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Jaycees invite kids to annual egg hunt

Farmington Area Jaycees is hosting its annual 47th Spring Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 23 at Heritage Park at no cost.

The event will start at 10:00 a.m. and end at 12:00 p.m. Included will be Egg Hunts

divided into age groups: Ages 1-3 at 10:15 a.m.; 4-6 at 10:30 a.m. and 7 & up at 10:45 a.m. There will also be raffle drawings, face painting, a coloring contest and card making for loved ones.

The Junior Chamber (Jaycees)

is a not-for-profit volunteer organization that serves the community by hosting a wide variety of projects, including the Holiday Tree Lighting, Needy Children's Shopping Spree and Thanksgiving Day Baskets.

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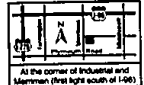
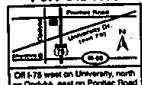
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