

Bedlam!

New festival event draws speedy crowd

By Casey Hans
staff writer

THERE WERE beds everywhere, but no napping was allowed.

There wasn't any time. It was a fight to the finish line for eight teams participating in the first Farmington/Farmington Hills Founders Festival Bed Race Saturday morning in downtown Farmington before the parade. Proceeds from the event will go to the Muscular Dystrophy Association, which fights 40 neuromuscular diseases.

The team from World Wide TV & Appliance of Farmington was the big winner, pushing by the Farmington Hills Fire Department to cross the finish line for a grand prize. "We had speed — no problem at all," said Mike Ford, a team member who helped build the winning bed.

The World Wide team was comprised of employees from the store's sales department and warehouse, who sprinted their way to victory in the 100-yard race.

"That's how fast they deliver refrigerators too," joked another bed engineer on the team, Ken Korri. Ford proudly showed off the bed, made of, in his words, "all junk."

Wheels from a hand truck, an aluminum boat chassis and an electrical conduit rollbar were just some of the parts making up the winning machine.

THIS WASN'T a "put-casters-on-any-bed" sort of race, especially for the team representing Farmington Hills firefighters, runners-up in the final heat.

Bill Mulrooney designed the bed

from scratch and the team test drove it to work out the kinks. They ran practice heats before the Saturday event, egged on by team captain John Wells. They also decorated their machine with fire lights and fire hose and put a siren on for added effect.

Deputy fire chief Peter Baldwin said the team is already looking toward next year, having reviewed videotapes of Saturday's event.

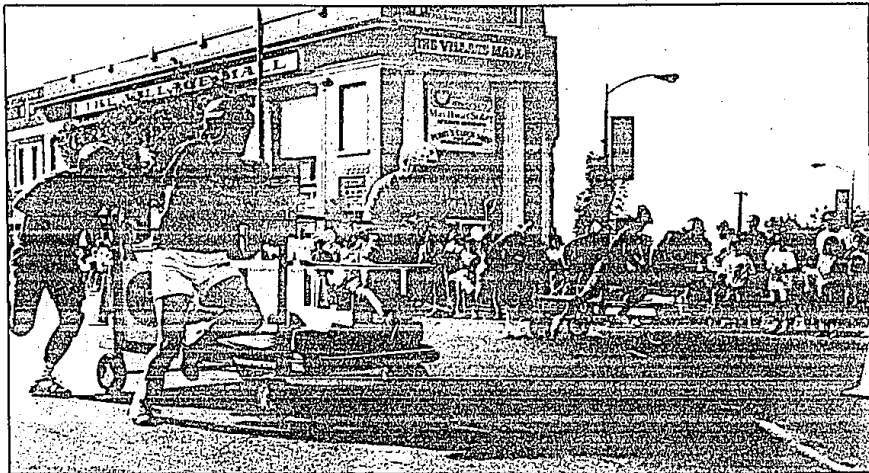
Winners for best decorated bed went to the team from Morof, Sheplow, Weinstein & Co., a Farmington Hills accounting firm, which used a large tax form and pencil as decorations.

Farmington's first race was "very encouraging," according to Kim Sidwell, program coordinator for the Livonia-based Muscular Dystrophy Association office. "There's a lot of work that goes into it."

OTHER TEAMS participating in Saturday's bed race included: Botsford General Hospital, the Clarion Hotel, ERA Country Ridge Realty, Farmington Municipal Employees—Local 1456, and Focal Point Studio of Photography.

The Muscular Dystrophy Association has held similar bed races for a number of years throughout the country, Sidwell said. How much money is donated to fight MD depends on the contest entry fees and general pledges and donations.

The team collecting the most money in Farmington race will earn a plaque and a \$50 gift certificate to Cham Diggers restaurant, Farmington Hills. A spokeswoman for the MD office said this week that totals were not yet complete, and figures were not available.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

The winning World Wide TV & Appliance team (left) runs neck-in-neck with the Farmington Hills firefighters in the final heat of the Founders Festival bed race.



World Wide TV & Appliance supporters cheer for their team as it crosses the finish line in downtown Farmington.

Group looks to future with time capsule burial

By Noreen Flack
special writer

In July, 2039, Jaelyn Golden will be 35 years old. She hopes to have had seven children by then. She's not sure what else she will be doing. She hasn't really thought about it, she said.

The 5-year-old kindergartener has been invited with several other Adat Shalom Nursery School classmates to return to Farmington Hills' Heritage Park in 50 years and open the time capsule buried on Sunday during the second annual "Blessings of Liberty" Picnic.

The capsule contains a variety of memorabilia such as the City of Farmington Hills Rouge Rescue T-shirt, the Farmington Downtown Development Authority "Welcome to Farmington" video and Farmington Hills Historical Commission brochures.

"Liberty and democracy shouldn't be taken for granted," said Michael Bouchard, chairman of the Farmington Area Committee on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. "This time capsule shows us as well as those in the future how important and how cherished these rights are."

Golden and classmate Bradley Rosen and his sister Jamie Rosen presented a cassette of Jewish songs from Adat Shalom Nursery School in Farmington Hills where the children attend.

Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills added Shane Kyle Shamie II's birth certificate. The infant was born on July 15, 1989 at 5:37 p.m.

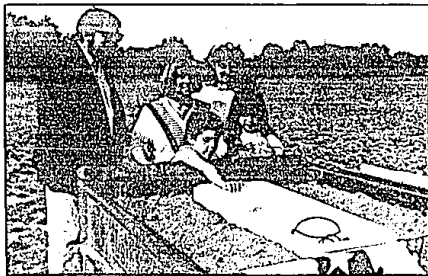
THE ONLY item missing in the capsule was a Detroit Pistons World Championship T-shirt, Bouchard said.

The time capsule was buried near the entrance of Heritage Park, 20 feet from the flat pole, immediately after the picnic.

"We will also be planting a black walnut tree next to where the time capsule is to be buried," Bouchard said. "The tree will represent a living chronology of time."

The picnic was sponsored by the Farmington Area Committee on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution with assistance from the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services.

Bouchard described the picnic as an "enjoyable and symbolically important activity."



DOUGLAS E. SUSALLA/staff photographer

As Eric Wurmlinger (left) of the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services looks on, Bradley Rosen, 5, and his sister, Jamie, 7, of West Bloomfield, contribute to the time capsule a cassette of songs from Adat Shalom Synagogue Nursery School in Farmington Hills. Behind them are Dottie Levitke (beside Wurmlinger) of Birmingham and Cindy Rosher-Kelly of Bloomfield Hills.

"I'm not sure how many of us will be there," Bouchard said regarding the 2039 opening.

A VIDEO TAPES of the "Blessings of Liberty" Picnic, among other videos and photos, were also placed in the capsule.

The 34-inch by 12-inch by 12-inch packed time capsule included contributions from 41 Farmington-Farmington Hills organizations. The committee sent out letters to area associations for commemoratives but less than half participated, Bouchard said.

Yearbooks, newsletters, pins, brochures, T-shirts, videos and historical accounts were among the items buried. Lakeshire Elementary School donated its Code of Conduct, the June newsletter and the class of 1989's list of favorites. Farmington Hills Baptist Church included a Bible. The Farmington Observer contributed its centennial and Founders Festival editions.

The committee was formed in 1987 by the Farmington Hills City Council and was designed to "renew the spirit of citizenship and freedom that all Americans enjoy under the United States Constitution."

Patriotic band music performed by the Franklin Village band, conducted by Dr. Conrad Lam, enter-



DOUGLAS E. SUSALLA/staff photographer

Sherrie Stewart of Farmington Hills, representing the Farmington Historical Society, puts a contribution in the time capsule.

tained the audience. Liberty songs such as "American Troubadour," "Washington Post," and "Stars and Stripes Forever" were played before the capsule ceremony.

"This is also the 30th anniversary of our band," Lam said. "Twelve of us marched in the Labor Day parade in 1959. Now we have 35 members."

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