

Farmington celebrates 14th annual Festival

An elephant ride, games and food galore, and fireworks are among the many attractions offered during this year's 14th annual Farmington Founders Festival.

More than 75 events are planned in the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills for the popular five-day event, scheduled for July 26-30 this year.

Mayors of both cities have proclaimed the week as "Founders Festival Week," inviting all residents and neighbors to participate in the activities. Four highlights of the festival are the Miss Farmington 1978 Scholarship Pageant, the annual parade, fireworks and Sunday-in-the-Park.

Twelve young women who are residents of either Farmington or Farmington Hills will vie for the title of Miss Farmington at 7 p.m., July 26 in Vladimir's, located on Grand River west of Eight Mile. Contestants will compete in talent, swim suit, and on-stage personality categories before a panel of judges.

Patricia Fallon is the director of pageant this year. Dorlisa Ann LaMarra, who was third runner-up in the Miss Michigan 1978 pageant and winner of the state talent competition, will hand over her Miss Farmington crown to the new winner. Miss Farmington 1978 will be presented to the community at 9:30 p.m., July 26, in Farmington's downtown center at Grand River and Farmington Road.

Musical entertainment will be provided by the Franklin Village Band, which is performing for the 14th consecutive year at this special presentation.

THIS YEAR'S festival parade promises to be bigger and better than ever, according to parade chairwoman Susan Miramoni. Scores of colorful floats and talented units will march down Grand River beginning at 10 a.m., July 29. Governor William Milliken will lead the parade as grand marshal.

Competition and awards are planned in numerous categories, and judges will award trophies to the winning categories at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday during the Festival Showmobile in the downtown center. The parade begins

at the Farmington Plaza at Grand River and Orchard Lake Road. Vibrant bursts of color will fill the evening skies at 10 p.m., July 29, for the annual festival fireworks scheduled for the Oakland Community College campus. The Metropolitan Bank League of Farmington and the Farmington Hills Police department are sponsoring the event. A parachute jump demonstration by the Parahawks will precede the fireworks display at 9 p.m.

The parachute jump is a first for the festival and promises to be an attention-getter. Parking is available on the OCC campus.

Sunday-in-the-Park, one of the most popular events during the festival, will be a fun-filled family day at the Farmington City Park located on Shiawassee and Power Road. The day's activities begin at 10 a.m., July 30, capping the festival. The Bike Celebration will draw families to three sites to begin the ride to City Park, including Drake Park, the Grand River Drive-in and the OCC campus. Police officers will be on hand to direct traffic to the park. When the bicyclists arrive at City Park at noon, prize drawings will begin the day's events.

THE FARMINGTON and Hills City Councils will battle it out on the softball diamond at 1 p.m., Sunday, July 30. Judges Michael Hand and Margaret Schaefer will umpire the game as teams composed of council members, spouses, and city officials vie for the city challenge title.

Other events planned for Sunday-in-the-Park include an autograph session with Detroit Tiger All-Star Jason Thompson, games for children and adults, a treasure hunt and gong show. The Clarenceville Players will perform at 6 p.m. that evening in City Park.

Other festival activities include the popular "Eke's" car cross in downtown Farmington Center; the crafters' corner at the Masonic Temple on the corner of Grand River and Farmington Road, a bingo tent, pony and elephant rides, gymnastic exhibitions, pie baking contest, puppet and magic shows, and ice cream socials.

THE CHILDREN'S Art-In, square dancing and juke demonstrations, the

Community Center's antique sale, the Farmington Police auction, barber-shop singing by the Sweet Adelines, the Oakland County Barbershop Chorus, and the Wayne-Wonderland Chorus also will be on hand.

A complete list of activities and time scheduling is included in the Farmington Founders Festival calendar available at Farmington City Hall and the Farmington Chamber of Commerce located in the Masonic Temple

in downtown Farmington.

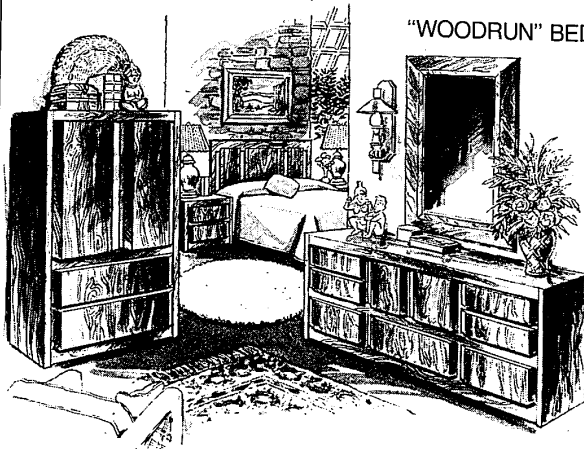
Sports enthusiasts will enjoy the annual softball tournament, soccer spectacular, skateboard extravaganza and the tennis tournament. The Farm-

ington Area Jaycees are sponsoring a four-wheel drive wheeler weekend beginning at 11 a.m., July 22 and 23 at Farmington Road and Twelve Mile. The event features contests among four-wheel drivers.

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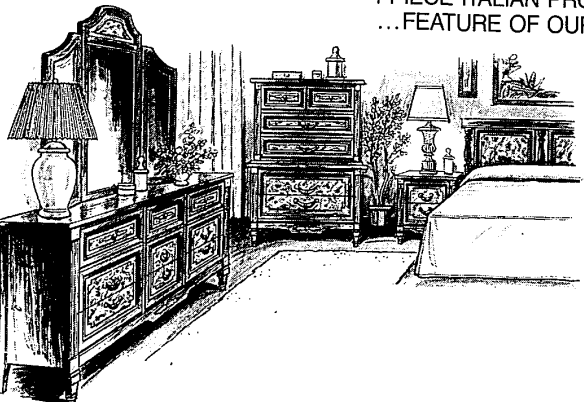


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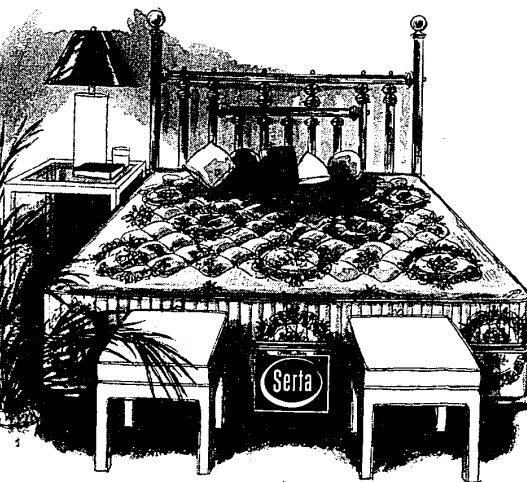


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Kids: Grab a balloon and launch the festival

Farmington area kids of all ages are asked to grab a balloon and help with the official launching of the 14th annual Founders Festival.

One thousand multi-colored balloons, marked to commemorate the occasion, will be filled with helium, ready to be released at the "go" signal at 1 p.m. July 23.

The balloon launching will take place during half-time at the Farmington Area Jaycees' "Wild Wheelie Weekend" festivities on Twelve Mile and Farmington Road.

The Farmington Founders Festival Committee asks that all of the area's youth be on hand to take part in the opening ceremonies.

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