

Sky spectacular

Fireworks will light up skies Saturday

A 30-minute fireworks display is the grand finale of this year's Founders Festival.

The fireworks will follow the Oakway Symphony concert at 8 p.m. Saturday, at the Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus, Farmington Hills.

The fireworks have traditionally been a favorite of area residents. Dick Megregian, president of Hyde-Tech Fireworks, has coordinated the display for the past seven years.

Megregian and his crew will begin to set up Saturday afternoon at 4:30 p.m. for the 10 p.m. show. The crew needs plenty of time to install the fireworks launching mortars, which they bury three feet into the ground.

"We shoot the fireworks from mortars to protect the spectators," Megregian said. "Our primary concern is safety and that's why it takes so long to set up. We must make sure the mortars are properly installed and aimed in the right direction."

SOME FIREWORKS Saturday night will go as high as 600 feet into the air, exploding into brilliant displays of color, 300 feet wide. A variety of cluster bombs will add an unusual twist to the display.

"Most fireworks displays are aerial, so the cluster bombs will be a nice surprise," Megregian said.

Megregian orders his fireworks from all over the world. "I use fireworks made in the Orient in the United States," he said. "Together,

they seem to make the prettiest displays."

Megregian said he must begin planning in the fall for next year's festival fireworks.

"I have to place orders with several companies six months in advance to get the fireworks I want for a display this size," he said. "My biggest problem is explaining that my company displays fireworks for special events, only. People are always calling and asking to buy fireworks, but we don't sell them."



Dick Megregian holds a candle barge that he made himself. It consists of 24 Roman candle-type explosives and 100 M-80s. Several will be detonated during the show Saturday.

RANDY BORST/staff photograph

Founders Festival

See page 3B for a listing of Farmington Founders Festival entertainment at the downtown showmobile.

The 28th annual Farmington Founders Festival continues Thursday through Saturday throughout the Farmington area.

It's sponsored by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce.

This year's theme is: "Farmington — A Down Home Place."

A partial list of remaining events follows:

- Downtown Farmington Center, Grand River at Farmington Road — arts and crafts exhibits, ethnic foods, booths, sidewalk sales, kiddie rides, showmobile entertainment, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday-Saturday.

- Fox Trot Runs, along Grand River from Tuck (before parade) — 5 and 10K runs, 9:50 a.m. Saturday. Late registration, 7:30-9:15 a.m.

- Parade — floats, clowns and entertainment, along Grand River from Grand River Drive-in to Farmington Road, 10 a.m. Saturday.

- Warren's Country Corner, 23285 Farmington — craft and quilt show, 9 a.m. to dark, Thursday-Saturday.

- Art Alcove, (tent between Art Alcove & Pelican Shop) — viewing of art, Thursday-Saturday; auction, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday.

- Orchard 12 Plaza, 12 Mile and Orchard Lake roads — Battle of the Bars (D. Dennison), 12:30 p.m. Saturday.

- Farmington Masonic Temple, Grand River & Farmington Road — dinner by Trinity Shrine 44WSJ, 5-7 p.m. Thursday; dinner by Farmington Chapter 239 OES, 5-7 p.m. Friday; lunch and dinner by Job's Daughters, noon to 6 p.m. Saturday; pancake breakfast, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday; crafters' corner, 9 a.m. to dark Thursday-Saturday.

- Farmington Community Library, 23500 Liberty — Society for Creative Anachronism medieval arts, "Step Into the Middle Ages," 7:30 p.m. Thursday; open hours, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday.

- First United Methodist Church, 33112 Grand River — piebaking con-

test, 5-7 p.m. Thursday (entries by 5:30 p.m., judging 6-7 p.m.; ice cream social, 7-9 p.m. Thursday, noon to 9 p.m. Friday, noon to 5 p.m. Saturday).

- Holset Engineering Complex, Grand River west of downtown — Farmington Hills Police Department firearms demonstration, 4 p.m. Friday, 1-4 p.m. Saturday.

- Area ball fields, Knights of Columbus, Drake Park, Harrison High School — men's softball tournament, 6-11 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to dark Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday.

- Farmington Hills Fire Department vs. Detroit Fire Department clowns, softball game to benefit the Ann Arbor Burn Center, Farmington High School, Shiwassee at Orchard Lake road, 7 p.m. Friday.

- VFW Post 2289, 23414 Orchard Lake — 50/50 bingo (lunch available), noon to midnight Thursday-Saturday.

- Swedish Club, 22398 Ruth — yard sale, noon to 6 p.m. Friday-Saturday.

- Muirwood Shopping Center,

Farmington Observer

(USPS 187-840)

Published every Monday and Tuesday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schooner, Livonia, MI 48150. Second-class postage paid at Livonia, MI 48151. Address all mail (subscription, change of address, Form 3509) to P.O. Box 2428, Livonia, MI 48151. Telephone 591-6500.

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Grand River and Drake — Friday, Robert Lowe Quintet Jazz, 5-7 p.m.; Detroit Jazz Ensemble, 7-10 p.m.; Saturday, Tom Bercher Trio '50s and '60s music, 2-4 p.m.; Daybreak, 6-10 p.m., hot-air balloon rider (weather permitting), noon to 4 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday, World of Foods.

- Oakland Community College Orchard Lake Road, south of I-696 — open tennis tournament, 6-9 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday; Oakway Symphony Concert, 8-10 p.m. Saturday; fireworks (\$2 parking), following concert Saturday.

- Boisford Inn — Friday, Author's Tea Party featuring historian Jean Fox, author of "More Than A Tavern: 150 Years of Boisford Inn," 2-5 p.m. On Saturday, ice cream so-

cial, 2-6 p.m.; Banjoes of Michigan, 2-3 p.m.; Alice McCoy spins folk-tales, 3-3:30 p.m.; Sweet Adelines barbershop quartet, 3:30-4:30 p.m.; Banjoes of Michigan, 4:30-5:30 p.m.; Ford Antique Auto Club display, all day.

- Crowley's Shopping Center, 12 Mile and Farmington roads — sidewalk sales, Thursday-Saturday.

- Governor Warner's Mansion, Grand River west of downtown — museum tours, 1-8 p.m. Friday, 1-5 p.m. Saturday (\$1 donation).

- Elks Lodge 1986 BPOE, 23666 Orchard Lake — ox roast, noon to midnight, Thursday-Saturday.

- Farmington City Hall park area — Friday, Shores of Your Mind, hosted by psychic Diana, 8 p.m.; In-Sight, hosted by Fred Lichtman, 8:30 p.m.

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