

Founders Fest boasts parade, pageant, jazz

Complete fest program in special section inside

It's festival time again in Farmington and Farmington Hills. The 23rd annual Founders Festival, which runs through Sunday, is expected to draw its largest crowd ever because of new attractions, organizers say.

To give you an idea of what's in store this year, think musical entertainment, children's games, games of chance, softball tournaments, ethnic and American foods, parades, magic acts, dancing, antique cars, arts and crafts, baking contests, picnics, radio-controlled model airplanes, meeting new people and good all-American fun.

The Founders Festival will launch its first bed race in conjunction with, and for the benefit of, the Muscular Dystrophy Association on Saturday at 9:15 a.m. in downtown Farmington — Grand River at Farmington Road.

Spectators can enjoy the amusing sport for a good cause just before the annual parade. Up to 15 teams will race in several three-bed heats. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third-place winners. Pla-

ques for the best decorated bed and recognizing the team that raised the most money will be awarded Friday 14 at the Village Commons shopping center on Grand River in downtown Farmington.

IN ADDITION to the two new highlights, a host of familiar attractions will return.

Back again this year is the outdoor jazz festival that features some of the area's most popular local bands. Bringing back the Dixieland sound for a second consecutive year, and also opening for the event, is the Chet Bogen Wolverine Jazz Band with colt Dixie Bell. Also scheduled to appear are the Detroit Music Company, with the "big-band sounds of the 1940s and 1950s," and the high-powered Main Street band, featuring production style jazz in a musical comedy review.

According to Eric Johnston, director of the jazz event, the varied musical styles of this year's artists will draw a diverse crowd. "There's something for everyone, from traditional favorites to more current, popular sounds. It's a perfect opportunity to bring family and friends, a picnic basket, and sit back and enjoy a relaxing evening — filled with

'It's a perfect opportunity to bring family and friends, a picnic basket, and sit back and enjoy a relaxing evening — filled with good music — under the stars.'

— Eric Johnston
jazz festival director

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The free event will take place 7-10 p.m. on Saturday at Oakland Community College-Orchard Ridge Campus, 14901 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills.

Other special events will be held throughout the Farmington-Farmington Hills community. The 10th annual Kids Day in the Park (noon to 5 p.m.) and the 22nd annual festival pet show (1 p.m.) will be held Tuesday in Farmington's Shilawessee Park, Pover at Shilawessee.

On Sunday at 4:30 p.m. at Heritage Park, the Farmington Area Committee on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution will bury a variety of

"timely treasures," contributed by a number of civic groups, in a bi-centennial time capsule.

AS HAS been customary, the hub of the events will take place in downtown Farmington where, among many attractions, visitors will find arts and crafts sales, games, ethnic and American foods as well as entertainment at the Showmobile — an elevated stage on wheels.

Showmobile entertainment will be ongoing Thursday through Saturday. Among the many acts featured are Chet Bogen, Alma Smith and her quintet, the Detroit Music Company, the Farmington Community Chorus,

the Franklin Village Band and a variety of dance groups.

Also reappearing is magician Mark St. John, who drew large crowds last year, with his captivating illusions.

Among one of the festival's most popular events is the Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant, scheduled for 7 p.m. on Wednesday at Vladimir's, 28125 Grand River, Farmington Hills. Tickets for the pageant are \$7 per person and are available at the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, 33201 Grand River, Farmington.

Entering its 16th year, the local pageant is a preliminary to Miss Michigan and Miss America competitions. The winner receives \$2,000 in educational and modeling/grooming scholarships among many other awards.

Last year's winner, Kristen Conley, will relinquish her crown to a new Miss Farmington at the pageant. A pageant afterward is planned to honor the winner and her court. Admission is \$5 per person.

IN ADDITION to Kristen Conley, Kelly Garvey and Juliana Winifery (37) will co-host and perform.

After the crowning of the new Miss Farmington, she and the pageant participants will be presented to the public at the Showmobile in the Downtown Farmington Center Wednesday night.

History buffs will enjoy the Farmington Historical Museum and re-creating Michigan's Underground Railroad years. Museum tours will be conducted 1-8 p.m. Friday and 1-3 p.m. Saturday.

Underground Railroad years will be presented by "Yesterday On Tour" actors at the Farmington Community Library branch on Liberty in downtown Farmington at 7 p.m. on Wednesday.

One of the festival's biggest events, the Founders Festival parade, featuring bands, floats and other vehicles, will take place on Saturday at 10 a.m. Going from the Target store on Grand River to Farmington Road, the parade will immediately follow the bed race.

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce office can direct callers to appropriate sources for more information on times, locations and other details relating to activities scheduled for the Founders Festival. The telephone number is 474-3440.

Award won by NFH grad



Julie Ging, award winner

A North Farmington High graduate has received the Jean MacKenzie Memorial Vocal Music Scholarship.

Julie Ging of Farmington Hills is the 1989 recipient of the award. A solo member for 24 years, Ging received the Choir Director's Award in 1988 and was named Farmington Hills Junior Miss in 1989. She was also involved with the Farmington Community Chorus and the Northern Lights.

"I plan to pursue a career in the performing arts with a degree from Wayne State University," Ging said on her scholarship application.

She plans to use the money to continue private voice lessons while attending college.

The scholarship is named after the late Joan Marie MacKenzie, who taught vocal music in the Farmington Public Schools from 1970 to 1986.

DURING HER tenure, MacKenzie directed choirs at Harrison High School, East Middle School and North Farmington High School. She also taught music at

Warner Middle School part-time while a teacher at North Farmington.

She was the first choir director at Harrison when it opened in 1970. She died on Dec. 29, 1986, after battling cancer for some 3 1/2 years.

In selecting a candidate for the scholarship, musicianship, contributions to the school vocal music program and financial need are all considered.

The recipient is selected by a committee, including choir directors from each high school and the district's music coordinator, Paul Barber.

Anti-drug rally to be previewed

A national rally tour will become part of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Founders Festival this year, as organizers get ready to "Say No to Drugs" and "Yes to Government by the People" on Wednesday.

Scheduled for noon at the Village Commons shopping center in downtown Farmington, the rally is sponsored by the Beverly Hills and Farmington Area Committees on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution.

A 40-foot, hand-painted trailer, which started its cross-country trip

last March, will arrive in Farmington for the on-day event before moving on to Lansing for a state-wide rally.

The trailer's final destination this fall is expected to be Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. The trailer is handpainted by 75 Georgia students.

Michael Bouchard, Beverly Hills Village Council president and the mayoral representative for Michigan for this event, said Farmington is the only non-capital city in the country to be honored by a visit.

"There is so much going on with the Founders Festival, I felt the probability of having people was pretty good," he said. "People will be out and in kind of a festive mood."

THE PURPOSE of the trailer trip is to promote the Constitution and cooperative civic involvement.

"This involvement would ultimately solve a number of looming problems facing all of America, such as the crippling drug situation," a re-

lease from the group said.

The rally includes using a coffin as a symbol of buying youth involvement with drugs and civic illiteracy, Bouchard said.

The cross-country journey is being sponsored by major corporations and groups, including state trucking associations.

The Village Commons is on the north side of Grand River, on the eastern edge of the city's central business district next to the Farmington Place senior apartment center.

military news

If you have military news with a Farmington-area connection, send it to Military News, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

NEW COMMISSION

Michael Bindon of Farmington Hills was commissioned a second lieutenant upon graduation from the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.

The 1985 North Farmington High School graduate now is scheduled to attend training at Ft. Bliss, Tex.

Time capsule to be buried at picnic

The Committee on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution will conclude this year's Farmington/Farmington Hills Founders Festival activities with a patriotic event.

At 4:30 p.m. Saturday in Farmington Hills' Heritage Park, the committee will host an old-fashioned picnic. The Franklin village Band, conducted by Dr. Conrad Lam, will be featured.

At the conclusion of this picnic, people may contribute items that re-

flect the true flavor of the Farmington Hills/Farmington area to a time capsule. The capsule will be opened on the 250th anniversary of the ratification of the U.S. Constitution in the year 2041.

This event will be held in the picnic grove at Heritage park, on Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile. Guests may bring a picnic supper and enjoy the patriotic music by John Phillip Sousa, George M. Cohan and Irving Berlin. The band

concert will precede the burying of the time capsule.

Picnic-goers may contribute any items they feel are representative of this time in the Farmington area.

To reserve a spot in the time capsule, call Linda Keller at 475-9585, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., by Wednesday.

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