

Organizers split on festival fare

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

With less than 10 days to make their final decision on the annual fireworks display, Farmington Founders Festival committee members are scrambling to find money for the event.

While some committee members privately doomed the event, the possibility of a display was revived late last week as offers of help followed reports of the display's demise.

An executive of Maccabees Mutual Life Insurance Co., Southfield, offered to ask his firm's board of directors to donate funds toward the display, according to Ed Lane, director of the Farmington Chamber of Commerce.

That offer came on the heels of another from a professional fireworks presenter who is a Farmington resi-

dent. That offer included the free services of the detonator and the possibility of acquiring the fireworks at a discount, according to Lane.

Although the offers have sparked hope for the event, it yet could fizzle if sufficient funds aren't found.

The event has become an issue within the committee with some members opting for the fireworks despite the cost and others urging that the display be tabled while the festival tries to pay off its debts.

THIS YEAR'S COMMITTEE has vowed to pay the festival's \$6,000 debts, accumulated over the past two years.

Lane admits that he would prefer to see the committee pay off the debt in-

stead of continuing the fireworks display.

Metro-Bank of Farmington, annual co-sponsor of the event with the committee, offered \$1,500 for the event if the festival comes up with matching funds. This year, the estimated cost of the display ranges from \$3,000-\$3,500.

If the fireworks fall through, Metro-Bank's alternative offer is for \$500 towards the festival's expenses. It's this portion of the bank's offer which Lane prefers to see the committee to accept.

"We have better use for the money for something else. We don't want to spend \$1,500 out of the general fund when we owe so much money already," Lane said.

He sees the fireworks display becoming a reality only if an outside offer comes to the event's rescue.

But festival chairman Betti C. Huff is determined to save the display.

"The fireworks aren't dead yet," she said. SHE AND LANE agree that a final decision on the event must be made by July 10 to insure proper printing of the festival schedule.

Ms. Huff hopes that the remainder of the event's cost can be raised by them. She asks residents of Farmington and Farmington Hills to send in \$1-\$2 to Fireworks Donations, Farmington Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 15, Farmington 48024.

Lane isn't optimistic about plans to solicit donations from residents.

On-the-spot donations by persons stirred to donate are possible but Lane says that such a campaign requires "constant follow-up."



Summer spree

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