

They love the festival parade

EVERYBODY LOVES a parade — and the Farmington Founders Festival Parade is really a parade to love.

Each summer parade-lovers of all ages line the 1.5-mile strip along Grand River in downtown Farmington for the big event. This year's parade begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 13, at the Target Store and travels down Grand River to Farmington Road.

The parade follows the patriotic festival-theme of "Hurray for the Red, White and Blue."

This year's parade offers something for everyone. More than 70 units comprised of clowns, beauty queens, antique vehicles, boats, marching bands and marching units, drum and bugle file corps and floats will make their way through downtown Farmington.

Making sure all the parade units are in the right place at the right time is a task aided by the Farmington Amateur Radio Club, which sets up positions at each of the parades four staging points.

BETTY NICOLAY will preside over this year's parade as grand marshal. She is a 34-year resident of Farmington Hills and was recently recognized as Farmington/Farmington Hills' Citizen of the Year for her work in founding Farmington Families in Action, a non-profit parent group devoted to drug education and awareness.

She also serves on the board of directors for the YMCA, Farmington Hills Police Crime Prevention Advisory Committee and the Health Committee for area schools. Russ Tuttle will serve as the parade's announcer.

In keeping with the parade's theme, a children's group dressed in red, white and blue will sing patriotic songs honoring America. They will be accompanied by music played on home-made instruments.



Betty Nicolay
grand marshal for Festival Parade



The photo

Happy faces are easy to find in the crowds that line Grand River for the annual Farmington Founders Festival parade.

Miss Michigan 1990 Shelia Sigro will make an appearance as well as Mini Miss Renaissance USA Jill Cronenwett. Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills and her court will also make their traditional appearance.

A few of the antique vehicles that will be at this year's parade are a 1967 Chevrolet Corvette Coupe, 1940 Packard 180 Touring Sedan and a 1963 Buick Skylark convertible.

BANDS, CHEERLEADERS and pom pom squads from North Farmington and Harrison High Schools will also be present. Marching units range from military color guard to drill teams to baton and drum corps.

A number of clowns will be present to entertain and delight the crowds. For the children there will be the Fire Department's Clown Troupe, Mur-E-Lynn the clown, Clowns Around Redford and Col. Stan UN Flags and Clowns.

Judges will award cash prizes and trophies in the following categories: senior band, motor drill team, precision drill, baton and drum corps, organization float, junior band, drum and bugle corps, commercial float; President's Award for the float best depicting the festival theme, Queen's Trophy for the most original float and the grand marshal's three-year Drakeshire Cup for the marching unit with the most points overall.



file photo

Chinese young people sport masks native to their homeland during a recent festival parade. Such displays show the cultural diversity of the Farmington area.