

# Start up Founder's Festival

## Four-wheelers rev up for dust-kicking events

She's 24 years old, slender and has two small children in tow as she winds her way past four-wheel-drive vehicles parked on the grassy lot near Farmington Road and Twelve Mile.

Hoisting her 1½-year-old onto her hip, she smiles out from under blonde bangs in anticipation of the coming race. So far, in the year she and her husband have been drag racing, Mrs. Diane Banister, of Farmington Hills, has chalked up the most trophies.

As members of the Wolverine 4-Wheelers Club, Mrs. Banister and her husband will participate in the weight transfer pull and drag race scheduled for July 22-23 in Farmington. Each day's event will begin at 11 a.m. The events, which kick off the Farmington Founder's Festival activities, are co-sponsored by the area Jaycees and the Wolverine 4-Wheelers.

Like many of the Wolverine's members, Mrs. Banister and her husband have their enthusiasm for this mode of transportation fired by the sight of conventional cars' failure to negotiate snow in the winter.

"I LIKE THE four-wheel-drive vehicle. I wouldn't have a car," she said. "In the winter time, when everyone's stuck, I go grocery shopping like normal people."

Her husband has been working for seven years to get a four-wheel-drive vehicle in shape for racing. Their four-cylinder 1966 jeep has become a family project.

During races the family brings along the children and the picnic basket to join in the party atmosphere.

"Everyone takes care of each other's kids," she said. "In the evening, we make a bonfire and sit and talk."

Unlike Mrs. Banister, Roger Palmer, of Garden City, overlooked the possibilities of four-wheel-drive when he took his first look at one of the vehicles.

"My father bought this four-wheel-drive 10 years ago," Palmer, 28, said.

"I just thought it was a stupid truck," he said.

Then he began to attend Wolverine meetings with his father and changed his mind.

Nowadays, Palmer is driving a four-wheel-drive vehicle of his own—com-

plete with roll bars for safety during races.

THE AMOUNT OF modification on each vehicle depends on the ambition and pocketbooks of the owners.

Mike Smith, 27, of Farmington, researched for a year the modifications he wanted on his 1978 Bronco. A design engineer for Ford, Smith wanted to switch systems with a minimum amount of work. Eventually he placed a Lincoln engine into his vehicle.

His interest in the vehicles was an offshoot of his desire to quit motorcycles but retain the capability to drive off the road.

"I wanted to see the country," he explained.

Show as well as a four-wheel-drive vehicle's capability for off-the-road travel has captured some supporters.

"I got into four wheeling from snow plowing," said Rob Sutter, 21, of Troy.

"It's fun. I was plowing a parking lot. I liked it. I joined the club," he explained.

Now, he takes along his 11-year-old nephew, Rob Comiskey.

"It's a good way to get around in the winter," said Sutter.

For Gordie Hoeft, 25, of Westland, getting stuck in the snow was never fun.

"I kept getting stuck in my Vega and one thing led to another," is how he explains his involvement in the Wolverines.

DRAG RACING is Hoeft's favorite event. He especially favors racing on a sand course.

"You have to experience it to believe it. It's hard to explain. You have to strap yourself in one time and go down the track to believe it," he said.

"It keeps the vehicle clean," he added. "Except when you go through a mud track."

The obstacle course also has its own challenge, argued Joe Dunlap, 23, of Canton.

"If you run the race courses, they're all the same. An obstacle course is different. It's always changing," he said.

Tickets for this year's races are \$3 in advance and \$3.50 at the gate. Children under 12 are free. Tickets are available at J.L. Hudson's, Metro-Bank, Farmington; and Bosco's Party Store, Farmington Hills.



Kicking up the dust will be the good old boys and girls with their four-wheelers at the Farmington Founders Festival.

## KMB sets out to rough up vandalism

By SUZIE MARKS

A statewide campaign to wipe out school vandalism will be launched in elementary schools across Michigan this September.

Sponsored by Keep Michigan Beautiful (KMB), the project will kick off with a patch contest for school children, executive director Shirley Richardson says.

"This program will make the children more aware of increasing problems in the schools," the Farmington Hills woman adds.

The children in grades K-six will be asked to design a patch that designates anti-vandalism.

"It's our way of getting the children to join the campaign to fight vandalism," Mrs. Richardson says. Winners of the patch contest will

receive awards presented by Helen Milliken in October.

KMB is a non-profit organization headquartered in Southfield. The committee is funded primarily by state grants and contributions, with the \$5 individual membership being the most popular donation.

ORGANIZED on a county-by-county basis, KMB serves 83 counties with its volunteer staff. An executive committee of a president, two vice-presidents, secretary, treasurer and two members-at-large plus a 45-member board of directors toss ideas around determining the organization's next project. They also adopt programs on a statewide basis that communities have tested themselves.

The anti-vandalism campaign is modeled after the successful program

instituted in the Warren Consolidated School District last year, Mrs. Richardson says.

Invitations to participate in the program, accompanied by entry forms, will be sent to all public and parochial elementary school superintendents, principals and directors in Michigan.

"Once we set our deadline we will see how many entries we get for the patch contest. If we get a good response, we'll know it was effective," Mrs. Richardson says. "If we get a 50 per cent response we will be extremely successful. If we get a 25 per cent response it will be fairly good."

Mrs. Richardson said KMB is not expecting miracles the first year but plans to keep the program running for as many years as the need exists. Next spring, evaluations will be sent

to all participating schools asking the principals for their assessments.

In addition to the local programs, KMB anticipates joint cooperation from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency prevention in Washington, D.C.

"Soon the office will initiate a school resource center that will serve as a clearing house to provide schools with information on how to reduce vandalism," she adds.

Only elementary school-aged children are eligible to participate in the patch contest, Mrs. Richardson says because their interest is easier to attain.

"When the children get to junior and senior high they will have grown up with certain attitudes against vandalism," he adds.

## Dissidents' plight is sparking protests

By SHIRLEE IDEN

Nearly a week after the conviction of Anatoly Shcharansky and Alexander Ginzburg, dissident Soviet citizens, area residents and officials are still reacting.

A demonstration in support of the two men, who were sentenced to eight and 13 years in Soviet prisons and labor camps, will take place at noon today.

Starting from Congregation Shaarey Zedek in Southfield, people supporting the demonstration will travel to Detroit's Kennedy Square to show their solidarity.

Both Shcharansky and Ginzburg have been active with groups in the USSR monitoring Soviet compliance with the human rights provisions of the Helsinki accord of which the Soviet Union is a co-signer.

Shcharansky has also been a leading activist for the rights of Jewish people to emigrate from the Soviet Union to Israel. He is a "refused-nik"—that is, an individual denied the right to emigrate, even though his wife Avital resides in Israel.

Mrs. Shcharansky, who received her visa to go to Israel while her husband's was denied, left the USSR just one day after their marriage by a Russian rabbi.

On Monday she accused the Soviet Union of a deliberate campaign to "annihilate" the Jewish emigration movement.

SHE CALLED on the United States and other western countries to withdraw from the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow in protest, saying she believes the Soviets are engaged in a campaign to smother the dissident movement before the games begin.

Speaking at a reception for about 50 congressmen in Washington, she said 13 years is too long for her to wait for her husband.

"I can tell you I have no strength to wait," she said. "Probably the Soviet Union does not understand words. It is our turn to act; the rest of the world is watching us."

One area woman who agreed with Mrs. Shcharansky is Rae Ann Sharfman of Southfield, a leader in the Detroit Committee for Soviet Jewry.

"Shcharansky was convicted of spying for the CIA, something President Carter openly denied was so,"

she said. "The president's credibility is at stake."

She said our government must do more than "mouth words" and should use sanctions such as stopping the wheat sales to the USSR, halting technological and medical information and even cutting off talks for strategic arms limitations, the SALT talks.

Rep. William Brodhead, who was present at the congressional reception, said Mrs. Shcharansky is clearly under a strain and cannot be expected to keep up the pace of recent days.

He said the house senate have passed a resolution deploring the trials and asserting they "will hamper relations" between the U.S. and the USSR.

"I've sponsored two additional resolutions condemning the trial and affirming our support of the Helsinki Accords," Brodhead said. "We've contacted the subcommittee on international trade and we're going to get an agreement. I'm confident that the USSR will not get low interest loans to buy U.S. farm produce in the future."

He added that there may well be action taken concerning the Olympics.

"If this kind of stuff is going on in 1980, I can't see us sending a team to Moscow. We ought not repeat our mistake of 1936, when we sent an Olympic team to Nazi Germany."

Brodhead said basically there are two goals in mind. First, to win freedom for Shcharansky and second, to try to cut off some ways in which the U.S. assists the USSR.

There has been speculation that Shcharansky and possibly Ginzburg may be traded for two Russian spies held in this country.

In a related move, the United Automobile Workers announced last week during the trials that a scheduled trip to the Soviet Union by a delegation of top UAW officials has been postponed indefinitely in protest over the trials.

"The UAW would like very much to have positive, frank exchanges with the Soviet people, particularly our counterparts who work in similar industries and who face certain similar problems relating to the workplace," said Douglas Fraser, UAW president.

"But there is no way that we can participate in such exchanges as long as the civil rights of citizens in the Soviet Union are being so brutally violated."

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