

Fun series brings throng downtown

IN ALL, Lulu and Blooper the clowns made and handed out 410 balloon sculptures, while artist Akbar Beard worked fast and furious, drawing caricatures of area kids.

It was all part of the 10-week Summer Fun Series July 24, sponsored by the Farmington Downtown Development Authority, and DDA director Wendy Strip-Sittsamer declared it another success.

"I think it was a fun promotion — I'm only sorry we couldn't accommodate more people," she said. "We had over 400, but we turned many away."

There were so many people waiting in line, organizers had to halt the flow of new people to the tent 45 minutes before the event ended. The clown event was the seventh in the series which has drawn hundreds of people downtown each Wednesday this summer.

Merchants are also getting into the act with special Wednesday promotions, and the DDA is giving away grab bags with store coupons and other items.

"It's doing what it was designed to do — that's to bring people into the downtown on a day which is usually slow," Strip-Sittsamer added.

The DDA is currently working on plans for the city's big holiday promotion, and is also considering fall and spring promotions as well.



Caricature artist Akbar Beard laughs with Natalie Giammons, 5, (right) and her brother Chaz, 8, about a caricature he has created for their Farmington Hills friends, (not pic-

tured) Brian and Eric Kurliak. At left, Leslie Bateman, 5, and her brother Jon Bateman, 8, watch the action.



Lulu the clown paints the face of Sean Kurowski, 2½, of Livonia as part of Wednesday's event in downtown Farmington.

YMCA highlights

These YMCA highlights appear courtesy of the Farmington Hills YMCA, 28100 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. For more information, call 553-4020.

SUMMER MEMBERSHIPS

The YMCA will once again offer summer memberships to adults, families, college students and graduating high school seniors. Reasonable rates, a multitude of exciting programs, and membership services are available. Free neon sunglasses (limit of two per family) to those who buy summer memberships.

RESIDENT CAMP

The Y still has some openings in its camping program. Check into a fun-filled summer at camp for your child. Sessions run through the week of Aug. 12. Call the Y for more information at 553-4020.

DRIVERS EDUCATION

Openings are still available in the

class starting Aug. 6. The course includes both classroom and behind-the-wheel training. Call the Y for more information.

FALL I PROGRAM REGISTRATION

The YMCA's Fall I program registration will be the week of Sept. 2. Full-privilege members may register Tuesday-Saturday, Sept. 3-14. Program members may register beginning Wednesday, Sept. 4. Fall program opportunities include adult and youth aquatics, adult fitness classes, gymnastics, preschool programs and more. Look for brochure in mail by Aug. 26.

SUMMER MEMBERSHIPS

The Y is selling memberships to adults, families, college students and graduating high school seniors. Enjoy one of the most comprehensive wellness facilities in the area at our special summer rates. Call the Y for more information at 553-4020.

recreation news

Each week, the Recreation Division of the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services presents a synopsis of upcoming activities in this column. For further information regarding programs, please contact the recreation office at 473-9570. Pre-registration is required for most activities. For matters regarding city council agenda items, call the city's Newsline at 476-3333.

AMUSEMENT PARK TICKETS

Tickets for your favorite amusement park can be bought at a discount rate at the Recreation Office. If you are going to Bob's Island, Cedar Point, Detroit Zoo, Four Bears Water Park, Greenfield Village, King's Island or Sea World, stop and see us first for a savings on tickets for these facilities.

YOUTH SOCCER

Registration is now being accept-

ed through Aug. 9 for children in grades kindergarten through third for the fall soccer program. Fee is \$18 per child. Games are played on Saturday mornings and are scheduled to begin Saturday, Sept. 14. Teams will have a one-hour practice during the week. League division is kindergarten and first grade and second and third grade.

STARS IN THE PARK

Bring your lawn chair or blankets to enjoy the sounds of big bands, jazz and contemporary music throughout the summer at Heritage Park. There is no fee for this program.

PICNIC PACK

All you have to do is bring the food, the picnic pack has the rest. Equipment included in the pack is a volleyball and net, a complete badminton set, a softball bat and soft-

ball, scoops and whistle ball, rubber horseshoes and stakes, and a Frisbee disc. Reserve your picnic pack one week in advance by calling 473-9570. Fee is \$6 per weekday and \$10 for the weekend. A \$20 deposit is required when pack is picked up.

HORSEBACK RIDING INSTRUCTION

A horse and rider work well together when each knows how to make the right moves. During the class, which meets once a week for six weeks, you will learn the basic riding skills of either English or Western styles. Classes will meet at

Windshire Equestrian Academy in Milford on Wixom Road and will begin the week of Aug. 5. Fee is \$60 per person.

FAMILY OVERNIGHT CAMP

Beginning at 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 10, at Heritage Park, camping enthusiasts will set up camp, take nature hikes, enjoy an evening camp fire while roasting marshmallows. In the morning, everyone will pitch in to prepare breakfast. Fee is \$7 per person. Campers should bring a sleeping bag and pillow and a sense of learning and adventure. Pre-registration is required.

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