

Variety the highlight of Founders Festival activities



Observe the photo of the Farmington Founders' Festival will kick off again this year with the annual "Kids Day in the Park" on Tuesday, July 16. The 18th Annual Pet Show is also part of Kids Day and will be at 1 p.m. This happy frog participated in the pet show last year with her dog.

Featuring great bargains at sidewalk sales, carnival rides, delicious food, beautiful music or the thrill of a parade, the 21st annual Farmington/Farmington Hills Founders' Festival is sure to interest both young and old.

Beginning July 16 and running through July 20, the festival is a year-long project of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, under the direction of Judy Soronen.

Before the festival ends, Soronen predicts several hundred hours of volunteer work will contribute to its success. Area Festival volunteers are: Madelyn Betang, Deborah Boyd, Farmington Radio Club, Jon Grant, Judy Gural, Sally Hackman, Suzanne Miller, Marlene Theobald, and Delilah Tietelk.

This year's Festival theme is "Farmington in the Future." At sites throughout the two neighboring communities, the festival features special events, food, entertainment, sidewalk sales, arts and crafts, sports activities, demonstrations and tours.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Special events for the Festival begin July 16 with the annual Kids' Day in the Park at Farmington City Park, Sitawasee and Power, from noon to 6 p.m.

With games, rides and entertainment for the whole family, Kids' Day also features the 18th Annual Festival Pet Show at 1 p.m. sponsored by the Plaza Veterinarian Hospital.

Wednesday, July 17 is the starting date for the W.G. Wade carnival at the Farmington Plaza at Grand River and Orchard

Lake Roads. The carnival runs from noon to 11:30 p.m. daily through Saturday, July 20. Discount passes will be available from local merchants.

Wednesday evening the annual Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant, the first step for Farmington-area residents in pursuit of the Miss America title, will take place at Vladimir's at 7 p.m. Admission is \$6.

Saturday, July 20, is a busy day for Founders' Festival participants. Beginning at 10 a.m., the annual Founders' Day Parade travels down Grand River from the Grand River Drive-In to the Farmington Road Intersection.

Featuring marching bands, fire and drum corps, floats and clowns, the parade will honor several entries with prizes.

At 1 p.m. at the Mulwood Shopping Center on Saturday, July 20, the third annual "Battle of the Bars" will take place.

A light-hearted competition between local restaurants and bar employees, the battle features contests like alcoholic and non-alcoholic drink-making, tray relays, waitress races, table bus, tapper slide and a club sandwich-making relay. WKBD-TV 3 broadcaster Murray Feldman will host a celebrity team in competition with the local employees.

Beginning at 8 p.m., the annual "Music Under the Stars" performances and fireworks display will take place at the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College.

Spectators will be able to enjoy the Oakway Symphony and marvel at spectacular fireworks immediately after the concert.

There is a \$2 parking charge per car for the evening.

FOOD

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Founders' Festival will also offer more food booths and meals than ever before. In addition to ethnic food booths at the Downtown Farmington Center Thursday through Saturday, the following feasts have been planned:

On Sunday, July 14, there is a chicken barbecue from noon to 5 p.m. at the Masonic Temple, Grand River and Farmington Road. On Wednesday, July 17, a pasta dinner will be held at the Masonic Temple from 5 to 7 p.m.

July 18, the Elks Club, 23666 Orchard Lake Road, is sponsoring an ox roast from noon to midnight; the Masonic Temple is hosting a dinner by Trinity Shrine from 5 to 7 p.m.; the First United Methodist Church, 33112 Grand River, is holding its annual pie-baking contest from 5 to 7 p.m.; O'Sheehan's Outdoor Irish Pub will be set up in the Mulwood Shopping Center, Grand River and Drake, from 5 to 11 p.m.; and the First United Methodist Church is hosting an ice cream social from 7 to 9 p.m.

Friday, July 19, a dinner by the Eastern Star is scheduled for the Farmington Masonic Temple from 5 to 7 p.m.; the Elks Club will continue with its ox roast from noon to midnight; the Botaford Inn, 28000 Grand River, is hosting an ice-cream social from 7 p.m. to midnight; Papa Romano's Fourth Annual Pizza Pig Out

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Target shooting is part of the firearms demonstration to be held at the Hotel Engineering Complex on Grand River at 4 p.m. Friday, July 19. The Farmington Hills

Police Department will show how various firearms are used and maintained.

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