

Downtown center parking lot repair scheduled before festival

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A limited repair to the base structure of the downtown center parking lot driveway and approach from Grove to Farmington Road is expected to be completed by the start of the Founders Festival July 19, according to Farmington city officials.

"The existing driveway approach to the downtown center is both structurally and aesthetically deteriorated," said Assistant City Manager Bill Richards. "Winter freeze-thaw cycles have accelerated the deterioration such that maintenance costs have become excessive."

The city is installing a 1.5 inch asphalt cap to preserve the surface until the entire lot is totally reconstructed, in 2004.

Farmington City Council

approved the repair and resurfacing July 2 and awarded the low bid to Detroit Concrete Products Corporation in the amount of \$13,355.97.

Funding for this project is provided in the 2000-2001 budget. The company agreed to perform the work based on the same unit prices as the 2001 paving contract.

"This project will reduce trip and fall hazards and complement the scheduled Farmington Road improvements," Richards said.

Farmington Road will be under construction between Eight and Nine Mile roads beginning about July 16. Next year Farmington Road from Grand River to Nine Mile will be under construction.

The city hopes to give the community a break from construction in 2003, Richards said.

Child clinics provide free care

Oakland County Health Division's Child Health Clinics provide free care for well children from birth to school-entry age. Families who do not have an HMO or Medicaid may be eligible. Clinics are held at 12 locations throughout Oakland County. Services include: height and weight; physical examinations; immunizations;

vision, hearing and lab testing; growth and development screening; and counseling with referrals to physicians and other resources.

An appointment is required. Call North Oakland at (248) 858-1311, South Oakland (248) 424-7088, West Oakland (248) 926-3341 or Holly (888) 450-0900, Ext. 8-1311.

Fest from page A1

Tour will be "a wonderful addition."

Of course, it's being called the Founders Festival again, after a short-lived tenure as the Farmington Area Family Fest. "We've had a lot of interactions with the community, to take a pulse of 'What do you really want this festival to be,'" Bates said.

Concurring was Hartsock, who said the makeup of this year's festival has a lot to do with input from citizens and businesses, primarily to return it to a local event rather than the regional draw attempted during the two years that Mike Watts organized it.

"We have had a lot of people

comment over the last few years" about what needed tweaking "and we've taken those to heart," Hartsock said.

Entertainment options for all ages (at two venues) and the heralded Art on the Grand exhibit are just a couple of other reasons why Hartsock is having difficulty holding back his enthusiasm.

Art on the Grand is growing to the point where a section of Oakland Street needed to be closed off by the Farmington City Council. Hartsock added that some fine artists are signing up for the Founders Festival rather than the Ann Arbor Art Fair, being held the same weekend.

Green from page A1

Green's Founder's Festival program will focus on the library.

"I love the library, and I point



Geri Green

out all the aspects of the library in song."

She said the first thing she does when she moves to a new city is find the library. "Libraries have a special place in my heart. I love books."

Green will also be debuting songs from her new CD, including "All One Family."

"The theme of my new CD is diversity," Green said. "It's brand new. This is the first time people will be able to hear the music."

As part of the performance, she teaches the children to use signing for the hearing impaired. "It's really signing for fun" and moving to the music to express themselves. However, she hopes it will

spark an interest in signing for someone in the audience. "I like to plant little seeds..." Green said.

A native of Dearborn, Green moved to Farmington Hills from Livonia two years ago.

"This is our retirement com-

munity. We chose to be here and we love it."

She began her career in the late 1960s as a songwriter for Jobete, the prestigious song writing wing of Motown Records. In the 1970s and '80s she performed solo in area clubs.

"I was the cocktail hour girl

performing in hotels throughout Michigan and Ohio. I sang dinner music."

In 1990, she enrolled in Schoolcraft College and majored in Child Development. Since that time, Green has turned her talents to entertaining children from ages 2 to 12 and their families.

Battle said she's particularly proud to host the event, because Green is a local resident.

"It's a celebration for the young and the young at heart. I like to be able to highlight local talent - it's really nice," Battle said.

She is expecting a crowd for the performance. "I would suggest that people come early," Battle said.

Green's performance is scheduled for 7 p.m. on July 18 at the Farmington Branch. More information can be found on Green's web site at www.GeriGreen.com.

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