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Club Phred concert to benefit historic steam-car museum

Show will feature rocker Mark Farner

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Fred Dawson, a longtime Marshall Steam Museum supporter, and his band Club Phred will perform at the Auburn Heights Preserve on July 23. Mark Farner of Grand Funk Railroad will join them. / COURTESY OF CLUB PHRED

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Club Phred, a Delaware band that takes pride in raising money for good causes, to benefit the Marshall Steam Museum in Yorklyn.

Joining Club Phred for the Saturday, July 23, concert at the Auburn Heights Preserve will be rocker Mark Farner, formerly of Grand Funk Railroad.

The concert is the first major fundraiser for the

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museum at 3000 Creek Road (Del. 82), which has what has been called the world's largest collection of Stanley Steamers and other steam- and electric-powered vehicles.

The site is operated by the nonprofit Friends of Auburn Heights Preserve in a partnership with Delaware State Parks.

Club Phred has raised more than \$2 million for Delaware charities, said Susan Randolph, executive director of the nonprofit museum and its volunteer friends support group.

The outdoor concert will support the museum and treat guests to food and beverages, a silent auction of donations from local businesses, museum entry and tours of the Auburn Heights mansion's first floor.

Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the gate. The concert is 2:30-4 p.m., with gates open at 12:30. Rain date is July 24, advance tickets non-refundable.

Tickets are available online at www.AuburnHeights.org or the friends' office at 239-2385 or admin@AuburnHeights.org. Friends members get a \$5 discount on advance tickets only.

The concert is not the historic site's first tie to Club Phred. Its leader, Fred Dawson, is a longtime member and contributor, Randolph said.

When the friends group asked Dawson if his band could perform for the museum's first major fund-raiser, she said in a statement, "we had no idea where that idea would lead." Where it led was Dawson immediately recruiting his famous friend, Randolph said. "When Fred jumps in, he goes all in," she said.

Randolph also saw a tie between Farner, whose rock band took its name from Michigan's little-known Grand Trunk Railroad, and the preserve, with its one-eighth-scale Auburn Valley Railroad.

Contact robin brown at 324-2856 or rbrown@delawareonline.com.

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Written by
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While its events are growing, attracting mainly families with children, Randolph said, "this concert offers us the chance to introduce our historic treasures and phenomenal site to a new and more mature audience."

Concert proceeds will support the museum mission of educating the public about "an American way of life that flourished at the dawn of the automotive age and preserving historic steam technology," she said.

Although opened to the public as "The Magic Age of Steam," the unique enclave, historic mansion and steam-car collection were private property until 2003.

That year, owner Thomas Marshall -- whose late father, Clarence, amassed its world-class collection -- worked out an agreement to transfer the collection and sell the land to the state.

Marshall formed "the Steam Team" of volunteers in 1997 to pass along the legacy and knowledge of the vehicles and the Steam

Parks and Recreation.

Learn more about the site, including programs and volunteer opportunities, at www.AuburnHeights.org.

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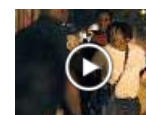
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