

Community Corner

This week's question:

Do you favor a cat ordinance in Farmington and Farmington Hills that would make cat owners more responsible for their roaming cats?

We asked this question at stores in Mulwood Square.



"Cats should be regulated. There's a lot of cats in my neighborhood. I'm concerned about disease and that. We had cats, but we kept them in the house."

— Frank Blair
Farmington



"Yes. There's a lot of cats in my neighborhood (Old Hometown West subdivision). A lot of cats roam around. I'm allergic to cats."

— Moghan Fallon
Farmington Hills



"Yes. They walk all over my car. There's always paw prints on it. Cats get in the garbage."

— Jeff Aubuchon
Redford



"I haven't had a problem with them. I don't like cats so I would be in favor of it."

— Jennifer Reizen
Farmington Hills



"Yes. People should be responsible for their pets. People shouldn't have to clean up after others' pets."

— Jeff Van Steinburg
Philip Nolas Salon



"I'd have to hear the ground rules first. I believe all outside cats should be spayed and neutered. Anybody who's been to a pound should realize that needs to be done."

— Andrea Nagy
Philip Nolas Salon



With one ear listening to concert preparations on his walkie-talkie, Ted Ashburn, general manager of Chene Park Music Theater, watches the audience arrive for a recent B. B. King Concert.

Chene manager says park is safe

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OF 50 events at Chene Park, half are free.

"Half of our shows are free shows which is something nobody else does — anywhere," Ashburn said.

"We try to do 25 free shows or special events from Memorial Day to Labor Day."

The Ford Motor Co. will sponsor the Michigan Opera Theatre's Salute to Broadway show scheduled for 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 28, free of charge.

The Detroit Edison Foundation will also present a free blues show: The Hep Cats, Zoom and The Blue Diamond Band and Robert Penn, the headliner, in a 8 p.m. show Friday, Aug. 30.

THE CONCERT market this year, more than last year, is really soft, Ashburn said. During the winter, Ashburn will work on sponsorships and signage.

"I will work for Nederlander and other indoor venues in other towns," Ashburn said.

"They book shows in Toronto, Cincinnati, and they'll fly me out there. That will be something new for me. Chene Park draws people

'We haven't had a security incident here (at Chene Park) since we've been open. We haven't had so much as a car stolen.'

— Ted Ashburn

from Toledo, Ann Arbor and Lansing."

AS ANY newcomer, Ashburn is struck by some initial first impressions.

"I just wanted to crawl in a hole when that thing happened," Ashburn said of the beatings at Hart Plaza after the Freedom Festival fireworks.

That night, Chene Park offered

both free pre- and post-fireworks concerts.

"You can definitely see the racial issue here is so prevalent in people's minds," Ashburn said.

"I've been in other major cities before. There's no more crime here than there is there."

"But, for some reason, the first thing people in suburbia say when they are getting ready to go downtown, is: 'I wonder if I will be OK.' Or, 'I wonder if I'm going to be safe.'"

"It's just a shame. It's amazing. I hear it in grocery stores. It's a topic of conversation."

SOME SUBURBANITES jump downtown sites into one, not actually knowing or drawing the boundary lines between Hart Plaza, Chene Park and Greentown.

"We haven't had a security incident here (at Chene Park) since we've been open," Ashburn said.

"We haven't had so much as a car stolen. We have lighted secure parking on our own lots."

"It's frustrating from a business person's standpoint when I'm trying to sell tickets."

"I'm not from here, I don't know why things have developed the way they have. We hope that we can turn it around."

Nursing home picnic theme is 'Hometown'

There's no town like your hometown.

That's what Farmington Nursing Home is celebrating at its annual family picnic, themed "Hometown, USA," on Saturday, Aug. 17, from noon to 2 p.m. on the nursing home grounds, 30405 Folsom Road, Farmington Hills.

The more than 300 residents and family members that are expected to attend will enjoy banjo music, singing and home-cooked favorites like fried chicken, corn on the cob and cherry pie.

Old-fashioned — lemonade — stands, ice cream carts and popcorn stands will dot the grounds.

"The annual picnic is such a nice day for everyone involved," said Sally Jacobs, activities director at Farmington Nursing Home. "And it's our way of showing our residents and their families how much we love and care for them."

Farmington Nursing Home is a 175-bed skilled nursing facility located in Farmington Hills.

In addition to providing extended care, the nursing home provides hospice care services in conjunction with Hospice of Southeastern Michigan as well as a short-term respite care for families that need relief from daily caregiving activities.

Players hold auditions for 'Oklahoma'

Avon Players announce auditions for the first musical show of the new season, "Oklahoma." The search is on for thespians, singers and dancers at least 19 years old. No stage experience required.

The auditions will begin 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 18, and continue 7:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 19 and 20, at the Avon Players Playhouse.

The script and music is available at the Rochester library.

The playhouse is located in a historic area of Rochester Hills on Tenken at Runyon Road, west off Rochester Road.

The public is invited to audition or just watch and see how a show is cast.

The show runs for three weekends and opens Oct. 18. For more information, call 653-9402.

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