

Festival focuses on history

This year's Farmington Area Founders Festival will feature a number of new events and related activities that highlight the history of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Farmington city council member Mike Harrison, who is also former chairman of the Farmington Historical Commission, will lead a discussion of local history at 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 11, at Border's Books & Music, 30995 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills. Harrison will talk about how Farmington Hills became a city, how the Potawatomi Indians used the Farmington area and about Farmington's distinction as Michigan's first Quaker settle-

ment. "July is the perfect time for Farmington and Farmington Hills residents to celebrate together and learn more about the wonderful community in which we live," said Farmington Area Founders Festival Executive Director Suzanne Lichtman.

"Borders wants to support the Founders Festival by creating an event which will involve their store," Harrison said, adding he plans to bring along artifacts to show during his presentation.

To show off even more of the communities' rich history, the LOC Magical History tour will be coming back to the festival in an even bigger way. Hosted by guide Brian Golden, the tour

leaves every half hour from the downtown area on Friday and Saturday.

Now this year, Golden has also designed a mini-tour via horse-drawn carriage through several neighborhoods, along with the longer shuttle bus tour. The carriage ride will be available for a \$2 fee, while the bus tour is free. On Thursday and Friday, July 18 and 19, the Farmington Civic Theatre and Borders present "The Wizard of Oz" in the theatre's upper level. Thursday night, from 6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Dorothy from there will be a Dorothy look-alike contest, with the film showing at 6:30 p.m. A second showing will be held Friday at 2 p.m.

Work world comes to class

Career days typically go like this: Mom or dad comes in splendidly dressed in their best 9-to-5s.

With their backs to the blackboard, they give a brief overview of what they do and then answer a handful of questions. The ensuing dead air is only interrupted by the pencil tips tapping on desktops.

Clarenceville schools put a different spin on the district's elementary school career day. Instead of only classroom presenters, they wheeled out the heavy machinery for children at Grandview and Botsford schools May 21-22.

"The object is not just to give children something to think about," said Denis Ringle, a school counselor who put together the program. "The object is to put the careers in front of them." The Livonia maintenance department pulled in with some large rigs, where young children were able to honk horns and sit behind the hula-hoop sized steering wheels. A builder also let children pound nails, saw wood and climb a ladder to help them understand his career. He joined 14 presenters, whose ranks included a lawyer, dentist, fire-



Elbow grease: Builder Dennis Meyers gives Grandview Elementary students some tips on sawing through a wooden plank.

fighter and police officer. Such hands-on approaches allow children to dream about their futures and help to make career-minded decisions, Ringle said.

Those choices don't have to be made in cement, either.

"They may change their minds," Ringle said, "but at least they are thinking about it."



Up high: Al Dupierre and his son Joe have plenty to celebrate about.

Dompierre, festival share anniversary

By SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER
sbuck@oe.com

Company reputation is as key to Al Dompierre and his son, Joe, as their commitment to the Farmington community.

This year, the father and son construction team celebrates the company's 37th anniversary, having started up the company the same year the Farmington Founders Festival began. The Dompierres will celebrate with the community by handing out balloons to children during the festival parade at 10 a.m. July 20.

"They (kids) are our future customers," Al said.

The Dompierres will also help sponsor the Ox Roast and the Magical History Tour.

When Al started A.J. Dompierre Construction, many homeowners hired him to put an extra bedroom in their homes located in the Bellaire subdivision at 10 Mile and Power Road.

He's done work at the Farmington Players' Barn, where he put on an addition, at the historic Warner Mansion, remodeled Springbrook Gardens and built the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce offices. The family also contributed to the Shi-

awassee Playscape located in the park on Shawansee in Farmington. "We try to spread it out as much as we can," Joe said.

The company's reputation was built one job at a time, Al said.

"The word got out that I was very honest and we do quality work like a craftsman would do. Quality work is important and people are still willing to pay for it. We always honor our work and our word."

Joe applauds his father's attention to details. Al can't leave a job unless everything looks good to him.

Joe said the company only takes the number of jobs which can be done in a quality way. "If we get too many jobs, it becomes inefficient," he said.

People in this area have been kind to the Dompierres. "We appreciate the people of Farmington/Farmington Hills for giving us business all these years. We continue to do quality work because we want to maintain our reputation. We don't want one job to ruin our reputation."

Joe, who has a degree in building construction management, is the only one of Al's six children who works for the company. Al's wife, Elaine, is deceased.

AUGUST 6TH PRIMARY

ABSENTEE VOTERS

FARMINGTON HILLS RESIDENTS

If you are over the age of 60 you will soon be sent your application for an absentee ballot for the August 6th primary. Please fill out the application and mail it to the Farmington Hills City Clerk's office.

Please complete an application in order to be eligible for an absentee ballot.

Paul BLIZMAN
for
JUDGE
47th District Court

This reminder developed and paid for by The Committee to Elect Paul J. Blizman/PO, Box 1038 • Farmington, MI 48332 • 248-476-7313

FARMINGTON RESIDENTS

You must request an application for an absentee ballot for the August 6th primary, either by phone at 248-474-5500, or in person at the City Clerk's office, located at 23600 Liberty.

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