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Committee pushes up festival date

By Steve Barnaby
editor

Farmington Founders' Festival aficionados will have to alter their summer calendars this year if they want to attend the annual event.

In its 20th year, the Festival will be July 17-21.

Traditionally, the Festival has been the last weekend of July.

The traditional Festival dates conflicted with the Ann Arbor Art Fair

which moved its dates to our weekend," said Festival '84 chairman Jon Grant.

Another motivation for moving the Festival was the addition of a full-blown carnival. This year's carnival will be put on by W.G. Wade, a company known throughout the Midwest for its carnivals.

"The only other time we could get them was the weekend before," said Grant.

One of the motivating factors behind

"We are restricting the downtown center to service clubs from Farmington and Farmington Hills.

— Jon Grant,
Festival chairman

Downtown Farmington Center area located near the intersection of Farmington Road and Grand River.

"We are restricting the downtown center to service clubs from Farmington and Farmington Hills. That will drop our revenue to one-third of what we made last year from the downtown center area," said Grant.

Previously, the downtown center exhibition area had contributed 55 percent of the Festival revenue, according to Grant.

Last year many local exhibitors had complained over the number of outside exhibitors who were given what is considered to be prime space in the Downtown Center area. They felt the original spirit of the Festival was being undermined by exhibitors who were taking money away from the city rather than contributing to local charities and clubs.

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Small business will get boost from new group

By Dan Vecchioni
staff writer

Federal dollars could come pouring into the coffers of small businesses in western Wayne and Oakland counties should a proposal being developed by members of the Canton and Livonia chambers of commerce be approved.

The proposal is for a community growth agency made up of local governments, economic development organizations, higher education, private industry and labor from a 26-community area stretching from Huron Township to Milford.

The agency, created under the auspices of the state Department of Commerce's Community Growth Agency Program, is designed to assist small businesses in obtaining federal contracts, according to Daniel Redstone, chairman of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce committee assigned to develop the proposal.

"The whole idea started (with the state) with getting federal contracts," Redstone said. "There's hundreds and hundreds of federal contracts that Michigan businesses are not aware of. The idea is to get dollars back into Michigan."

"IT'S PART of (Governor James) Blanchard's business plan for the state," said Robert Malek, a member of the Canton Chamber of Commerce who is involved with the Livonia committee developing the community growth agency. "He's pushing it aggressively."

The agency will help small business-

es by providing them with the services and skills necessary to deal with the government bidding process. The agency also is expected to provide such other services as export assistance, employee retraining and job placement.

Although it's still in the application process, Malek said the agency probably will have a staff of two full-time employees, be headquartered in Livonia and operate under a budget of up to \$150,000. A board and executive council would be elected from among the agency's members.

Funding, he said, will come from membership fees and other contributions — both cash and in-kind — which will be matched by the state.

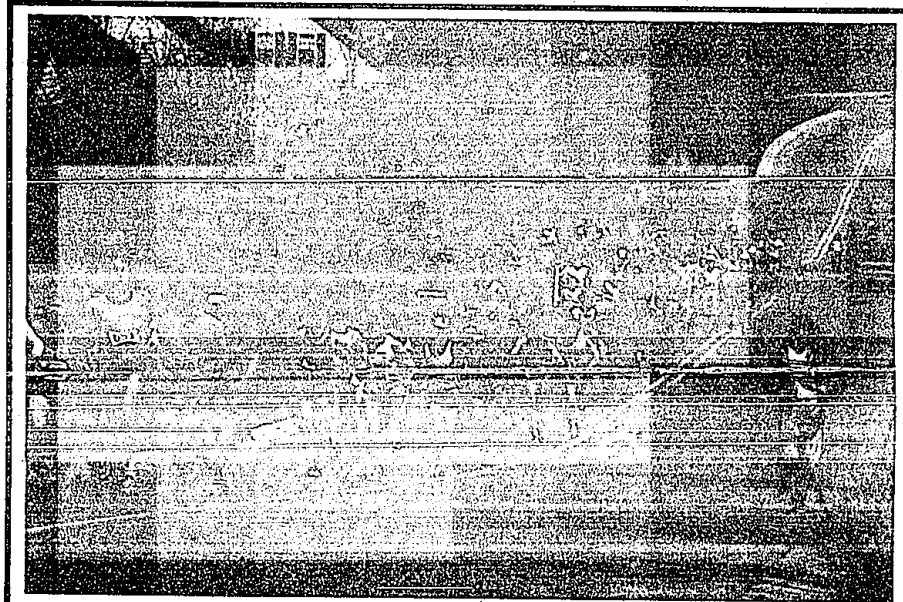
Plans also call for the agency to be established as a non-profit corporation managed by businessmen "because we don't want them (political and governmental officials) running it," Malek said.

THE TIMETABLE, Redstone said, calls for potential members to be contacted in May, the application to be filed by June and the agency to open in October.

Besides Canton and Livonia, the communities being considered as part of the agency include Bellefonte, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Garden City, Huron Township, Inkster, Lyon Township, Milford, Novi, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Redford, Romulus, South Lyon, Sumpter Township, Van Buren Township, Walled Lake, Waltz, Wayne, Westland, Willow and Wilcox.

contracting with a carnival group, said Grant, is to make up for a projected

loss in revenue from a change in policy on booths which will be placed in the



GARY CASKEY/staff photographer

Runners poised for challenge

Hundreds of running enthusiasts will race through hills and subdivisions when the 8th annual West Bloomfield Half-Marathon Race begins at 12:30 p.m. Sunday at West Bloomfield High School, on Orchard Lake Road between Walnut Lake Road and Lone Pine Road. About 90 percent of the 13.1-mile course is

on paved roads. Pictured are some of the 714 runners who finished last year's race. Registration is open to everyone through race day. Price is \$14. For more information, call West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Department at 334-5600.

Learning Hebrew now part of computer age

By Jean Adamczak
staff writer

Learning Hebrew and preparing for bar mitzvah can be an overwhelming experience for any 12-year-old. For students at the Adat Shalom Synagogue Hebrew School this process is actually enjoyable.

These students have the advantage

of using a computer to help them review their Hebrew studies.

"The children definitely like using the computer," said Mrs. Tamar Traub, teacher at the school. "It makes learning much more fun."

The program was developed by Dr. Harold Mathis, a psychologist from West Bloomfield whose son Evan is a student at the Adat Shalom School.

Remembering the difficulty of his own bar mitzvah preparation, Mathis used his computer to prepare a program of drills and exercise games for the students to use in reviewing their studies.

"The students are most eager to complete their preparation so they can go on to review with the computer," Traub said.

HER PUPILS agree wholeheartedly. "It's a great computer," said student Jeremy Gold, "it makes learning more fun."

Students are constantly asking Traub if they can use the computer. "They ac-

tually fight over who will work on the computer," Traub said.

School principal Bea Kriechman says using the computer improves the children's study habits.

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RANDY DORIS/staff photographer

Dr. Harold Mathis and his son Evan run through the Hebrew language program at the Adat Shalom Synagogue.

Finance man quits after stormy year in Walled Lake

By Patricia M. Bowling
Novi-Walled Lake News

After a tumultuous 14 months with the Walled Lake school district, Russell Wright, assistant superintendent for business, announced his resignation at a special school-board meeting on March 28.

Wright offered no explanation for the action in his succinct resignation notice, and when questioned about his action, he refused comment.

However, the resignation came only two days after a pointed inquiry by the school board, concerning the status of Wright's performance evaluation by Superintendent Don Shelton.

"The board did not ask for his resignation," said Board President Mario Tozzi, noting that the board was "surprised" when Wright resigned. "(But) we were very interested in his evaluation."

The superintendent's evaluation of school administrators is the only documentation the school board has to determine whether an administrator's contract should be renewed. But the school board normally does not see evaluations unless the superintendent intends to recommend the contract not be renewed.

IN WRIGHT'S case, the superintendent and the board consistently have disagreed on the quality of Wright's job performance. While the board has expressed dissatisfaction with Wright's performance on numerous occasions over the past year, Shelton has insisted Wright has the potential to meet the board's expectations. Because of their differing opinions, the board requested, earlier in the year, that it be apprised of Wright's evaluation this spring.

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