

Band offers their love of music to help charitable causes

By Harry Kyle
The Southington Citizen

One group had a McCartney, while the other has a McCartney. That's probably the only difference you'll notice when you go to see a local musical group called #9, playing the music of the Beatles, the world-famous British rock group that had Paul McCartney as one of the Fab Four.

The local band, featuring among its members Southington's Rich McCartney, will appear tonight, Friday, June 30, along with the remaining seven members of #9 at the First

Congregational Church on the Green in Southington to support the church's work in the community. The show is scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m., and a free-will offering will be accepted. Refreshments will also be available.

A CONFUSING NAME

The roots of the band's name, which is somewhat confusing since there are only eight members in the group, can be traced to an obscure song on what may be Beatles trivia lovers' most favorite album. The song appeared on what is often referred to as the White Album, but which most

Beatles buffs remember as the group's only self-titled album.

The most popular song on that record was "Revolution," but another song on it called "Revolution # 9" caught the group's eye.

"It was sort of an audio performance-art type of song performed by John Lennon," McCartney said, "and we felt it symbolized the way the Beatles took chances. That seemed to be a good name for our band, since that's what we feel we do."

According to McCartney, the group plays all sorts of popular music, as well as Beatles tribute tunes. "They had such

an impact on the world," McCartney said, "and their music is fun to play."

McCartney, who plays rhythm guitar and sings vocals with the group, said #9 began when two of the members met playing softball in the town league.

"They began playing together, and, one by one, the rest of us got involved. Now we get together once every two months or so and just jam," he said.

One of the members, Geo Filipides, who is the only member of #9 who doesn't reside in town, was involved with the Parent Leadership Training Institute in Meriden, where he lives. PLTI is a 20-week pro-

gram to help build leadership skills in parents who want to become involved as volunteers.

Filipides was trying to help the music program in the Meriden schools deal with budget cuts.

"He asked us to come down and play," McCartney said, "and we did two benefits for the Benjamin Franklin Elementary School in Meriden in support of their cultural arts program, and rose close to \$2,000 for the cause. We never had any performance goals, but after that rewarding experience, we decided if we were going to perform we would only do it for charitable causes."

Five of the eight band members have been involved with the Passion Play at St. Thomas

See Band, page 13

Band

Continued from page 4

Church and the contemporary group at the First Congregational Church on the Green.

"I think that background really helps us to focus on and feel humble about the musical talents we've been given," McCartney said, "and we want to help by enabling those who need it to profit from them. If we never do another event, we will know we will have made a little bit of a difference in someone's life."

WHAT'S NEXT

But that possibility will have to wait for a while, since the group has two other appearances scheduled this year.

On Saturday, July 29, they will perform at the Mountain Grove Club to benefit Bread for Life, Southington's soup kitchen and food pantry. Then, on Sept. 16, they will be one of the acts appearing at the Twin Angel Folk Festival at the YMCA's Camp Sloper and Outdoor Center to help efforts re-



Photo by Tony Falco

The local Beatles tribute band #9 will appear at the First Congregational Church Friday night, June 30 in a benefit for the church. The members are, from left, Geo Filipides, Ken Sullivan, Ralph Bushnell, Ted Andrzejczuk, Bob Glick, Chip Hulten and Rich McCartney. Not pictured is fellow band member Tony Falco, who took the photo.

garding Twin to Twin Transfusion Syndrome, a blood disorder that affects twins.

There is no admission charge for the events, but free-

will offerings will be accepted.

Anyone interested in having the group perform at a charitable event can call McCartney at (860) 620-0678.

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