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Founders' week ideas blossom as July nears...

With the 18th Annual Farmington Founders Festival only seven weeks away, the deadline for applying for booths and floats is fast approaching.

The deadline for applying to be a contestant in the Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant has already passed with 17 young women applying for the competition.

Booth rentals are still up for grabs until the formal cutoff date of July 1. However, Robert Christ, president of the festival organizing committee says booth applications will be accepted until July 15 to accommodate latecomers. Groups renting a booth to distribute literature must pay \$40 for the three-day period covering the sidewalk sale (Thursday-Friday). Arts and craft sellers also pay a \$40 fee for the three days.

However, any group selling food, or operating rides or games must pay a \$40 minimum for the three days or \$20 a day. If the booth is doing big commercial business, Christ says festival directors may request a 20 percent donation for the first \$300 collected and negotiate a percentage of profits covering the rest of the booth sales.

To reserve a booth persons should write to the Farmington Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 15, Farmington 48024.

THE PAGEANT will be 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 28 at Vladimir's Hall in Farmington Hills. Tickets to the event cost \$5 per person. The master of ceremonies at the pageant will again be Jim Mitchell, attorney in Farmington and the panel of judges will all be from outside Farmington to avoid any conflict of interest.

A reception will be held after the pageant at Glen Oaks Country Club. Contestants are all between the ages of 17 and 23.

The last queen to go on to higher honor was Holly Schmidt in 1977. Four of the contestants have reached the top five spots in state competition and Su-

san Reed, who was Miss Farmington in 1974, went on to become Mrs. Michigan in 1978.

The pageant is an official franchised preliminary event to the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City. The educational scholarship program awards a total of \$2 million annually to women making it the largest scholarship fund for women in the world. Last year's pageant awarded a total of \$1,000 in scholarships to contestants and at least that much will be awarded this year. The amount depends on the contributions received.

THE PARADE theme for this year is "Pages in Time" and groups or individuals may enter a float in the parade by filling out an application available at the Chamber of Commerce office at 23715 Farmington Road. The parade, which runs for about an 1 1/2 hours, begins at 10 a.m. July 31 in front of the Grand River Drive-in and winds up at city hall.

"It's a fun parade, not a military parade," says Christ. "But there will be color guards and the Shriners will be appearing too."

THE SHOWMOBILE will once again be parked in the Downtown Farmington Center featuring music, dancing, magic shows and other forms of entertainment. Anyone interested in performing for free should contact Dennis Spencer at the Farmington Gymnasium Center, by phoning him at 478-6130.

Performances will run from 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. during the first four days of the festival and until 11 a.m. on Thursday and Friday nights to accommodate the square dancers.

July 27 will be Kid's Day in Farmington City Park on Power at Shilawasee. Highlight of the day, as always, will be the Pet Show where animals are judged on a number of criteria: biggest, hairiest, smallest, best-matched pair and the prettiest and ugliest honors.

... but \$\$ needed to make festival a big success

By Craig Piechura
staff writer

Predictably, the Farmington Founders Festival bank account is short on funds to bankroll the weeklong event which runs from July 25-Aug. 1 in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

But unlike the situation last year when the festival's former treasurer, Fred Huber Jr., admitted pocketing committee funds for an unauthorized personal loan that was later repaid, there's no hint of impropriety surrounding the current shortfall.

Business persons in the community received a letter this week from the Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce seeking tax-deductible donations to cover the estimated \$16,500 of putting on the 18th annual festival.

"Contributions are needed to cover the general costs involved (in the festival) and for the scholarship foundation," according to the letter sent by chamber directors.

Some business persons in town are wondering why the committee needs funds when last year's event left a surplus.

WHILE THE ACCOUNT showed a \$4,500 surplus, many dollars are being spent on start-up for the 1982 festival, explains Robert Christ, president of the festival organizing committee.

For example \$2,300 for the fireworks plus insurance and the parade (costs) come close to \$10,000 right there," says Christ.

That doesn't include \$1,950 for prizes to be awarded to the bands, drill teams, drum corps and float winners, either, or many other fixed expenses, he adds.

"The only way we're able to support this thing is by raising money through donations, the selling of booth space and the raffle we're conducting," Christ says.

THIS YEAR'S festival is expected to generate \$18,000 in revenue to cover an estimated 16,500 in operating costs — leaving a projected net income of \$1,500 to be used next year, Johnson says.

About \$2,500 of the \$4,500 surplus has already been spent on start-up costs, Johnson said.

He adds that some expenditures from the festival general fund generate no money in return. Close to \$3,000 spent on fireworks is not recovered because no admission is charged to viewers.

Johnson concedes that administration of the account was lax in past years, but says numerous safeguards

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Wishin' and hopin'

That's what Jeff Babcock, of Farmington, found himself doing recently while he was enjoying the big pond over on Halsted. We still

are waiting the report on his catch for the day. Ever wonder what kind of fish are in that pond?

Court will decide

Lutherans await school's fate

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

Lutheran High Northwest, which operated during the 1981-2 school year under an Oakland County Circuit Court order, expects to learn this month whether it can remain open.

"The anticipated decision by Judge Alice Gilbert could conclude a legal battle which began last summer when the city of Farmington Hills cited the school for several zoning ordinance violations."

A contingent July 2 trial date has been set in the event that Judge Gilbert rules in favor of Farmington Hills.

Construction of a gymnasium next to the school at 30175 Highmeadow was halted last June when the city issued a work stop order.

The Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit was told the building could no longer be used as a high school because it occupies property zoned for elementary school use which lacks direct access to a secondary or major thoroughfare.

Lutheran High Northwest is south of 13 Mile between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake roads in the Holly Hill Farms subdivision at Aleckay and Highmeadow.

FARMINGTON Public School officials, who sold the building to the Lutheran association for \$332,000, have publicly washed their hands of any responsibility for the building's fate, claiming they were unaware the high school operated on the site during the 1980-81 school year.

Zoning Board of Appeals chairman Jim Hillis claimed last summer that zoning officials also were unaware the school was operating.

On June 30, 1981, the ZBA denied Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit's request for variances to the local zoning ordinance.

The association then filed suit against Farmington Hills, Zoning Su-

pervisor Hal Rowe, and the ZBA, asking for damages in excess of \$10,000 plus costs for the holdup in the construction of the gym, necessary for state accreditation.

TIM DOYLE, ATTORNEY FOR the association, voiced optimism that Gilbert will let the school stay open, based on summary judgment motions argued several months ago.

"Our position basically is that education is a matter solely for the state, and

not for the local municipalities," he said.

"Because education is a matter of state concern, local municipalities have no authority to enforce zoning ordinances against institutions, be they public or private."

The high school is making no plans to relocate, and will strongly consider an appeal if it receives an adverse ruling, Doyle added.

While Lutheran school officials are

"prayerfully and patiently hopeful about the... outcome, being without a gym has curtailed enrollment and recruitment at Lutheran High Northwest," said Herbert Modenhauer, superintendent of the Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit.

"Our outdoor baseball and soccer programs have carried on, but in the winter months we've been bounced

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Democrats will challenge Brotherton at the polls

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

Long-time community activist and Democratic leader Aldo Vagnozzi of Farmington Hills announced Friday he will challenge state Rep. Sandy Brotherton, R-Farmington, in his bid for a fifth term in the Michigan House of Representatives.

Vagnozzi, 56 and an editorial consultant for Cy Aaron Publications in Detroit, plans to wage an issue-oriented campaign supporting a nuclear weapons freeze, the right of home buyers to assume the mortgage of the seller at existing interest rates, and an end to automatic pass-through utility rate increases.

Brotherton and Vagnozzi will vie for representation of the new 69th District under the redistricting plan recently approved by the State Supreme Court.

That district includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield Township and the villages of Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin.

It excludes the portion of Southfield which was part of the 64th District, Brotherton's former territory.

THE REAPPORTIONMENT creates a Republican stronghold in the 69th District, a reason Vagnozzi "may have to settle for a moral victory."

"I realize the make-up of the district, but each party should have viable candidates running in each race so that the public can get a variance of opinions to judge from and also an opportunity to, hopefully, talk about some of the state's problems and to educate voters as to the kinds of situations the state faces," said Vagnozzi, secretary of the 17th District Democratic organization.

Brotherton is "very well satisfied with the reapportionment."

"I didn't particularly like the idea of losing part of Southfield, but I gained Southfield Township and at the same time it sets it up so that the city of Southfield can have legislative representation of their city alone," he said.

"The court's design for the plan was

to avoid splitting county, city and township boundaries where possible. More latitude was allowed in deviating from the ideal number of people (per representative). I think it's a good system."

Brotherton, who served as Farmington's mayor for seven years and as an Oakland County Commissioner for two years, said he has developed a "fairly effective relationship" with Farmington and Farmington Hills.

"Even though there's a difference in the villages I've acquired — they're smaller — they're probably similar in their make-up and their slant towards the major issues," Brotherton said.

"I intend to work the same way with them."

VAGNOZZI HAS PROPOSED to Brotherton that he join him in a series of forums to discuss major state issues.

"Voters are not always provided with the information needed to pass

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Candidates debate concession issue

By Steve Barney
editor

At least two of the candidates for the Farmington School Board have found an issue on which to disagree if what has been an otherwise lackluster campaign.

Incumbent Janice Rolnick and challenger Richard Corey squared off during the candidates' night last week at Dunkel Middle School.

Running for the two seats are incumbents Jack Inch and Rolnick. Challengers are Corey and Jean Moran. Winners will be elected to a four-year

terms at the June 14 balloting.

"It could be time for us to renegotiate some of the contracts," said Corey, referring to the teachers' agreement which will give educators a 9.5-percent increase in the coming year.

"These are repressed economic times. It's time for teachers to take a good look," he continued, noting that workers in other industries had agreed to contract concessions.

But opponent Rolnick disagreed. "That contract was negotiated two years ago. We must keep the faith with

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