

THE FARMINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER
FARMINGTON
32737 West Twelve Mile Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48334-3302

BT (F)
Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, January 9, 2003

Hot tickets

In concert

Watch Nan Washburn direct the Canton Chamber Orchestra and listen to the group play baroque music at 8 p.m. Saturday at St. Thomas & Becket Church in Canton, and at 3 p.m. Sunday at Northville High School.



47600 Six Mile. The orchestra, a small ensemble of the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra, will play Baroque Treasures - Suite No. 1, Sonata, Dido & Aeneas & Brandenburg Concerto No. 1. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for students, and are available at the door or through Northville Parks and Recreation, 700 West Baseline, Northville. Call Northville Parks and Recreation at (248) 349-0203.

At the movies

The Redford Theatre is showing the 1971 film *Diamonds Are Forever*, starring Jill St. John and Sean Connery, at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, with a Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. There will be organ overtures at 1:30 p.m. Saturday and 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Tickets are \$2. The theatre is located at 17360 Lakeshore, south of Seven Mile in Detroit. (313) 258-5806.

On stage

Jeff Miller of Belleville (left) and Marc Rosati of Royal Oak rehearse for *The Player's Guild of Dearborn's The Odd Couple*. The show



runs Friday through Sunday, Jan. 26, at the Players Guild of Dearborn Theatre, 21730 Madison, Dearborn. Shows are at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$11. All seats are reserved. (313) 561-1815.

Quick change

Calch Arturo Brachetti, Jan. 14 through Feb. 2 at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit. The quick change artist portrays 100 characters in 100 minutes. Tickets range from \$23-\$48. Performances are at 8 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, 2 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday. (248) 645-6666.



Candida Morell (played by Laurie Paton) is flattered by the attention of Eugene Marchbanks (a young homeless poet played by Mike Shara). The relationship tests her marriage to a minister in the romantic comedy *Candida* by George Bernard Shaw.

Shaw Festival

Renowned repertory company takes up residence in Rochester

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Gregg Bloomfield knew when he contacted the Canadian Consulate in December 2001 about bringing one of the country's renowned repertory companies to Meadow Brook Theatre it would be a long road to Rochester, not only in distance traveled but red tape unraveled.

Undaunted, the MBT managing director set his sights on presenting a nearly four-week residency by the Shaw Festival and never looked back.

This was the first time in the 36-year history of the professional theater that another company took the stage in Rochester. *Candida*, George Bernard Shaw's romantic comedy, continues to Sunday, Feb. 2.

The residency marks a milestone for the Shaw Festival as well. It's been years since one of North America's largest repertory companies took to the road. Dedicated to producing works written by Shaw and his contemporaries, the company maintains a hectic season from April to November, presenting up to a dozen plays at three different theaters in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.

The Rochester residency follows performances of *Candida* at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa and the Shaw theatre 20 minutes from Niagara Falls.

"Shaw is one of the most acclaimed theater festivals in North America with a renowned company of actors, designers, directors but is less known than



The Reverend is reminded by his wife, Candida (Laurie Paton), and assistant (Todd Witham) that the congregation is not always in attendance to hear his wise words.

the Stratford Festival because of the greater driving distance," said Bloomfield, a Birmingham resident.

"In the future, we'd like to continue bringing other companies to our stage. I just never realized the preparation involved including filling out an application with U.S. Immigration & Naturalization for the 14-member company so they could all get across the border and have their white card to work in this country. The biggest challenge has been all the logistics with planning, the housing for six actors and staff, scheduling residency activities, and moving the set. Shaw tech director Jeff Scollon came a year ago to see the facility and take measurements. They took MBT into account for the set design. We have a smaller loading door than

SHAW FESTIVAL OF CANADA

What: The renowned repertory company takes up residence for a nearly four-week run of the George Bernard Shaw comedy *Candida*

When: Through Sunday, Feb. 2. Curtain times are 8 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, 2 p.m. matinee Wednesday, Saturday-Sunday, 6 p.m. Saturday, and 6:30 p.m. Sunday

Where: Meadow Brook Theatre on the Oakland University campus, Rochester

Tickets: \$24-\$38. Call (248) 377-3300; group sales (248) 370-3316

PLEASE SEE SHAW, B3

Carvers rev up chain saws for competitions

So what does it take to carve a world-class ice sculpture? As a judge for the Plymouth International Ice Sculpture



Artistic Expressions
Linda Chomin

Spectacular for three years in the late 1990s, I learned it takes more than warm boots and gloves - although they really help when the wind chill pushes the temperature down to 32 degrees below zero.

Standing for hours on snow-covered grass in Kellogg Park or cement in the underground parking structure on Harvey and Ann Arbor Trail takes stamina, the same as with any sport. But ice-carving also takes talent. It is, after all, an art form. Creativity, good design, strong lines - those are the elements that make up an award-winning sculpture, at least according to guidelines set up by the American Culinary Federation.

Organizers of the Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular follow those rules to select gold, silver and bronze medal winners among the professionals, students and amateurs every January. This year judges will award \$6,000 in prizes between Wednesday, Jan. 15 and Monday, Jan. 20.

Canton carver Ted Wakar has experienced both ends of the competition. A graduate of Franklin High School in Livonia, he and partner Jim Bur Jr. carved a sculpture that won them first place in the world championships in Japan in 1996. He's frequently asked to judge based on his 23 years of carving gold medal sculptures.

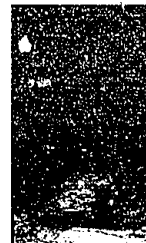
Now he mostly teaches ice carving in the culinary department at Schoolcraft College in Livonia in between running his business, Frozen Images, in Plymouth. Wakar carves commissioned pieces for events and organizations such as the North American International Auto Show, Detroit

PLEASE SEE ICE, B3

PLYMOUTH ICE SCULPTURE SPECTACULAR

What: The 21st annual event features professional, student and amateur carvers competing for \$6,000 in prizes, a Fantasyland spotlighting characters from the cinema, 100 street sculptures, Whalers Charity Shoutout. All events are free except for fundraiser listed below.

When: Wednesday-Monday, Jan. 15-20



Where: Kellogg Park, Main and Ann Arbor Trail, and the Central Parking Structure on Harvey and Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth.

For more information, call (734) 459-9157 or visit the Web site at www.waltuspinc.com

Ice Odyssey: Dinner dance and auction to raise funds for the spectacular 7-11 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17, at Northville Hills Golf Course. Tickets \$100, and available

by calling (734) 459-6969 or (734) 459-9970

Wawel dishes up Polish comfort food

BY ELEANOR HEALD
CORRESPONDENT

Today's restaurant buzz term is comfort food. The very mention of which conjures up something different in each person's mind, mostly dependent on family background and traditions. To many people, comfort food is Polish.

The kitchen was the comfort spot in their grandparents' home. Grandma, who learned to cook from her mother, continues to pass on heirloom Polish recipes.

I can still taste my grandmother's version of boiled, then pan-fried pierogi with



Dorota Kaninski (center) serves Shirley Bittner (left) and her daughter, Kluczy Bittner, at Wawel, in Troy.

PLEASE SEE WAWEL, B6

WAWEL

Where: 2975 E. Maple in the American Polish Cultural Center, Troy (248) 689-3636.

Open: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Wednesday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday

Food style: Authentic Polish dishes and a few American-style.

Cost: \$2.50-\$9

Entertainment: Wednesday 5-8 p.m. accordion music. Friday 5-9 p.m. piano and violin music

Beverages: Draft, imported and domestic beers and cocktails

Ballet Shoes or Wing Tips?

Make no difference as long as you take care to put your feet up, get comfortable and spend time with us.