



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL REEDER

Getting ready: Bryan Collins of Collins Signs hangs one of 22 banners heralding the start of Farmington Founder's Festival.

## Festival from page A1

Cassidy's shop moved down the street from the Village Mall to 33246 Grand River, a free-standing structure facing the Farmington Bakery. The gift shop takes up the front of the building; the saloon is in the back.

According to Cassidy, plans are to provide bargain-hunting browsers with free refreshments, such as ice tea and lemonade while displaying bargain-priced store merchandise on the side walk.

Also putting merchandise outside will be Larry Sallen, owner of Clothes Encounter on Grand River.

"We push out a ton of casual women's contemporary clothes," said Sallen, calling the festival the biggest customer draw of the year. "It always helps build our customer base. We have such a good customer base."

Sallen did note one particular downside, however: the lack of accessible parking. "In general, parking (in downtown) is a problem, and not just for the festival."

Parking lots generally are scattered throughout the central business district.

Once folks do find parking spaces, they spend money and soak up the fun-filled environment.

"It's beautiful," said Ali Almansoor, owner of Dimitri's of Farmington. "There's a lot of atmosphere, people from out of town. And everybody benefits, from restaurants to candy stores to grocery stores."

Almansoor said Dimitri's won't offer anything out of the ordinary for the festival. But his 110-seat eatery usually is filled

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**Ali Almansoor**  
—Dimitri's owner

dining spot in Farmington. "It was very positive," he said. "We opened in November of 1997 and (business) has been growing ever since."

Over at the Downtown Farmington Center, Big Apple Bagel again will be under the big top, with a tent and table set up on the sidewalk, said owner Dave Henninger.

"People can buy stuff outside, instead of coming into the store," said Henninger.

Customers may also purchase ice cream and "Smoothies," a blended fruit drink, as well as receive discounts on bagel sandwiches.

Tom Petros, owner of the Cigar Emporium and Wine Emporium stores in the Downtown Farmington Center, said the Founders Festival gives him a chance to promote daily specials, such as "buy five cigars, get one free."

Henninger said he is looking forward to the festival, but has concerns about the continuing empty retail space where Farmer Jack used to be.

"How much it (the vacancy) affects it I don't know," Henninger said. "But I think Farmer Jack not being here affects each and every business in this center."

City Manager Frank Lauhoff and Judy Downey, executive director of the Downtown Development Authority, dismissed any notion that the empty Farmer Jack spaces will detract from the celebration.

"It's certainly not attractive," conceded Lauhoff. "But the festival isn't about one location or one store out of 150."

## Holiday delays regular trash pickup

The Independence Day holiday on Sunday, July 4, will push back refuse/recycling collections in Farmington and Farmington Hills by a day.

There will be no pickup on Monday, July 5. Collections will resume on Tuesday, July 6 and run

## Play from page A1

BobCats to move mountains of woodchips into place, Richards said.

Volunteers worked despite being soaked — "As wet as a person can be," he said.

"There were an incredible group of people," Richards said. "The only ones who left were a couple (who) ran out of gas."

Incorrect parts shipped for the toddlers' glider-swing set prevented it from being completed, he said, and a change in plans for the entrance area — extending the metal ramp instead of creating a land-

bridge — necessitated ordering more parts.

In addition, a late change in number of signature pickets purchased by residents for the play/ape fence — it jumped from over 900 to 1,600 — delayed their delivery, Richards said.

Picnic tables also needed to be finished, he added.

All necessary items are expected to be on hand for the weekend effort, Richards said.

To volunteer or for additional information, call either Richards at City Hall, (248) 474-5500, or Nancy Tashman, fundraising co-chair, at (248) 476-8562.



Volunteer: Wendy Schulman spreads woodchips at the base of the playstructure.

fundraising co-chair, at (248) 476-8562.

**Working hard:**  
Volunteers Andy Larson and Ryan Deisenroth load wood chips into a wheelbarrow during a recent work effort at the Kids World PlayScape in Farmington's Shiawassee Park. Organizers are asking the community for volunteers for the holiday weekend. To volunteer or for additional information, call either Richards at City Hall, (248) 474-5500, or Nancy Tashman, fundraising co-chair, at (248) 476-8562.



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL REEDER



British Airways, the City of Southfield, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, and MetroTimes cordially invite you to the 11th annual

## SOUTHFIELD GOLD CUP POLO COMPETITION

Southfield Polo Team vs. Palm Beach Polo Team  
on Saturday, July 17, 1999 at 2:00 pm • Rain date: Saturday, July 24  
at Word of Faith International Christian Center  
(formerly Duns Scotus), Evergreen and 9 Mile roads

Tickets: \$5 in advance/\$6 at the gate/\$1 children 12 & under  
Proper attire requested: Men — sportcoats • Women — low heels recommended

For information: Southfield Community Relations Department, 248/354-4854

Please Note — Parking is available in the north lot of the Southfield Civic Center (Evergreen and 10 1/2 Mile) with complimentary shuttle bus service provided to the Polo Field.

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## CLARIFICATION

A story in the June 20 Farmington Observer, about Farmington Public Schools' \$3.1 million computer and technology pack-age indicated that it included the award of \$950,000 to Comp USA.

for laptop computers. The total of the Comp USA bid was correct. But the story should have also stated that laptops only accounted for about \$230,000 of that amount. The remainder