

# Family funfeast faces launch annual event

By Tom Baer  
Staff writer

The parade and fireworks were missing and not one Fox Trot runner was to be seen, but Farmington Founders' Festival goers were given a preview of their annual summer fling last Thursday when the Farmington Family Funfeast was held in a mall parking lot at 14 Mile and Middlebelt roads.

Staged in conjunction with the grand opening of Designer Depot, K mart's discount clothing store in the mall, the Funfeast was a fund-raising event for the Founders' Festival, which will be held Saturday, July 23 to Sunday, July 31.

Proceeds from the sale of food and beverages at the Funfeast will go to help pay for the festival.

Designer Depot wasn't open for business until last Thursday, but Funfeast-

ers could tour the store and pick up free balloons for their children.

Outside, in the parking lot, people were treated to a stage show, emceed by Tom Ryan of radio station CKLW.

Some of the events included three fashion shows with prize drawings, performances by the Oakway Symphonic Band, the Maccombers Show Ensemble and the Farmington Community Chorus.

Between the acts, mimes and clowns entertained the crowd, estimated at one point at about 300 people.

PEOPLE SEEMED TO BE enjoying themselves.

Said Maggi Dull of Bloomfield Township, "My little guy has been having a good time playing with the mimes. It's been a nice evening what with the fashion shows and the dancers."

Clem Barber of West Bloomfield en-

tered the parking lot wheeling Cheri, 3, in a stroller while trying to hold back Thunder, a large, old English sheep dog.

"It's a nice community effort," Farber said while the Farmington Community Chorus was serenading the crowd from the stage.

Donald Solomon of West Bloomfield brought several children to the Funfeast.

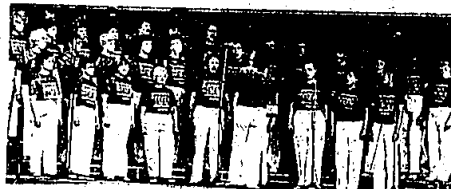
"It's great," Solomon said, "I'm really enjoying it. The mimes, the food, the music . . . It's certainly better than watching TV."

Elmer Timm of Royal Oak said he came to the Funfeast after reading about it in a local newspaper.

"This is the way I like to spend my summer evenings," he said, "out in the fresh air with all this free entertainment."



Seth Engelhardt perched on his bike to watch the show.



The Farmington Community Chorus raised their voices in song during the Funfeast.



Cheri Farber brought her father Clem and her dog Thunder to the event.



Brian Turin naps between shows as his mom, Andrea, tends the balloons.



Gregory Stawick tunes his cello before performing with the Oakway Symphony.

photos by Randy Borek/staff photographer



Mime Gary DeVan thrilled the audience with his silent antics.

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