

Classic car event begins Monday

BY SUE BUCK
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At least a few heads will turn Monday when the first round of classic cars roar into downtown Farmington.

The annual classic car show takes place in the adjoining parking lot behind The Pasta Stop and Page's Food and Spirits, from 9-30 p.m., and continues every Monday through September.

"There will be newer and fresher cars," said sponsor Roger Ratkowski, owner of The Pasta Stop in Farmington. "Car enthusiasts build and display their cars and they cruise to different events. The people will be from all over the state of Michigan. We've had cars from Toledo, St. Clair Shores, Sanilac, Cadillac and Muskegon."

Ratkowski appreciates the fact the city has welcomed the show with open arms. Sponsors include Dennis Page, of Page's Food and

Spirits, Mike Wilczewski of Contemporary Awards, and Darrell Marx, of Darrell's Firestone, all in Farmington.

"It brings some nice activities to downtown Farmington," Marx said. "It reminds you of the good old times. Everybody needs a little boost."

Page is offering 20 percent off on meals for anyone who attends the event or brings a car for display.

"We try to make it a family event," Page said. "We serve all kinds of food from burgers to steaks to seafood to Mexican."

The variety of cars is also endless. "We have had in excess of 200 cars on display, from Concours d'Elegance cars, race cars, street rods and muscle cars," Ratkowski said.

About 6,400 people have come to downtown Farmington during the last five years of the show and shown more than 600 varieties of cars, he said, adding that he is involved because "this is my

sport." Ratkowski has a 1932 Plymouth four-door sedan, a 1954 Chevy five-window pickup and a 1969 Chevelle. He's traveled across the country, but since he opened The Pasta Stop, it's been a bit more difficult.

"The Michigan Hot Rod Association's calendar of events lists the Farmington display."

"We will have special displays throughout the summer from Roush Racing Museum, courtesy of Jack Roush," Ratkowski said. "We will be closing off State Street from Farmington to the eastern driveway of the Farmington Public Library."

Sponsors ask car buffs to register their vehicles at the Pasta Stop to get their discount cruiser pass, which entitles them to a free beverage at the Pasta Stop and Page's and discount meals. Those who enter make a real evening of it, as do the many visitors who stroll through. "It's like a hangout," Ratkowski said.

Farmington Community Library announces teen writing contest winners

Winners of the Farmington Community Library Teen Creative Writing Competition have been named. They are:

POETRY 13-14 YEARS

1st place - *Just a Thought* by Sophie Beal, North Farmington High School

2nd place - *Cold* by Mallory Mecham, O.E. Dunkel Middle School

3rd place - *Excalibur* by Emily Cappel, Power Middle School

Honorable Mention - *Phoenix Song* by Jaclyn Sanders, East Middle School

POETRY 15-19 YEARS
1st place - *Waterford Platter* by Margaret Wright, Mercy High School

2nd place - *Unparalleled* by Sarah Wright, North Farmington High School

3rd place - *The Father of Music* by Stephanie Karros, North Farmington High School

Honorable Mention - *Gone Fishing* by Stephanie Olivier, Mercy High School

Honorable Mention - *Thank You* by Zainab Boxwala, Mercy High School

PROSE 13-14 YEARS
1st place - *Shall They Dance* by Sophie Beal, North Farmington High School

2nd place - *Thief* by Neil Schlick, East Middle School

3rd place - *In Memory of Alyssa* by Becca Fealk, O.E. Dunkel Middle School

Honorable Mention - *The Spiders* by Josh Rycklinski, Our Lady of Sorrows School

Honorable Mention - *The Kamez Project* by Kevan Ventura, Harrison High School

Honorable Mention - *The First Encounter* by Andy Well, Our Lady of Sorrows School

PROSE 15-19 YEARS
1st place - *Cat Three* by John Szymusiak, North Farmington High School

2nd place - *Chaucer's Lost Tale: The Stranger* by Christiane Cannon, Harrison High School

3rd place - *Pieces of Sunshine* by Nicole Natorski, Farmington High School

Honorable Mention - *Clipped Wings* by Zehra Inam, North Farmington High School

Farmington city budget proposes increase in funding for Gov. Warner Mansion activities

BY SUE BUCK
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The Farmington city budget proposes to almost double funding at the Governor Warner mansion to increase community and education awareness programs, special events and other activities, from \$8,000-\$11,000.

The mansion is located on Grand River, west of Farmington Road.

A formal committee made up of both Farmington and Farmington Hills residents, created last year to provide direction for activities, hopes to do more.

"They held several events

there last year, including the Governor's Ball," said Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff. "The council was impressed and appreciative of what they saw this committee accomplish last year. They are good people who want to do great things for the mansion."

Many will be money-making activities, he said. Plans this year call for an outdoor picnic event during the Founder's Festival in July.

Last year's Governor's Ball was a black-tie optional affair. A formal tea, held on the porch of the mansion was a success, thanks to the hard work of the

■ **'The council was impressed and appreciative of what they saw this year.'**

Frank Lauhoff
—City Manager

Quakertown Questers who donated all of the proceeds from the event to the mansion, Lauhoff commented.

The public hearing on the budget is scheduled for 8 p.m., June 4 and the budget is adopted during the same meeting, Lauhoff said. It takes effect July 1.

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