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 - Community events including all areas covered by our paper
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 - Associated Press news - local and national.
 - Westcoast Music Review, an electronic music magazine.
 - Boatwatch magazine: a guide to on-line information services.
 - PC Catalog allows you to shop on-line for all computer needs.
- Sign on to O&E On-Line with or without our software. Software is available by mail for \$5 or save yourself the shipping costs by stopping by the Observer & Eccentric offices in Livonia or Birmingham and pay \$3.

BBS HOTLINE: 953-2266

- Feel free to call us if you need help signing on to O&E On-Line.

DDA signs on for informational meeting

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington Downtown Development Authority is having its first informational meeting June 14, and it promises to be a banner occasion.

The meeting starts at 7 p.m. in council chambers at City Hall.

Parking signs will be one topic of the inaugural getting-to-know-you gathering Tuesday. Instead of metal markers, the DDA is considering the use of canvas banners to call attention to a plethora of parking space available downtown.

People have complained there

is not enough parking downtown, especially on the north side of Grand River.

"There are 2,000 parking spaces in the city," said DDA director Judy Downey. "We feel it's important to make people visually aware of where these parking spaces are."

Downey presented a mock up of an 18- by 36-inch canvas at the DDA board meeting Tuesday. The beige and forest green signs would include a picture of a car and the word "park."

Markers would hang from 15 pedestrian lamps along Grand

River and Farmington roads. Downey thinks the canvas banners would be more eye-catching, and yet blend in with the city's beige and forest green sign motif.

Canvas is also less expensive than traditional metal signs. Downey said. She estimates such a project would cost around \$3,000.

Whether city council has a final say on such projects is unclear. The markers are considered traffic signs, and not subject to the city's retail ordinance.

"It's one of those things that will have to be visited," said

Farmington City Manager Frank LaHoff.

The DDA board members will also use Tuesday's informational meeting to provide updates on activities planned for this summer.

On June 17, the DDA starts its first-ever evening concert series at the gasbo area in the Village Community parking lot. The performance takes place 7:30-9 p.m.

The informational meetings, along with a new monthly newsletter, are partly in response to complaints the DDA's 8 a.m. monthly meetings are difficult to attend.

Series has cure for kids' summertime blues

With school vacations looming ahead, parents get a lot of help from the Farmington Downtown Development Authority in keeping young children entertained on eight Wednesdays throughout the summer.

The Summer Fun Series, now in its fourth year, kicks off Wednesday, June 15, with the Farmington Library staff presenting songs and puppetry to get

children revved up for their annual summer reading program, "Adventures At Camp Read."

Parents should look for the green-and-white-striped tent in the Downtown Center Parking lot.

Show times are 10:30 a.m., noon and 1:30 p.m. All children attending will receive a "goody card" listing merchants who are distributing a special trinket at their

store each Wednesday during the series.

The Summer Fun Series offers a variety of performances and activities designed to be enriching as well as entertaining for young families. New for this year is the use of the Civic Theatre for most of the performance-style events, giving parents a break from the summer heat.

Event sponsors are the North-

west Gazette newspaper, Carousel Kids, Clothes Encounters, Metrobank and the merchants of the historic Cook Building.

Specific details of each week's presentation and location are listed on a flier available at all downtown retailers and both branches of the library. Schedules were also distributed to all Farmington and Livonia elementary school students in their Friday folders.

Time running out in drive for street improvements

Some residents in the Westbrook Manor and Kendalwood subdivisions of Farmington Hills are worried that time could be running out for a chance at street improvements.

Jean Cava, a Westbrook Association board member, said 51 percent of the residents in the special assessment district had to sign a petition requesting the improvements by July 1.

"The problem is, so many people work that it's hard to track them down," Cava said. "Then they go away for the weekend."

The subdivisions, in Section 10 of the city south of 13 Mile, north of 12 Mile, east of Farmington and west of Orchard Lake, would pay 52.18 percent of the cost for paving, ditching and culvert work. The city would pay 20 percent and sewer fund money would go toward the remaining 27.82 per-

cent of the total cost of \$918,970.

"Most of the people we've reached have been for it," Cava said. "We've just had a hard time getting in touch with them."

Each resident in the SAD would pay \$581.39 for the improvements. City cost estimates show that delaying the improvements would mean adding to the project cost at a later date.

Cava asks that anyone in the district interested in more information about the project call her at 553-4443 or call Renee Atkins (489-8890), Keith Reed (553-6782), Dave Lound (553-8919) or Leora Graal (489-1235) if they live in Westbrook Manor. They should call Ron Brown (488-2143), Joan Kay (553-4613), Ken Warnick (553-0276) or Lynne Gulick (488-2178) if they live in the Kendallwood subdivisions.

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