

The Plaza Arts Center is going high-tech. Well, sort of. Starting Monday, August 3 you will be able to purchase tickets online through our website (theplazaartscenter.com) or by going directly to tix.com and putting in the name of the event. Tickets for the Swingin' Medallions concert on August 22 are available as well as the Manhattan String Quartet on September 19. Now that may not sound all that exciting to you but for me it's a big step in a long process of getting us technologically up to speed.

One of my main responsibilities has been getting our website up and running and for those of you with the same daunting task you know that it's just not that simple. Fortunately, I finally found Marty Phillips, our TechKnow Guru, and he's brought us lightyears forward from our initial start-up efforts. It's no small thing to, first of all, define who you are and how you want to portray yourself on your website but then to begin gathering the information, files, photos, archives, details, etc that need to actually go on the site. All I had was the domain name, which is of no value unless it's uploaded and has 'gone live'.

Marty is a very busy fellow and I know why: because guys with his talent and tenacity are hard to come by and he's in huge demand. Those of us who rely on Marty greatly appreciate his talent and, while I want him to be successful, I hope everyone doesn't call him at once; I still need him to have time for my calls. At any rate, we've got the website cranking and we keep finding more fun ways to utilize it.

One new way is with video emails and more video clips on the site. Did you get my first video email about the Good Vibrations concert last Saturday? While the concert was great fun and everyone had a good time, I had a blast 'filming' my first video email and hope to fine tune our future editions. Thanks to my new Flip camcorder (the size of a cell phone with two hours of recording time) you'll be able to see the fun you missed by going to our website to see a video of the crowd grooving to Mustang Sally (a few folks were really busting some moves).

I'll have the video camera on hand starting August 3 when Camp Broadway gets underway. A few spaces are left for children of both age groups and, rest assured, they are going to have an amazing experience. I know a drama and music camp may not sound like your child's thing but, if nothing else, it will help inspire self confidence and prepare them for life. So what if they aren't truly Broadway material? Then again, what if they were?

We've been fortunate to have some wonderful performances so far but I have to tell you, I'm more excited than usual about having the Swingin' Medallions here. Maybe it's my age, but their music just makes me feel good all over and I expect a lot of you feel that way too, so plan on some serious partying the night of August 22. We'll have frozen margaritas and beer for sale again but bring whatever makes you happy.

Our Plaza Partners and E-PAF members have gotten a pretty good jump on selecting their seats for the Manhattan String Quartet's rare appearance in a town like ours. Even if you think you've heard enough string music to last you a lifetime, you will not likely have many opportunities to witness music of such a caliber and I encourage you to be there.

Don't forget that you can purchase tickets online now and we hope you will do so.

See you at The Plaza.