

Sounds, smells lead you to shop

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— occupation, personal habits, personality — from a look at his or her shoes that are in for repair, Konjarevich said.

"You can tell if maybe a man is a salesman. The back of his right heel will be scuffed from all the driving."

And a real perfectionist will clean and shine his shoes, even though they're going in for repair.

ANOTHER THING Konjarevich has noticed about his customers: They tend to become attached to their shoes.

"If the shoes are comfortable, they don't care. They want 'em repaired. Ten dollars or \$250... they want 'em repaired. A comfortable shoe is like a good friend."

What does it take to be a success in the shoe repair game? "You have to be mechanically inclined, and sometimes you have to have a little imagination. Often you have to be able to take something apart and put it back together again in a hurry."

Konjarevich's business employs eight or nine people, including grown offspring Dave, Andrew and Terri. His wife, Janice, also works there part time.

ALTHOUGH KONJAREVICH lives in Livonia, a true subdivision city, he likes the "old village" scene in downtown Farmington.



SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

Andy Konjarevich: "The reason I came here 30 years ago was because of the small-town atmosphere. You can walk down the street and people say hello."

"The reason I came here 30 years ago was because of the small-town atmosphere. You walk down the street, and people say hello. You can walk around and be relatively safe, even at night."

Asked for tips on shoe selection, Konjarevich said, "You buy a shoe for a purpose. You don't buy a pair

of Johnson & Murphy shoes and then wear them digging in your garden."

But if you happen to do something that foolish and those expensive shoes need repair, there's always the little shop that smells of leather and polish at Farmington and Grand River.

Patriotic theme set for Festival

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started at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 10, at Vladimir's in Farmington Hills.

• Thursday through Saturday, July 11-13, a number of ongoing events are scheduled including: arts and crafts sales, bake sales and an ice cream social, all in downtown Farmington; entertainment in the downtown showmobile; bingo games downtown and at the VW post; the annual Ox Roast and beer tent at the Elks Club on Orchard Lake Road.

• In a more sporting vein, Farmington Hills parks and recreation will host three events: The Festival Open Tennis Tournament at Oakland Community College, a Sand Volleyball Tournament at Heritage Park, and a Men's Softball Tournament at Drake Park and Farmington and Harrison High schools.

IN ADDITION to the July 13 morning bed race and parade down Grand River, and the Desert Storm Salute at Heritage Park at 2 p.m., many other activities are scheduled as the festival draws to a close.

In the Uptown Farmington Plaza at Grand River and Mooney Street, merchants are sponsoring a showmobile with entertainment, an Antique and Exotic Car Show. Other activities there include a pie-eating contest, face-painting and sidewalk sales.

The Farmington Area Jaycees are, again, hosting a Radio Control Model Air Show at North Farmington High School both Saturday and Sunday. Members of Students Against Driving Drunk will host their Teeter-Totter Marathon Friday through Sunday at the United Methodist Church downtown, with proceeds going to SADD.

Sponsors for this year's major events are Botsford Hospital, Metro-

bank, NBD Bank N.A. and the Michigan National Bank branch at Orchard Lake and 12 Mile. Soronen stressed that the festival could not go on without them.

The Founders Festival was started in 1964, as community leaders tied together events such as the Elks Ox Roast, the Jaycees Chicken Barbecue and local sidewalk sales. The first festival marked the city of Farmington's receipt of the state award for having the "First Quaker Settlement" in the state — thus the name "Founders Festival."

The festival has evolved from its small-town roots to a more suburban summer event that draws from not only Farmington and Farmington Hills, but from surrounding cities as well.

A newspaper supplement with festival information will be in the Monday, July 8, issue of the Observer.

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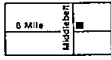
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