

Good Times

StepSaver THE OBSERVER

•Calendar...page 29

•Kids' Play...page 31

•Critters...page 35

Our Night on the Town

Good works, good music, that's Number Nine

By JESSICA KASTNER
STAFF WRITER

Southington's tribute band Number 9 may jam out the best of the Beatles, but player Rich McCarty the group is not your average cover band.

His reasons extend beyond the fact that the group has more than four band members, or that they play the more unique songs like "I am the Walrus." Unlike most other bands, they'll only play for charity.

"We've all received the gift of music and we want to do our best to give back to others in need," McCarty said. "We all have our careers and families that we can't take time out from to do this all the time, but we all can use our gifts to give something back."

So far the band has played gigs for the Benjamin Franklin Elementary School music program in Meriden, where they raised close to \$2,000. The next concert will happen on Friday, June 30 at the First Congregational Church, with another concert happening on July 29 to possibly benefit Bread for Life.

The eight-member band's focus on community is not hard to believe, looking at their roots.

They might be livening up the stages on the weekends, but on Sunday morning, six of the members can be found on stage performing contemporary worship at the First Congregational Church.

The group began playing together during down times about three years ago, playing on the back porch or basement on some weekend nights. Before long, eight members were jamming regularly, but they've only recently decided to turn their jam sessions into the real thing.

With Ted Adnrezejczuk, Ralph Bushnell, Tony Falco, Geo Filipedes, Bob Glick, Chip Hulthen and Ken Sullivan ready to bring back the magic of the Beatles, McCarty said he looks forward to bringing a special treat to Beatles fans.

"I think anyone who's in that plus-40 range grew up listening

to Beatles albums. We've all been there, pretending to be George, John, Paul or Ringo, playing the guitar with the tennis racket," McCarty said. "But we don't want to be a look alike or sound alike band, we want to use different ways to make it sound interesting."

The group's goal is towards uniqueness coincides with their

name, "Number 9" which is the name of the ninth track, "Revolution Number 9" on the Beatles' White Album. The song is long, eclectic mix of sounds and sound clips.

"It's a very experimental, which is how our band approaches music," McCarty said.

Since most members have played in other bands or performed in the past, he said members are not nervous, but more excited about swapping the back porch or basement for a stage.

"It's must been a phenomenal experience for all of us," McCarty said.

Friday's concert is free, but a good will offering will be accepted.