

Festival: A call to colors

Continued from Page 2

planned for 2 p.m. Saturday, July 13, at Heritage Park picnic shelter.

RETURNING FOR its third year is the bed race for the benefit of the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Spectators can join in the bedlam of this amusing and unusual sport for a good cause at 9:15 a.m. Saturday, July 13, just prior to the annual parade. Up to 15 teams will race in several three-bed heats. Trophies will be awarded for first-, second- and third-place finishers.

Plaques for the best-decorated bed and an award recognizing the team that raised the most money for the MDA benefit will be given 6:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, July 12, at the Village Commons Shopping Center.

Children will be able to watch the Oakland County Parks and Recreation's puppet show version of Cinderella noon to 12:45 p.m. Saturday, July 13, at Uptown Farmington Plaza.

"WILD, WEIRD and wacky," is part of a summer reading program sponsored by the Farmington Branch Library. The program will take place during festival week.

The program's focus is to keep children reading throughout the summer, said Abbey Rehling, children's librarian.

"Statistics show that if children read through the summer, they usually don't lose ground when they begin school in the fall, and in some cases they're even further ahead," Rehling said.

The program is open at both the Farmington and Farmington Hills branch libraries to preschool and kindergarten children 10:30-11 a.m. Tuesday, July 9; children in grades one-three 2:30-3:30 p.m. Friday, July 12; and children in grades four and older 2:30-3:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 9.

ONE OF THE festival's most popular events — the annual Founders Day Festival Parade — will feature this year's Miss Farmington, marching bands, floats and other vehicles. The parade will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 13.

The parade, sponsored by Botsford General Hospital, will set its familiar course down Grand River between Holiday Chevrolet and Farmington Road.

The festival parade and bed race will cap the Founders Festival, but five days of summer-fun activities begin with the ever-popular Kids Day in the Park noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday, July 9, in Shiawassee Park.

Games, rides and family fun will be the order of the day. A pet show is scheduled for 1 p.m.



file photo

Bed racers hustle through downtown Farmington during '89 festival. The race returns for its third year as a benefit for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

ONE OF the festival's most popular events — the Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills Scholarship Pageant — returns for its 19th consecutive year. The pageant is part of the Miss America Pageant System and is a preliminary to Miss Michigan and Miss America competitions.

The pageant is one of the few that truly represents the local community by accepting just Farmington and Farmington Hills residents, said Sarah D'Ascenzo, executive director of the Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills Scholarship Pageant. This year 10 young women will vie for the title.

Five judges will judge contestants in four separate areas: talent, an interview, and swimsuit and evening gown competitions.

If the pageant's fund-raising efforts go well, scholarship money will be awarded as follows: Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills, \$1,000; first runner-up, \$500; second runner-up, \$250. Each non-finalist will receive \$50.

Anyone interested in supporting the pageant's fund-raising efforts can call the chamber of commerce.

THIS YEAR'S pageant, which is open to the community, will begin at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 10, at Vladimir's, 28125 Grand River. Tickets of the pageant are \$8 and are available at the chamber office.

Present at the pageant will be last year's queen, Allison Ayres, a number of previous queens as well as visiting queens from other communities. Several local and state dignitaries also will be present.

A post pageant "after-glow" is planned to honor the winner and her court. Admission at Vladimir's is \$5.

History buffs will enjoy the Farmington Historical Museum, the former mansion of Michigan Gov. Fred Warner. Museum volunteers will conduct guided tours 1-8 p.m. Friday, July 12, and 1-5 p.m. Saturday, July 13.

MORE THAN 50 antique and exotic cars will go on display 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, July 13, at Uptown Farmington Plaza. Trophies will be

given to some of the more outstanding vehicles during an awards ceremony, which begins that day at 5 p.m.

Showmobile entertainment, sponsored by Michigan National Bank, will be featured continuously Thursday-Saturday, July 11-13, at the Downtown Farmington Shopping Center.

Among the many acts appearing will be Center piece featuring Shelly "Quayle" Wary and Dave Alexander, Dickerman's Dance Studio presenting "Galaxy of the Stars," magician Mark St. John, Main Street, the Farmington Community Chorus and various dance groups.

OTHER FESTIVAL events, days and locations are as follows:

- Jaycee Radio Control Model Air Show, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 13, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, July 14, North Farmington High School.

- Arts and Crafts Sales: Downtown Farmington Parking Lot, Masonic Temple, Warren's Country Corner, First United Methodist Church. All sales are Thursday-Saturday.

- Men's Softball Tournament: Drake Park, Farmington and Harrison High School, Friday, July 12, through Sunday, July 14. Call Farmington Hills Recreation, 473-9570, for locations and times.

- Sand Volleyball Tournament: Friday, July 12, through Sunday, July 14. Call Farmington Hills Recreation,

473-9570, for locations and times.

- Bingo Tent: Downtown Farmington/Grand River, Thursday, July 11, 4-10 p.m.; Friday, July 12, 4-11 p.m.; and Saturday, July 13, noon to 11 p.m.

- 50/50 Bingo: VFW Post 2269, Thursday-Saturday, noon to midnight.

- Ox Roast: Elks Club, Thursday-Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Call 476-1986 for more information.

- Ice Cream Social: First United Methodist Church, Thursday, 7-9 p.m.; Friday, 4-9 p.m.; and Saturday, noon to 8 p.m.

- Pie-Baking Contest: First United Methodist Church, Thursday, 5-7 p.m.

- Pie-Eating Contest: Uptown Farmington Plaza, Saturday, July 13, 11 a.m. to noon.

- Watermelon-Eating Contest: Saturday, July 13 from 3 p.m.

"It's a sizable task to pull together all the various civic groups within the community and to schedule the various events so the entire festival runs smoothly," Soronen said. "Though each year we continue to receive strong support from community organizations, businesses and volunteers to make the festival even more successful."

Those seeking more detailed information about the Founders Festival and its many activities can pick up event schedules at local businesses or may call the chamber of commerce at 474-3440.

Church opens parking lot

Again this year, Salem United Church of Christ invites handicapped people attending the Founders Festival to park their vehicles free of charge in the church parking lot at 33424 Oakland in downtown Farmington Thursday-Saturday, July 11-13.

About 40 spaces are available. Only vehicles that properly display identification from the Secretary of State's office or have the handicappers license plate will be allowed in the lot.

The lot is north of and adjacent to Farmington's War Memorial, where the craft concessions stands will be located.

Salem's lot is accessible from Grand River and Farmington Road. Salem will provide a rest area that can be used by the handicapped and a refreshment stand on its premises for all festival-goers.

For more information, call the church at 474-6880.