

NEWS

City Band to unveil new march tune on Monday

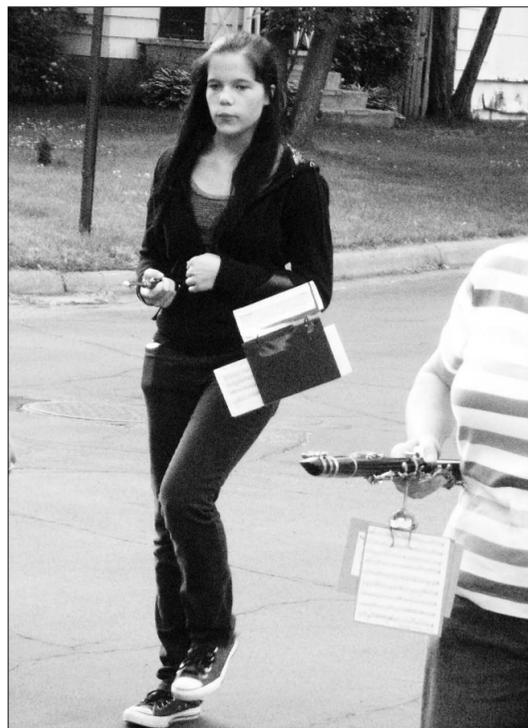


Photo by Cliff Buchan

Maddie Haylock, a junior to be at Forest Lake High School is learning traditional marching band music and marching steps with the city band.

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celebration sponsors will judge parade units.

The number will feature three piccolo players, two adults and one of the Forest Lake High School music students who joined the city band this summer. Adults Richelle Nicosi and Allison Hursh will team with Forest Lake junior Maddie Haylock for the number.

The 2011 band will include a balance of veteran players and new blood.

Drummer Jacob O'Neill is bringing his talents from the high school ranks, along with tuba player Jake Matheson (a veteran of past city band parades) and flute players Haylock, Katrina Hodges and Danielle Ihfe. Both Matheson and Ihfe will have double duty on parade day as they will also play the combined Forest Lake Junior High School Marching Band which has opened its ranks to high school students who wish to march in the summer.

Haylock joined after being motivated by Steve Hursh during a visit to the school earlier this year. "I like playing and I love marching," she said.

"I'm pretty happy. The band is getting bigger. The people in the band are all really nice."

She has been playing the flute and the piccolo since the sixth-grade. Haylock says she is having so much fun this summer that she plans to march in both the city band and the junior high band next summer.

The adult ranks include musicians from far and wide. New this year is Mary Livingston who plays euphonium. She is the music director with the Capital City Wind Ensemble in St. Paul.

A Key Year

The band will make the march in honor of its 30th anniversary. The band was founded in 1981 and that time was primarily an alumni band with the goal of offering members an opportunity to continue to make music after their high school or college years.

The band that will hit the streets on July 4 will have a spattering of the old guard.

As many as 25 of the musicians who were part of the 100 city band members from the 1980s and 1990s will be back. The band has recruited eight new adult players this year as it continues to open its doors to anyone from the area who is interested in traditional marching band music.

Its musical ranks will

reach 60 players and may go as high as 70, said Steve Hursh, one of the band's founders.

In keeping with its roots, retired high school band director and former city band mentor, Rollin Nelson, will be with the band on Monday. He'll ride in a golf cart provided by Castletown Golf Course.

The band's march on July 4 is being dedicated to the late Brenda Houle Borash, a longtime city band member, who died from cancer during the past year.

The band will have its final tune-up tonight (Thursday). The band kicks off its practices in the parking lot of the American Legion and 355 W. Broadway Ave.

Hursh is excited about the band's new energy and the desire of many of the old guard members to take their turn once again.

"It's not just the city band that's banding together to add the music and the color to our July 4th parade and celebration," Hursh said. "What's really going to complete our celebration is a combination of hard work and effort from Southwest Junior High band director Phil Raaens, from our new high school band director Barry Zumwalde, and from the students and parents who are supporting the high school drum line. So, the city band salutes our junior high band, the senior high band, and our very talented drum line."

"We are also proud to welcome to the city band a few of the student members of these organizations. We're very proud of those students who will be with us on July 4th!"

"When you think about it, country-wide there are junior and senior high music programs, bands, orchestras and drum lines that begin to instill in students the love of creating and playing music. It's the efforts of the Rollie Nelsons, the Rich Hahns, the Phil Raaens and the Barry Zumwalde that also need to be recognized! Because of their efforts, many students go on to play in colleges and universities, not because they are required to play, but because they are inspired to play!"

"It's this desire to play music — possibly in a marching band, that may inspire a student to one day be part of carrying on patriotic, musical tradition, like playing in a community or city band as an adult. We have at least 60 of these former students, that will be proudly hitting the streets with the Forest Lake City Marching Band this July 4th!"

State warns county to stay out of its right-of-way on Broadway

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Sandberg explained the county has found alternatives to certify 100 percent of the materials, being there will be no state inspectors available. There's also concern that shuttering the state could have an impact in that suppliers may shutdown, resulting in potential material shortages.

"We're still at risk," he said.

The county could still perform work on the corridor just for the state to not accept those improvements and not provide reimbursement if the local agencies take on responsibilities for oversight. Of a \$41 million "Mega Project," \$16.4 million is slated for Broadway Avenue.

The federal government is funneling \$10.5 million in funding through the state. Sandberg said there's good news; the county has a financial plan in place to

cash flow the project.

However, he said costs for suspending work could be greater than \$2 million and would be bore by the county and city. There's no additional money to offset that, Sandberg said.

Important Dates

The contractor is anticipating NW 1st Avenue, the north side backage road to Broadway businesses, will be open by the Fourth of July.

In addition, the Hardwood Creek Pedestrian Bridge will be open temporarily, with chain-link fencing, from July 1-4 and will close again on the 5th. It will be ready for use by the end of next month.

The council set a workshop for 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 6 to discuss the process for hiring a new city administrator. Department heads formalized a plan on who would attend to those duties while that position is vacant. It was agreed by staff that Ellen Paulseth,

finance director, would fulfill the role of management team leader.

"The most pressing issue on an interim level is how the city's going to run," said Mayor Chris Johnson.

Councilwoman Jackie McNamara said the matrix is very balanced and workable.

"I respect what you've done," she added.

The council also ratified the Police Civil Service Commission's recommendation to appoint Sgt. Rick Peterson as the interim director of public safety at the Step 3 salary range. Clark Quiring's last day as police chief was this Tuesday, June 28.

Johnson said it speaks volumes for Peterson that Quiring and all three other department sergeants endorsed him.

"I'm pleased we're going to be able to have that smooth transition," the mayor said.

With full confidence in Peterson, Johnson said

there's a need to have a game plan for going forward.

Jim Trudeau, member of the police commission and a former police chief here, said they'll be looking within and outside Forest Lake.

Johnson said he'd like Councilman Jim DuFour to be a part of the civil service's meetings as he is the liaison. McNamara said they would need to consider the domino effect that would have if they promoted someone to chief from within the department.

Johnson expressed his gratitude to Quiring's nearly eight years as top cop in the city. They're both members of the Forest Lake Rotary Club. Johnson said he keeps hearing the same words to describe Quiring: Straight-shooter and honorable. He's been an asset to the community, Johnson said.

Bill Olson will headline Olson family parade duty

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ties this year, he'll return to the judges' viewing stand on Broadway to watch the remainder of the parade.

Wisconsin Native

Olson is a Balsam Lake, WI, native who landed in the Forest Lake area in 1954 when Olson Sewer Service was started in the Coon Lake area. In 1967 the Olsons moved to their current location on the border between Columbus and Forest Lake.

Olson was just 17 when he and four pals from Balsam Lake signed up for the military before completing high school. He followed a brother who had left school early to join the Navy. Three uncles had gone off to service and a fourth uncle was a veteran of World War I.

"I felt it was something I could contribute to my country," he said. "It was one of the smarter things that I did."

He served two years in the Navy, assigned to the submarine ship tender U.S.S. Howard W. Gilmore. Olson spent most of his duty time stationed in Key West, FL as a re-

placement seaman for those who were leaving the military as World War II wound down. He is classified as a World War II veteran.

The military did not prevent Olson from finishing high school. He took general education classes while in the Navy, but when the courses weren't accepted back home, he did the next best thing. He went back to high school.

He needed a little over a year to complete his high school requirements. Because of his age, he could not compete in some sports, but used his love of basketball to work as a junior high coach. He was a catcher for one year on the high school baseball team in the spring of his return from the military.

Returning home was a bonus, he said, as it brought him back to his future wife, Verna Marie Strandberg.

They married in 1953 and Olson went to work as a mechanic for Fruehauf Trailer Company in St. Paul. It was a year later when he called on his experience working with his father in the plumbing and sewer installing

business to start his own company.

Even then military service was important.

Olson was a charter member of the VFW Post in Centuria, WI, but like many from the area, was forced to move in the early 1950s to find work. Centuria's loss was Forest Lake's gain.

Always Busy

Olson began his involvement in the Forest Lake VFW Post after moving to the current home place on Elmcrest Avenue. He now has more than 40 years of duty with Post 4210 and has been an active member of both the VFW and Legion clubs.

If the combined color guard or rifle squad needs help, Olson will pick up a flag or a rifle and do his part.

It has been a time of honors for Bill Olson, too.

In 2010 he was presented with an honorary FFA Chapter Degree for his work in the Voice of Democracy contest. In 2010-2011, he was named the Forest Lake High School wrestling fan of the year.

His retirement from the business 17 years ago allowed Olson more time to hunt and fish and work

at his hobbies. He enjoys woodworking and collects and restores John Deere tractors. He is a member of the Almelund Threshing Club, Pheasants Forever and the Forest Lake Sportsmen's Club.

Special Holiday

The Fourth of July has always been a special holiday and this one will mean even more, he said.

"It's something I've enjoyed all my life," he said.

The family gatherings that he enjoyed as a kid in Balsam Lake continued in his adult life. For many years, the Olsons would host large holiday gatherings, often with more than 100 family members and friends turning out at their home in Columbus.

There will be time this year, too, for family gatherings and social events, along with his Legion duties.

While the parade will see a good number of Olsons next Monday, look for the smiling man with his two favorite granddaughters in the horse-drawn carriage. That's Bill Olson, the guy wearing the grand marshal's hat.

Forest Lake Times File Photo

There is something for everyone at Forest Lake Fourth of July parade. Even big old hound dogs and families love the parade which goes rain or shine at 10 a.m. on Monday, July 4.

