Festival from page A1

board reviewed its purpose and mis-sion, efforts have been afoot to study and prepare to create a nonprofit group of community and business representatives to coordinate and operate the mid-summer festival.

Creating an organization

Creating an organization

During a recent meeting of a subcommittee working on plans for a
new organization to run the festival,
at least 30 groups were identified to
participate on a new board of directors. "We've got a wide range of
organizations." Finherty said, such
as civic groups, schools, churches,
multicultural organizations and private businesses. 'It never furts to
have too many."

The plan is to have the chamber's
larger, festival task force sign off on
a proposed new board of directors
for the nonprofit group. The plan is
also to hire a consultant familiar
with community festivals to organize the new group sometime after
the first of the year.

"I was officially directed to form
an al loe group of community organizations. I personally solicited virtually everyone of the groups (that
have participated in the past)."

Deciding to let the festival out of
the chamber's hands has not been
an easy one. But chamber officials
say they believe it's the right direction for the chamber and for the festival, which this past year drew
fewer visitors.

"We had to ask if this meets our

fewer visitors.
"We had to ask if this meets our overall mission," Flaherty said. "We assessed this from the point of view that this is a membership organization – does it meet the needs of our

membership. We are a leading advo-ente for business. While the festival may be good for our downtown mer-chants, is it good for all of our mem-

Voicing concerns

bers?"

Voicing concerns

Farmington City Manager Frank
Lauboff, a subcommittee member, is
concerned about the festival's
future, its impact on Farmington,
and how the process is working, as
well as who is leading it.
"I think there's an awful lot of discussion that needs to take place —
I'm hesitant moving as fast as the
chamber wants," Lauboff axid. "The
process might take longer."

Longtime festival guru Jody Soronen, former chamber president and
now community affairs representative, has long played a pivotal role
in the planning and actual operations of the festival. Clearly the one
who has the knowledge, Soronen
has been asked to write a handbook
of sorts detailing the festival operations — busically how it's done.

Losing in any form that knowledge and history causes some concern. "A new committee is needed
with a broader base of people — not
the chamber chairman. It is selfserving," said Farmington Council
man William Hartsock, a festival
task force member, "Somebody other
than the chairman of the chamber
should be the focal point. Obviously
over the years the effort in developing and supporting the festival fell
on Jody's shoulders. But we need
full-time or part-time person — a
main person — to run this thing,"

"Steve (Pope) certainly

brings a lot to the table. But he doesn't have the bistory that other people have," said Farmington Mayor Mary Bush, a task force member. "I think it's not going to happen as fast as he would like it to. It's got to be done right. No way do we want this to have an affect on the festival."

Lauboff doesn't disagree. "This is still a small town. Someone who leads this has to be someone the public knows and trusts. That's an

public knows and trusts. That's an

public knows and trusts. That's an issue."

Bush is also concerned that the current chamber board of directors is full of new people, perhaps not fully aware of the community's history, the history of the festival, and its role in the community. The board has no long-term community members anymore, Bush added.

Pope said he doesn't dispute that someone else should lead the effort. "Anyone from the chamber is not the appropriate person. It ultimately makes sense for the person who will run it in the long run to run it in the transition process. The chamber has the opportunity and the obligation to get the ball relling."

Generating revenues

Generating revenues

Ideally, the festival can generate revenues for the festival, as can a car raffle started in the 1980s. But chamber officials say the festival has not been a money maker. The payroll expense for the chamber's work on the festival is about \$20,000 a year. 'We believe it adds to the payroll expense for the chamber's work on the festival is about \$20,000 a year. 'We believe it adds to the part-time person on an up to one part-time person on an annual basis," Pope said. "We look

at this as a loss."

Added Flaherty: "Some years we have ended up in the hole. This year, no. We saw a bit of a net profit."

The car raffle alone has made some money for the chamber. "It generated some revenue but did not cover the costs of the festivals,' Soronen said. "I think some people were not overwhelmed with the idea that it was a two-year lease, plus some cash," Soronen added. Despite financial losses to the

chamber over the years, the cham-ber board is committed to providing seed money for the new festival organization. Contributions would likely be provided on a sliding scale over five years, beginning with perhaps \$20,000 the first and second years, \$15,000 the third, \$10,000 the fourth and \$5,000 the fifth, Pope

The chamber would keep the car raffle," he said. "The chamber's position is that all those organizations that receive a financial benefit have an obligation to support the festival. The chamber is suggesting that those organizations that have used the chamber to raise money the table."

* * * *

Trot

Kids raise money

People in spandex, dressed like turkeys, running around Power Middle School? What's that all about? Well, it is a fund-raiser for the Oakland-County Food Bank, hosted and held by some of Power's seventh graders.

The money will be used to buy food and meals for those who truly need them; -specially now during the holiday season.

The major activity held for the fund-raiser is called the Turkey Trot. Anybody may join in on this fun activity. This will be held on Friday, Nov.

TURKEY TROT

20, the last day of the fund-raiser.

The Turkey Trot is a walk/run mile around Power Middle School. Teachers, students, and staff will be going and hope that others will participate, too.

At school, there will be lunch collections. This involves some of the seventh graders walking around at lunch asking for donations of spare change from the kids and staff.

The Day will also be held today. Children and adults can rent ties from the, seventh-graders.

Heslop's

"Songbirds of Christmas" Santa Available only at Heslop's!



an your holiday oor with a Heslop's decor with a Hestop's exclusive Havingly enafted from head to toe, this stately Santa is a special edition from the studio of Lynn Haney. The figure's head and extremities were modeled after the artist's original clay sculptures and ceat from wood resin, painted, and antiqued by hand, Cluthed in a distinctive, handmade civitume, it boasts an antural costume, it boasts a natural beard and wig, meticulously wayen from mobalr and wool fibers.

So, hurry over to Heslop's for your "Songbirds of Christmas" Santa, Quantities are limited!

Clair Shorry, 21429 Mach Ave. 0) 778-6142 - (North of Eight Mile Rd.)

No Adjustment on prior purchases

Steiling Heights, Essilate Commons (1819) 2016 (Cr. corner of Hall Road and Hayes Road) Tray, Oakland Mall (248) 589-1435 West Bloomfield, Orchard Mall (248) 737-8080 (Orchard Lake and 15 Mile)

Lazare's Designer Sable Sale 50%off 4 DAYS ONLY l.azare's
has brought
together a
lavish selection
of Designer
Canadian and
Russian Sable
coats, shortcoats,
and jackets for you
to choose from at
unheard of savings. 50% Lazare's Furs 493 Quellette Ave. Windsor, Ontario Canada Just left out of tunnel, Store Hours: Mon-Sat 9-6 Hor a private appointment.

IF YOU THOUGHT

NO ROAMING AND NO LONG DISTANCE CHARGES WERE YOUR ONLY REWARDS FOR SIGNING UP WITH AT&T DIGITAL ONE RATE;

THINK AGAIN.

Sign up for AT&T Digital One Rate™ and you can get new AT&T Personal Network at no extra charge -- a \$9.95 monthly value.



- 10¢ a minute on domestic ATAT Cataing Card, residential long distance and personal 800 number calls, plus international calls from home to Carada, the U.K. and border cross of Mexico.
- One dedicated customer service number to call
- One itemized bill
- Membership in ATAT Minute Rewards, which less you accrue bonus minutes just for using the phone

1000 | 1400 600 \$11999 \$149,99

+No roaming and no long distance charges in all 50 states Digital PCS features including ATAT VoiceMail, ATAT Caller ID and Text Messaging All-new Digital multi-network Ericsson KH 668 phone, now only \$69 after mail-in rebate (suggested retail price \$99 = \$30 rebate = \$69)

www.att.com/wireless/ PHONES BY ERICSSON It's all within your reach.



Your source for all ATAT services.

313-961-4731 888-LAZARES

Sale runs Nov.19th, 20th, 21st & 23rd

Birmingham 34200 Woodw 248 372-7939

Dearborn 22137 Michigan Ave. 248 372-7991

Lathrup Village 27631 Southfield Rd. 24B 372-7921

13307 Hall Rd. 248 372-7931

CHM ATS Codd spood and \$15 stration for repaired ATS Depti One Bits calling plan require around contract. In Depti Information shows the repaired service and the repaired services between the repaired services and the repaired services and the repaired services around the discussion and the repaired services are repaired and the repaired of the repaired services are repaired as the repaired services are repaired to the repaired services are repai