

# Get ready for our neighbors Fall Festival

Planning to go out of town next weekend? Maybe your daughter's getting married in Los Angeles? Or your brother's graduating from Harvard after picking up those last two courses over the summer? Or there's a big job interview in New York? Forget the wedding. Tell your brother he should have graduated last spring with the rest of the class. Take that job and shove it; there will be other jobs and other trips to the Big Apple.

West Bloomfield is where it's happening next weekend, pal, and you'd have to be crazy to be anywhere else. It's fall festival time. Step right up and see the greatest show in the state.

The West Bloomfield Fall Festival, which last year was an overwhelming success, drawing between 10,000 and 15,000 to the grounds of Henry Ford Hospital's West Bloomfield Outpatient Center on Maple Road, will kick off next Friday, Sept. 10, and run for three days.

IN CASE YOU don't remember last year's festival and are still thinking about that wedding, or your brother's graduation, here's a sampling of what will be available if you stick around:

- Fireworks. Some of the best around. The sky will ignite and you'll swear it's the Fourth of July. If you're the meek type, bring cotton for your ears.

- Hot-air balloons. There will be three nights of competition, weather permitting, as well as five-minute rides for sale (\$5 for the adults, \$3 for children under 12). The competition is expected to draw up to 20 of the wildly colored mammoth balloons, which will be judged in three events.

- Bingo. This is a new event this

year and will be staffed by workers from the hospital. Games are continuous, with 50 percent of the take each game being paid as prize money, 25 percent to pay for the fireworks and 25 percent to go to charity.

- Carnival rides, 10 in all. Hold on to your stomach. They've got the space shuttle and the Zoom for adventurers, merry-go-round and ferris wheel for the mild.

- Video games. Grab some quarters, lots of them, because there will be a video tent, with 20 of the best games around, including Donkey Kong, Pac-Man and Ms. Pac-Man.

- Food. Oodles of it, of all shapes and consistencies. Mexican, Middle Eastern and Greek. Corn on the cob, Coney Islands and pizza. Ice cream, cannolis, pop and cotton candy. And let's not forget the barrels of beer in the Kiwanis Club beer tent.

- Entertainment. It'll be non-stop. There are Irish folk songs; a pint-sized magician; ballet; songs

from "Annie"; Irish, Greek, Chinese and Ukrainian dancers; choral groups; an old-car parade; a puppet show; a fashion show, a horse-jumping competition and much more.

- Artists' displays. There will be artists from every medium — loaded glass, oak carpentry, pottery, basketry and fiber art, soft sculpture, water color, acrylics, oils, pen and ink, quilts, dolls, wooden rocking horses and tops, bread dough ornaments, porcelain jewelry and hand-painted clothing. If you like something and you're the gambling type, you might want to hold out till Sunday afternoon when unsold items will be auctioned.

- Three-mile run. Saturday morning at 10, the parks and recreation department will conduct its annual three-mile cross country run. For more information, call parks at 334-5560.

- Dog show. Noon Saturday is the time for this informal, children's dog show. Again, call 334-5560 for information.

- Senior citizens games and contests. This occurs Sunday at 2 p.m. Among other things, they'll judge the baldest man and find the grandmothers with the oldest grandchild.

IN ADDITION to all of this, you can get a library card, register to vote at the League of Women's Voters' booth, have your blood pressure taken for free and take advantage of the splendid opportunities for people watching.

The West Bloomfield Land Conservancy and Concerned Citizens for West Bloomfield will hold a photo identification quiz with the winner getting two free dinners at the Lark Restaurant, valued at \$80.

The West Bloomfield Outpatient Center is on Maple Road, a quarter mile west of Drake. Admission and parking are free. Festival hours are from 8-10 p.m. Friday, from noon to 10 p.m. Saturday, and from 1-7 p.m. Sunday.

For information on times for certain events, or if you'd like to rent a booth to sell your wares, call the festival office at 682-1200.

THE BALLOON COMPETITION should be a highlight, at least visually, providing the wind gods co-operate. According to federal law, winds must be less than 10 mph for the balloons to soar.

There are three events in the competition — the hare and hound, the bean-bag drop and the convergent navigational task (CNT).

In the hare and hound, a lead balloon is launched 10 minutes before the pack, which then flies off in pursuit. The balloon that lands closest to the hare balloon is the winner.

The bean-bag drop is what it sounds like — a drop over a target with the closest drop the winner.

In the CNT, the hospital grounds are the target. It is up to the balloonists to figure wind conditions, then take their balloons five miles away from the target in whatever direction they choose. They launch them and the one that lands closest to the festival is the winner.

Tickets to the carnival rides will be 75 cents at the festival but can be purchased 10 for \$5 in advance. Call the festival office for mail-in order forms, or pick up tickets in person at the West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation office.

## Meeting sites keep changing

MADD, which takes its name from the words Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, meets on the third Monday evening of each month, but the meeting place keeps changing.

The local chapter of the national organization is the only chapter in Oakland County that moves its meeting spots to accommodate all persons interested in the workings of the group throughout the county.

Those wishing information on the next meeting may call Diane Abramson, 624-5165.

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