

A puppet show is one event the Downtown Development Authority used to draw youngsters and their parents to Farmington. About 850 attended the three shows July 3. More promotional events are planned.



photos by JOHN DISCHER

Downtown promos get a financial boost

Farmington DDA pledges more funds

By Casey Hane
staff writer

HALFWAY THROUGH a summer promotions program which has drawn hundreds of people

to downtown Farmington each week, the Downtown Development Authority has pledged more money for future promotional efforts.

The DDA board voted Tuesday to spend up to \$10,000 for DDA-sponsored promotions, matching dollar-

for-dollar money put up by the Downtown Farmington Business Association merchants' group. DDA member and city manager Robert Deadman called the money "pledge grants" and said it would allow the DDA focus to be "overall promotions downtown, while theirs (the merchants) would be to make the cash register ring."

Downtown merchant and DDA member Michele Jakacki said the DFBA business group plans to propose an annual fee of \$150 to its membership to cover membership dues and participation in downtown promotions, including direct mail and advertising. Based on past promotions, Jakacki said, the plan would be a money-saver.

THE DDA PLEDGE of more money came after a report on the group's current promotion—a 10-week summer promotions program which offers mid-day entertainment downtown each Wednesday.

The first promotion of Safety City drew more than 600 people, the second promotion of Upland

Andrew O'Connell, a Farmington 5-year-old, watches the puppet show in downtown Farmington.



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Puppeteer Bill Siemers pulls the strings and the puppets come to life to the delight of the children in the audience.

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

APARTMENT THEFTS

Residents of three units at Muirwood Apartments at Grand River and Drake Road reported items stolen during the week, according to Farmington Hills police reports:

- Patio furniture valued at \$200 was reported stolen from a unit on Lakeview Ct., June 28-July 1.

- A gas grill valued at \$125 was reported stolen from a unit on Pine Grove, June 28-July 1.

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CODE VIOLATION

A Farmington business was ticketed for a fire code violation, after a truck was discovered transporting tanks with flammable fluids without proper identification.

A driver for Progressive Lift Truck, 33900 Nine Mile, was carrying 30 full fuel tanks in a truck last Tuesday when stopped by police.

There were no proper decals on the truck indicating he was carrying the items.

THEFTS REPORTED

A car phone valued at \$600 was

reported stolen from a 1991 Lincoln on Stonewood Court, June 30-July 1.

A stereo valued at \$1,000 was reported stolen from a house on Edna, June 27-July 1.

A bicycle valued at \$200 was reported stolen from the east side of Farmington High School, 32000 Shawwassee, during drivers training classes.

A wallet valued at \$29 was reported stolen from a car parked in the rear lot of Farmer Jack, 22128 Farmington Road, Farmington, July 2.

A newspaper rack valued at \$250 was reported stolen from Mike's Party Store, 31511 13 Mile, July 1-2.

A 1987 Audi valued at \$10,000 was reported stolen from Bill Cook Buick, 37501 Grand River, June 28-July 1.

An AM/FM stereo with CD player, sunglasses and two concert tickets valued at \$949 was reported stolen from a 1986 Volkswagen on Gramercy Court, July 2.

DAMAGE REPORTED

Damage was estimated at \$95 when someone tore apart an air conditioning fuse box at Photo Concepts, 23042 Commerce, July 2. Beer bottles and cans are often found behind the building, which has been dam-

aged before, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

STOLEN CAR PHONE

An \$800 black Panasonic car phone was stolen from a Toyota van July 3 parked on Stonewood Court.

STOLEN AUTO

A \$13,000, 1991 Dodge Spirit with its keys inside, was stolen July 5 from an open garage on 13 Mile Road in Farmington Hills.

BREAKING AND ENTERING

A thief making forced entry to a home on Roll Crest in Farmington Hills stole \$7,550 worth of the homes contents, including speakers, a VCR, CD player and cassette deck.

BROKEN WINDOWS

Damage was reported after someone broke out two door windows on the west side of St. Gerald's Church early July 5. The owner of the A&W in the Crossroads Shopping Center also reported a window broken out. Damage was done with an unknown object, Frank Lauhoff, Farmington Hills public safety director said.

STOLEN TV

A grandson visiting his grandmother at the Greenery Nursing Home in Farmington reported his grandmother's color TV stolen. There are no suspects.

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Youngest ever?

Weighill, 21, named C'ville board chief

By Marie Chestney
staff writer

At Clarensville Board of Education's organizational meeting, Dale Weighill became one of the youngest trustees selected to be school board president.

In fact, if statewide records could be checked, Weighill, 21, might be the youngest ever elected to head a school board in Michigan.

His colleagues Monday gave Weighill the board's top job on the same night the University of Michigan-Dearborn college junior turned 21.

"It's a real honor. I'm happy the board chose me," said Weighill, who lives on Maplewood in Livonia.

Weighill, a Clarensville High graduate, recently was re-elected to his second term on the board. He campaigned for a board seat immediately after graduating from high school.

Also elected officers to the Clarensville board Monday were: Gary Gasser, vice president; Linda Brandemuhl, secretary; and Vernice Dunkle, treasurer. Dunkle just completed a year as president.

One of the first goals Weighill has set for himself as

'It's a real honor. I'm happy the board chose me.'

— Dale Weighill

board president is to "make things run smoother."

"In the past, items have been left off the agenda and some items were unclear."

Weighill also plans to make himself "very visible" throughout the district.

"I intend to visit the buildings and let the teachers know the board is interested in them."

Hiring a superintendent will be one of the first actions the board will take. By mid-August, the board is expected to name David Kamish, principal of Grandview Elementary in Clarensville, to the district's top job.