

Founders Fest caters to family

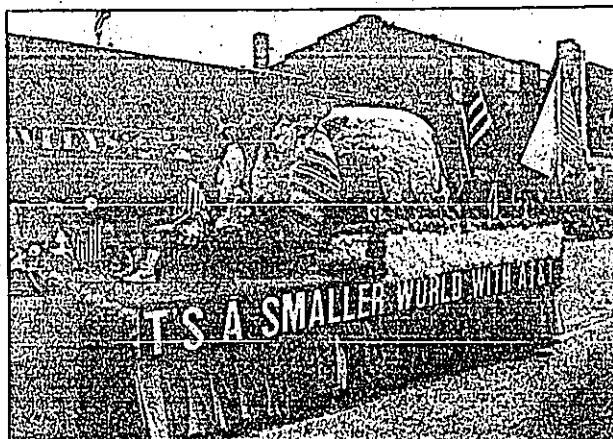
SUMMER MEANS fun at this year's 25th annual Farmington/Farmington Hills Founders Festival.

A handful of traditional events, along with a number of new and exciting ones, is expected to make this year's festival, July 8-16, the most exceptional ever, said Jody Soronen, executive director of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, festival sponsor.

Back are a host of favorites, like the Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant, an antique car display, music, dancing, a variety of foods, a pet show, games, arts and crafts displays and sidewalk sales.

This year's festival kicked off with an all-new Civil War re-enactment. North met South during two all-day re-enactments this past weekend at Farmington Hills' Heritage Park. Everything from soldiers and horses to rifles and cannons brought Civil War days back to life.

Also new in 1989 is a bed race in downtown Farmington benefiting the Muscular Dystrophy Association. In attendance during the July 15 race will be Channel 2 anchorman Joe Glover and Farmington Hills resident Ryan Young, MDA's poster child for southeast Michigan. The race will



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"It's a Smaller World with AT&T" was among the floats in the 1988 Farmington/Farmington Hills Founders Festival parade.

begin at 9:15 a.m. It will feature several three-bed heats that start at Grand River and School and finish at

Farmington Road.

Spectators will want to stick around after the bed race to enjoy the annual Founders Festival parade. This year's theme, which focuses on the Year 2000 and Beyond, is expected to turn out a variety of interesting floats. The parade, which also includes a number of bands and a variety of vehicles, will follow the same course as the bed race.

BACK BY popular demand is the free outdoor jazz concert, which takes place from 7-11 p.m. on Saturday, July 15, on the hill at Oakland Community College-Orchard Ridge Campus, Orchard Lake Road at I-496, Farmington Hills. Music lovers can relax and enjoy four hours of entertainment from these popular Midwest groups: the Detroit Music Company, the Chet Brogan Dixieland Band and Main Street.

Other events will be going on all week. In Farmington, the 10th annual Kids Day in the Park will be held noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday, July 11, in Shiawassee Park. Power at Shiawassee. Games, a variety of rides and the ever-popular pet show, scheduled to begin at 1 p.m., have made this event a festival favorite.

A good part of the festival action will take place in downtown Farmington. Among the attractions will be arts and crafts sales, games, ethnic and American food, and live entertainment on the showmobile, an elevated stage on wheels.

Showmobile entertainment will run afternoons and evenings beginning on Thursday, July 13, and ending on Saturday, July 15.

Among the acts scheduled to appear are the Detroit Music Company, the Farmington Community Chorus, the Franklin Village Band, Alma Smith and Chet Bogen. Magician Mark St. John returns this year with many new tricks. Observers will also enjoy

keeping in time to the music as they watch various dance groups perform.

ANOTHER BIG draw for the festival is the Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant, entering its 16th year. The pageant is a preliminary to the Miss Michigan and Miss America competitions. Miss Farmington 1989 will be crowned at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 12, at Vladimir's, Farmington Hills. Tickets to the pageant are available at the chamber office.

History is always in the making, and one can trace Farmington's history at the Farmington Historical Museum, 33805 Grand River, the former mansion of Gov. Fred Warner. Guided tours will be conducted during the festival on Friday, July 14, from 1-8 p.m., and on Saturday, July 15, from 1-5 p.m.

Also on Saturday, July 15, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, July 16, from noon to 5 p.m., the Farmington Area Jaycees will sponsor radio-controlled model airplane demonstrations at North Farmington High School, 13 Mile at Farmington Road, Farmington Hills.

A lot of up-and-down action will be found at the First United Methodist Church of Farmington, 33112 Grand River, on Friday, July 14, during a teeter-totter marathon for the benefit of Students Against Driving Drunk.

Softball tournaments will take place Friday-Sunday, July 14-16, at Farmington's Drake Park and at Farmington Hills Harrison High School for those interested in spectator sports.

And for those who prefer to actually participate in game play, a bingo tent will be set up along Grand River in downtown Farmington from noon to nightfall Thursday-Saturday, July 13-15.

CAPPING THE festival on Sunday, July 16, will be a picnic at Heritage Park featuring the burial of a bicentennial time capsule. A number of area civic groups has contributed symbolic artifacts to be included in the capsule. A number of local dignitaries, as well as the Franklin Community Band, will be there in honor of the ceremony.

Each year, the festival draws thousands from Farmington, Farmington Hills and neighboring communities.

This year's festival — with the addition of a number of new and exciting events — is expected to turn out a record attendance.

"After 25 years, the Founders Festival has evolved into a community tradition," Soronen said. "It gives us an opportunity to showcase our city, helps reinforce community pride and has proven to be a fun-filled time of togetherness for family and friends, year after year."

For more detailed information about the Founders Festival and its many activities, schedules are available from local merchants or by calling the chamber office, 474-3440.

A Friend Is There

Death is one of those certainties in life which, at one time or another, touches us all.

When someone we love dies, just knowing our friends are there sharing our grief and offering their support and friendship can be very meaningful.

We now have a special brochure entitled, "A Friend Is There—Suggestions for Friends of the Bereaved." It contains a number of helpful ideas on how to help and support a bereaved friend. Please feel free to call or drop by if you would like a personal copy.



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