

Downtown Day salute will be first of a kind

Downtown Farmington will re-emphasize its place on the map Wednesday, March 21, when the area celebrates Downtown Day — a first ever event to salute a downtown area for the sake of being a downtown.

The event's host, the Farmington Downtown Development Authority (DDA), invites the area's supporters to join in the celebration by coming to a lunch as unique as the downtown — a 500-foot-long hot dog cookout held right on the sidewalks of the downtown.

Beginning at noon, the free cookout will take place at the northeast corner of Downtown Farmington's anchor intersection of Grand River Avenue and Farmington Road. The hot dog will stretch nearly one-tenth of a mile at this site.

"The intent of Downtown Day is to give the area's fans a chance to show their support for the downtown and their commitment to its preservation and development," said Wendy Strip Sittsamer, DDA executive director. "We hope that other downtown areas in the country will follow our lead and hosts their own Downtown Days."

TO SPREAD the word nationally about Downtown Day, the DDA has submitted the event to be included in the 1991 Chase's Annual Events, an annual reference guide that includes listings of holidays, special events and observances from around the world. The DDA plans to celebrate Downtown Day annually.

Using oversized grills, Downtown Farmington restaurateurs will undertake the overwhelming feat of preparing the Vienna Beef hot dog for the hungry crowd. Nearly 20 people will be needed to cook and remove the hot dog from the grills and place it in its "bed of buns." The restaurateurs will help serve Pepsi-Cola beverages and condiments.

"The hog dog will be cooked in three shifts without ever severing the 500-foot length," said Strip Sittsamer. "We will not actually cut the dog until the official ceremony is held at noon."

Michigan business ombudsman Dick Allan will have the honor of cutting the first link and opening the

'The intent of Downtown Day is to give the area's fans a chance to show their support for the downtown and their commitment to its preservation and development.'

— Wendy Strip Sittsamer

event's festivities. In addition, other activities will include: three shifts of cooking by the restaurateurs and assorted honorary chefs; three shifts of "bed of bun" set up handled by Betty Jean Awrey, Awrey Bakeries vice president of public relations; a hot dog eating contest "I Ate — Feet of Hot Dog;" and a callopie provided by the Downtown Farmington Business Association.

THERE WILL also be announcement of the "I.D. (Identify Downtown) Contest" winners. Sponsored by the DDA and the Farmington Observer, the "I.D. Contest" challenges entrants to identify photographs of the specific parts of downtown buildings.

The "top of the town" prizes are as follows: first prize, a week's use of a Lincoln Town Car, Motor Trend's Car of the Year, courtesy of Bob Duseau Lincoln Mercury; second prize, the chance to paint the town (or just your home) with paint and home improvement items valued at \$200 from Damman Hardware in downtown Farmington; third prize, the sounds of Motown on five compact discs from Harmony House Records & Tapes in downtown Farmington. The contest deadline is Monday, March 19 at 5 p.m.

A rain date for Downtown Day has been set for the following day, Thursday, March 22. For more information, call the DDA office at 473-7276.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Debby Crittenden of Farmington Hills (left) brought her Dachshunds to downtown Farmington Thursday to help promote Downtown Day this week. Owners and managers of local businesses also gathered to rehearse cooking

a 500-foot-long hot dog. From left are Maureen Kane of Sweet Connections, Jerry Berger of Dagwood's Deli, Michael Glanzrock of Hot Dawg! . . . and Eileen Kosido of Mar-co's.

TV2's Murray Feldman sinks his roots in Hills

Continued from Page 1

broadcast job was at age 14 at a radio station. I bet I learned 80 percent of what I saw. That was good and bad. I saw people make big mistakes. That can be the best teacher. "I also learned what I wanted out of life. And that is to be a good, hard worker. There's a lot of people who may not have the background and are just readers."

FELDMAN RAN a one-man newsroom at WNYV-TV in Syracuse for one year when he worked as a weekend anchor/reporter.

It was there he faced his worst TV catastrophe: "I was working all alone. It was my first weekend on the job and all of the film was lost in the processor. It was the whole show. There were no reports, nothing."

Wire copy got him through. Nothing rattles him now, he said. "Over the years, I went from general assignment reporter, to anchor, to live reporter, writer and producer, covered politics and in-depth issues."

He even did restaurant reviews.

When Feldman and wife, Maria, a part-time Livonia Public Schools learning specialist, decided to start a family, they decided to establish ties in Farmington Hills.

"We looked other places because job offers had come, and we realized that we just couldn't leave the area because we couldn't duplicate what we had here."

They have two children, Katie, 7, a second grader at Wooddale Elementary, and Robbie, 5, who attends Fairview Early Childhood Center.

LIKE OTHER parents, he helps to get the children off to school in the morning and drills his daughter on her spelling words.

In an office Feldman shares with anchor Joe Glover, he displayed some of the more unusual products he has come across as a business editor — such as a Russian Pepsi bottle and a white plastic angel supposedly imbued with the power to find parking spaces.

AS A result of Feldman's 1989 series, "Does Your Job Make You Sick?" many people contacted the federal government about their work place.

In March 1981, he put together a series of reports taped inside a burning house during a Washenaw County Fire Department practice burn, demonstrating how to escape if a house catches fire.

It was the first journalistic endeavor in the nation and Feldman's idea.

"Even though we were all suited up, I still got scorched. There's no way a first-timer could get out easily."

Feldman has twice traveled to the White House. He was one of a select group of journalists, business editors and economic representatives invited to talk with President Ronald Reagan and cabinet members about the economic state of the nation. In 1976, he also met with President Gerald Ford.



THE CHARM OF BEATRIX POTTER

Beatrix Potter characters come to life for your children each time they share a meal! Royal Doulton brings you a child's place setting made of bone china with favored Beatrix Potter characters accenting the pieces.

3-piece set, \$36. Upcoming area store events:

Rochester: Thursday & Friday, 4-5 p.m.,

March 22 & 23, Meet Peter Rabbit! Have a

complimentary picture taken with him!

Livonia: Friday, March 23, 7-8 p.m. &

Saturday, March 24, 2-3 p.m. Story hour with Peter Rabbit.

Make your own rabbit ears to match his!

Birmingham: Saturday, March 24 Pictures with Peter Rabbit.

Jacobson's

We welcome Jacobson's Charge, MasterCard® and VISA®
Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday.

Homeowner seminar set

Misunderstandings about decks, swimming pools, air conditioners, radio towers and home occupations will be among the topics of a seminar in May for Farmington Hills homeowner associations.

"A great many homeowners don't understand the issues that most directly affect them in their neighborhoods," said city councilman Lawrence Lichtman, who suggested the seminar. "I think this is something that could be overdue."

The 1-1½-hour seminar would be presented by city attorney Paul Bibeau with the zoning board of appeals on hand to answer questions.

Many homeowners don't realize the city does not enforce deed restrictions or subdivision by-laws. They also don't realize that it is possible for a zoning ordinance to allow something that's not permitted under deed restrictions or subdivision by-laws, Lichtman said.

The seminar is expected to be videotaped for future viewing.

Man to stand trial in tot assault case

Continued from Page 1

He said he "didn't find anything presented at exam, by virtue of the government's stand," that caused him to believe his client is guilty of "any mistreatment of Joshua whatsoever."

Kosmala earlier told the Observer, "We're absolutely abhorred that Mr. Dring has been charged in this case."

At a preliminary exam, a judge determines if there's probable cause to believe that a crime has been committed and that the suspect committed it.

Neither Poisson nor assistant prosecutor Margaret Thomas would discuss their evidence. But Thomas did say: "The judge felt it was necessary for the defendant to go to trial after hearing the evidence."

"A person is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt — that's our next hurdle," Poisson said.

WHEN COMMUNITY EMS paramedics brought him to the Botsford General Hospital emergency room at 3 p.m. Feb. 8, Joshua had neck bruises along the jawline as

well as his left arm and shoulder. He also had broken blood vessels in the left ear. He was unconscious and began having seizures, Farmington Hills police said.

The attending physicians determined the most serious injury was a life-threatening internal head injury. At 5:15 p.m. Feb. 8, Joshua was transferred to Children's Hospital, police said.

"We deny the bruises were the result of any striking or hitting," Kosmala told the Observer March 2. "They were the result of the baby having been dropped accidentally."

Dring accidentally dropped Joshua from shoulder height while picking him up after lying him on a bed so he could play with him for a few moments, Kosmala said. Dring had moved the 25-pound baby to the bed in an effort to comfort him after he awoke, crying, in another room, Kosmala said.

"The baby lurched backwards and fell to the carpeted cement floor," he said.

"My investigation would reveal that everything is consistent with having happened exactly as Mr. Dring said it happened," Kosmala added.