

# This group's job is something to laugh at

By Tom Henderson  
staff writer

Politen attracts bees. Early worms attract early birds. And clowns attract kids.

Three members of the Clowns Around Redford showed up last week at Capitol Park to scout out the terrain for this Saturday's Ox Roast, and as soon as they could get out of their cars, they were surrounded by kids.

Maybe they were magicians, not clowns, or maybe they rented the kids to impress a photographer and reporter.

"No, we didn't rent them," laughed Buttercup (a.k.a. Ruby Stevens). "When a clown is around, so are kids."

Some things, it seems, never change.

**THE 14th ANNUAL Ox Roast** runs from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

There will be an official clown show on the stage from 1-2 p.m. but from start to finish there will be clowns roaming around, doing their shtick and, in doing it, appealing to the kid in all of us.

Buttercup, when she isn't in whiteface and wearing her wonderfully silly two-inch blue eyelashes, is public relations director for the Clowns

Around Redford, which was organized in July of 1988 with 15 members and has grown to 38 clowns. She started clowning almost by accident. She wanted to learn how to paint faces so she could entertain children at a church social. She was told the best way to learn face painting was to take an adult education class in clowning around at Redford. In 1984, a clown was born.

"I never, ever thought I'd be a clown. I was a grandmother before I was a clown," said Buttercup. As for the grandkids, "they think it's marvelous." They should. Kevin, 13, and Jaime, 7, both appear with her as little clowns, and ride little cars with her in parades.

She now appears 8-10 times a month as a professional clown.

**ULLIE THE CLOWN** lives on Norborne in her alter ego of Ulla Nolte. "Touch my pacie button, baby, and see what happens," she said to one little girl in the park. The girl touched the big button marked "PANIC" and got a hug and kiss.

Ulla, too, has been a clown since 1984. Unlike Buttercup, she always wanted to be a clown. "But my dad was so religious, so strict, he wouldn't let me. So, you get married and have kids and get divorced and all that good stuff. And now I'm a clown."

She decided to get into clowning because "I had cancer one year and thought I better do something to keep my mind off it. I thought I'd take chair-caning, but below that in the catalog was clowning."

"The doctor said I recuperated faster than any of his patients, and now I don't have cancer, anymore." She asked the kids if they wanted to see a magic trick. "Yeah," they boomed.

She took out a huge cardboard replica of a pack of chewing gum. "I'm

going to turn it into candy," she said, wrapping it in a kerchief. "Abracadabra," she said, dropping the cardboard to the ground as she screamed, "Gumdrop."

"Want to see a cough drop?" she asked, coughing and falling on her backside to the ground. The kids loved it. So did the photographer and reporter.

They also loved her jewelry, a carrot on a chain with a dime embedded. "That's my one carrot diamond necklace," she explained.

**TOPPER AND HER** hand puppet, Ko Ko the monkey, were a big hit, too.

Topper, Carol Lapasky to her kids, husband and Westland neighbors, has been a clown for nearly five years. She started working with hand puppets and at a puppet seminar in Columbus, Ohio, was told she should add clowning to her repertoire.

Though she has won numerous

prizes and awards, she is careful not to make too many appearances. "It's more of a hobby with me. I want it to stay fun, not a business," she said.

Had she always wanted to be a clown? "Oh, no. I'm too shy."

Shy? That crazy woman in whiteface? The one with the monkey that kept chewing the apple core and drawing the kids like iron filings to a magnet?

"You can be anything you want to be when you're a clown," she said.



Ullie wanted to be a clown when she was young and finally got her wish.

**IF YOU LIKE COLORFUL COVERAGE READ STREET SCENE**



Topper (left) and Buttercup look on while Ullie shows off her pet raccoon to Beth (left), Kim and Christy Krail in Capitol Park.

photos by STEVE FECHT/staff photographer

## FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Public Accuracy Test will be taken by the Farmington Public School District for the year 19, 1988. Special Election. This test is to demonstrate the accuracy of the computer tabulation procedures used on election night. The test will be taken on Tuesday, the 13th day of September, 1988, at 1:30 P.M., at the City Clerk's Office, City of Farmington Hills, 31555 W. Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan.

Public, September 8, 1988

## NOTICE

### CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS

Public Notice is hereby given that the City of Farmington Hills, Michigan, will accept sealed bids until September 20, 1988, 10:00 A.M. prevailing local time at which time they shall be publicly opened and read aloud by the City Clerk for the following:

#### ASPHALT CONCRETE PAVEMENT

Bids for the above are to be submitted to the Office of the City Clerk, 31555 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48031, on or before the due date and time. Bids are to be submitted in a sealed opaque envelope and clearly captioned as to contents.

BID # 88-89-85

#### ASPHALT CONCRETE PAVEMENT

Specifications and proposal forms may be obtained by contacting the Purchasing Agent, (313) 475-9537 during normal business hours. The City of Farmington Hills reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to award contract to other than the low bidder, and waive any informalities in bidding procedure if the public interest will be better served thereby.

KATHRYN A. DORNAN  
City Clerk

Public, September 8, 1988

## NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT, A CONSTITUENT SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Special Election will be held in the Farmington Public School District, County of Oakland, and State of Michigan, on Monday, the 19th day of September, 1988, for the purpose of submitting the following proposition:

SHALL THE FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, BORROW THE SUM OF NOT TO EXCEED TWENTY-SEVEN MILLION TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS, (\$27,250,000.00), AND ISSUE ITS GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BONDS THEREFOR, FOR THE PURPOSES OF:

- Partially remodeling existing school facilities; and
- Developing and improving a site or sites for the erecting of an elementary school building and an early childhood center and playgrounds, and erecting, furnishing and equipping a new elementary building and an early childhood center and equipping playgrounds?

YES ☐  
NO ☐

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that the polls for said election will be open from 7:00 o'clock A.M. to 8:00 o'clock P.M., Eastern Daylight Savings Time, and that the voting places will be as follows:

- Precinct No. 1: Farmington Training Center  
33000 Thomas Street  
Precinct No. 2: Dunkel Middle School  
32800 Twelve Mile  
Precinct No. 3: Warner Middle School  
30303 West Fourteen Mile  
Precinct No. 4: East Middle School  
25000 Middlebelt Road

### COUNTY TREASURER'S STATEMENT AS REQUIRED BY ACT NO. 62 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF 1933 AS AMENDED

I, C. Hugh Dohany, County Treasurer of the County of Oakland, State of Michigan, do hereby certify that according to the records in my office, as of March 29, 1988, the total of all voted increases in the tax rate limitation above the 16 mills established by Section 6 of Article 13 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 affecting taxable property in Farmington Public School District in said County, is as follows:

LOCAL UNIT	VOTED INCREASE	YEARS INCREASE EFFECTIVE
Farmington Public School District	5.75	1988 to 1988 Incl.
	5.00	1983 to 1982 Incl.
	5.00	1984 to 1983 Incl.
	4.00	1985 to 1984 Incl.
	4.00	1986 to 1985 Incl.
	4.00	1987 to 1986 Incl.
Township of West Bloomfield	1.00	Unlimited
	2.00	1988 to 1988 Incl.
	2.00	1988 to 1988 Incl.
	.50	1988 to 1987 Incl.
County School District of Oakland County	2.25	Unlimited
Oakland Community College	1.00	Unlimited
County of Oakland	.25	1987 to 1991 Incl.

DATED: March 29, 1988

C. HUGH DOHANY  
Treasurer, Oakland County

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education of said school district.

Dated: July 7, 1988

JANICE ROLNICK  
Secretary, Board of Education

Public, September 8, 9, 12 and 15, 1988

## HAGGERTY LUMBER HOME IMPROVEMENT SALE

NOW THRU SEPTEMBER 11th

### FREE WINDOW WORKSHOP

**Andersen WINDOW CLINIC**  
THURS. SEPT. 15th  
6:30 P.M.

See how easy it is to replace your windows with Andersen windows. Bring in your current window sizes for free estimates. We can help!

### ROOF VENTS

**ROOF VENT** 299  
SAVE Green for maximum ventilation  
**ALUMINUM CABLE VENT** 299  
UNDEREAVE VENT 99  
POWER ROOF VENT 39

### SPECIALTY SHINGLES

**FIBERGLASS ASPHALT** 833  
CLASSIC PLUS 3-in-1 FIBERGLASS ASPHALT SHINGLES 1332  
619

### FREE DELIVERY

With purchase of 10 or more square feet of selected products. Delivery fee waived for orders over \$500.

### GARAGE PACKAGES

**\$595**

Size	Price	Size	Price
12' x 22'	1595	24' x 24'	1795
20' x 20'	995	24' x 22'	1295

WE'LL DELIVER TO YOUR JOB SITE FOR A MINOR FEE WE CAN HELP!

### OLYMPIC OIL STAIN

**1295**

### FIBERGLASS INSULATION

**499**

### DIKE PLASTIC ROOF CEMENT

**399**

### EXPANDING FOAM SEALANT

**199**

### TAPERED EDGE DRYWALL

**399**

### WAFERBOARD SHEATHING

**499**

### OCTAGON WINDOW

**3495**

### ALUMINUM STOODOR DOOR

**4995**

### WALLED LAKE

2055 HAGGERTY RD.  
(NORTH OF 15 MILE RD.)  
**624-4551**