

Here's the beef!

Ox roast brings back memories



BY KEVIN BROWN
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The Ox Roast was back, to mark the Farmington Area Founders Festival a lot more special.

That was the consensus of those who filtered in for beef sandwiches just after the roast opened at 11 a.m. Thursday, and of several among roughly 200 who gathered under the big red and white striped tent behind Page's Food and Spirits that evening.

The return of the Ox Roast had a special meaning for Craig West and wife Marcia, as they met under the Ox Roast tent in 1988.

The 1978 Farmington High School grads didn't know each other in school. "She was my travel agent," West explained.

Besides offering a place to sip beer

Please see OX ROAST, A3

THE WEEK AHEAD

Let's party: Several homeowners associations have planned parties today in conjunction with the Farmington Hills City-Wide Block Party. Individual groups are handling their own activities.

TUESDAY

Hills Zoning: The Zoning Board of Appeals will consider six requests at their 7:30 p.m. meeting, held at Hills City Hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Roads. They'll review the site plan for a telephone exchange building addition on 13 Mile Road, setback variance requests and a variance to park a recreational vehicle that exceeds six feet in height.

At the mansion: Cafe on the Porch offers light refreshments and a quiet, relaxing evening at the Gov. Warner Mansion on Grand River, from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

THURSDAY

Open House: Farmington City Councilmember JoAnne McShane and her husband Dr. William Nutting will give neighbors and other interested residents a sneak peek at the historic home before renovations begin, at 33608 Shiawassee tonight, from 5:30 p.m.-8 p.m.



Cafe nights: Chef Richie Serna (top) stokes the fire that roasts the ox, as Michele Emig and John Hawkins (left) enjoy a little table talk and Barry and Kim Vance (above) take a turn on the dance floor at the Founders Cafe, home of the Ox Roast.

Road construction drives motorists onto side streets

BY SUE BUCK
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The long-anticipated Farmington Road widening and reconstruction began this week.

The annual Farmington Founders Festival in July influenced the Oakland County Road Commission's decision to divide construction over two years.

The first portion, from Eight Mile to Nine Mile, is expected to be completed in November.

The construction traffic didn't seem to affect people finally arriving at their Founder's Festival destination, Public Safety Director Gary Goss said. The festival, held along Grand River, drew 10,000 people on Thursday, an increase from last year, he said.

Most of the festival activities occurred in the Farmington Road area, as well as in the Downtown Farmington Business Center parking lot. Motorists who tried to cut through subdivision streets discovered they didn't go through to an alternate route but

led them right back onto Farmington Road.

"People weren't trying to avoid the festival but were trying to avoid the construction," Goss said. "We will talk to the county about putting up 'No Outlet' signs."

"This section of Farmington Road will be widened from four lanes to five, with the addition of a center left-turn lane," said Craig Bryson, county road commission public information officer. "During construction, two lanes, one in each direction, will remain open to

through traffic at all times, but an alternate is recommended due to expected traffic delays."

Access to all businesses will be maintained at all times, though some side streets will be closed at Farmington Road.

About two weeks after the project starts, traffic will shift to the westerly two lanes of the existing road, so that the contractor can construct the new northbound easterly lanes.

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Dog days: Amber, a Golden Retriever, models canine accessories for Holly McConnell of For Pet's Sake, one of dozens of crafters and vendors who had booths in downtown Farmington during Founders Festival. Additional stories and photos on pages A3-4.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREZLER

Engineers measure I-275 noise levels

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Engineers measured sound levels along I-275 last week in preparation to remove a major source of the noise afflicting nearby residents.

'It sounds like Niagara Fall is not too far outside our window.'

Jack Engebretson
—Livonia City Council

The Michigan Department of Transportation plans to diamond grind the concrete road's transverse texture to reduce decibel levels by the end of the current construction season. Similar methods produced a 6-decibel reduction a Colorado freeway.

Livonia Councilman Jack Engebretson

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