

Enjoy live music on First Friday

New Main Street sessions planned

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Dave Cornwell, a Farmington businessman, is providing live entertainment in downtown Farmington, featuring David Edward Perempe, an Ann Arbor musician.

Perempe will play light jazz from 7-9 p.m., May 2 at Anna's Cafe & Baskets, 23622 Farmington Road in the Village Mall. The Village Mall is located at Grand River and

Farmington Roads.

Perempe is the organist at Salem United Church of Christ in Farmington. He recently directed the church youth group's production of "Jesus Christ Superstar."

"Dave is a member and owns Village Mall," Perempe said.

Cornwell is the reason Perempe started the First Friday performances, which began in March at no charge, as a way to bring more people to the downtown area.

"It's a nice little cafe," Perempe said. "It's full with about 20. People like hearing you. It's fun. I'm in the corner. People can see me from the window."

Perempe has played the keyboard for 30 years. A Livonia resident, he said some people may remember him from when he performed in The Band Band from 1990-1993, which played at Alvin's in downtown Detroit and Griff's Grill in Pontiac.

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

How does a community revitalize its downtown district? What are the first steps? Which communities have succeeded and how has their success been measured? Those probing questions are part of next week's planned "interview sessions" with Main Street planners.

The City of Farmington and the Farmington Downtown Development Authority last fall received a three-year technical services grant instituted by the Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services to provide assistance for the revitalization and the preservation of Farmington's downtown.

A recent needs assessment report launched the beginning of the work plan.

Residents are welcome to participate in or sit in on the sessions with the Oakland County Main Street Resource

team April 30 and May 1.

"They will receive input from the community and tell us how best to use our resources," said Brent Morgan, executive director of the Farmington Downtown Development Authority.

"They will allow anyone who wants to attend to come," said Joyce Cornwell, president of the DDA board.

The Wednesday, April 30 sessions are 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the Masonic Temple located at Grand River and Farmington Roads.

The Thursday, May 1 sessions are at 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. at Farmington City Hall located on Liberty Street.

Morgan hopes those who wish to participate in the interviews will let him know by tomorrow (Monday).

The sessions will help the resource team in devising strategies for local action to revitalize downtown.

The team consists of Robert Donohue, Russell Lewis and JoAnn Browning from Main Street Oakland County and Nicholas Kalogeris, Carolyn Dellutri and Scott Ferres from National Main Street in Chicago.

On Tuesday, the team will take both a driving and walking tour of the DDA district.

There will be a public presentation of the Resource Team's observations and recommendations at 7 p.m. May 1 in the City Council Chambers of Farmington City Hall.

Volunteers are still needed to serve on the design, organization, promotions and economic restructuring committees. The economic restructuring committee, headed by Greg Cowley of John Cowley & Sons on Grand River, has already met twice, Morgan said.

For more information call Morgan at (248) 473-7276.

Public is invited to arts breakfast

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

People interested in preserving funding for the arts community and sharing their concerns with their local state representatives are encouraged to attend An Arts and Cultural Legislative Breakfast for Oakland and Wayne counties 8:15-10 a.m. Friday, May 9, at the Costick Activities Center on 11 Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills.

The event is sponsored by the Michigan Association of Community Arts Agencies with

support of ArtServe Michigan.

Nancy Coumoundouros, cultural arts coordinator for Farmington and Farmington Hills, said the event will serve as an opportunity to meet and inform legislators about the impact of cultural activities in their districts and their importance.

"This is an effort to take a positive approach and let (legislators) know what we're doing in our own communities," Coumoundouros said.

The event is also important considering Gov. Jennifer Granholm has proposed a 50-percent cut in state art funding

in the next fiscal year budget.

Guest commentators at the breakfast will be Sen. Samuel "Buz" Thomas III, District 4, co-chairman of the state of the arts caucus, and Sen. Gilda Jacobs, District 14, member of the state arts caucus.

Local dignitaries and business leaders involved in the arts will also be in attendance, Coumoundouros said.

The cost is \$5 per person and the deadline to reserve a seat is May 7. Registration forms may be obtained at the Costick or reserve a seat by calling the arts division at (248) 473-1857.

Kenbrook kids raise funds for books

Second graders at Kenbrook Elementary School in Farmington Hills participated in the Seedlings Braille Books for Children program recently.

This is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to increasing the opportunity

for literacy by providing high quality, low cost braille books for children.

"For every \$ 10 dollars earned one braille book is purchased," said Sherry Holman, a Kenbrook secretary. "Our class earned enough money to pur-

chase 80 braille books. Each book will state, 'Kenbrook Elementary School Second graders.'"

The children raised \$805.02 during March.

By Sue Buck

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