

Culture, race, ethnicity: winning festival formula

With the large number of various ethnic groups in Farmington and Farmington Hills, the 24th Annual Founders Festival, July 10-16, is expected to be a success.

The cultural theme of the festival, "Kaleidoscope of the World," along with the public support that the festival has received this year, indicates there should be a large turnout next month.

"People have worked hard at it," said Haroune Alameddine, director of bilingual and multi-cultural affairs for Farmington Public Schools. "It is going to work well, I hope."

Alameddine presented the idea to promote the cultural, ethnic and racial diversity of this year's festivities. He is a member of the new Cultural Awareness Committee, an active group in the planning of the festival this year, and has been involved in bilingual education for Farmington Public Schools for nine years.

Due to his wide involvement with foreign students in the community, the benefits from an ethnically diverse public are well-known to him. Alameddine said others, however, are unaware of what one can learn from these ethnic groups.

"It is the richness that you have in the (Farmington) district. People are not aware of what they have in their own back yard," said Alameddine, adding that this unawareness was the reason why the cultural committee chose to use the cultural aspect as this year's theme for the festival.

ACCORDING TO Alameddine, 53 different languages are spoken in Farmington Public Schools. Nationalities of all types, from Russian to Greek, can be found in the area. He said that the cultures of the majority of the residents include Arabic-Chaldean, Albanian-Yugoslavian, Japanese, Chinese and English.

The Farmington Board of Education works close with foreign parents and students in the community, Alameddine said, and special programs and classes are available to both who need to learn English or to just become more familiar with the area in which they live.

"We are doing what we can to help all of our community," Alameddine said. "We work very close with our community here."

Alameddine said for the first time, many ethnic groups are aware of the festival and plan to participate. A

"Showmobile," with ethnic-oriented dancing and singing events, will be present in downtown Farmington that week; food of all kinds will be available.

"I think it is a very good theme," Alameddine said. "We are going to have parents marching in a parade from different cultural groups."

HELP AND support for local ethnic programs has been given by the Farmington Board of Education, Superintendent Graham Lewis and his cabinet, according to Alameddine. He pointed out that Mary Lou Ankle, assistant superintendent for special services, has done an outstand-

ing job in helping the ethnic programs.

"We are committed to giving quality education to every student," Alameddine said. "We are here for the kids."

Alameddine did stress that although these educational programs emphasize the learning and use of the English language, it is not their intent to have personal ethnic roots forgotten.

"We want them to learn to speak the English language, priority number one, but we don't want them to forget their language and culture," he said.

It's a boy! Birth occurs at office

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first contraction. "It wasn't at all in keeping with what the Lamaze book says," Gary said.

Given the circumstances, delivery went "pretty smoothly," Gary said. Dr. Roth's nurse, Kathy Baker, assisted with delivery.

She and fellow medical assistant Robin Allen teamed with Lt. Thomas Shurtleff and firefighters Jon Unruh and Lea Strickfaden of the Farmington Hills Fire Department and paramedics from Fleet Ambulance in caring for the baby as Roth and Baker "finished up with mom," Lee said.

"It was an exciting moment," Gary Goodnough credited everyone with "keeping the calm — but that I could pay much attention. Everything was happening so fast."

Mother and son were discharged from Hutzel Hospital in Detroit Sunday night. "Both are doing fine," Gary said Tuesday.

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THOMAS ARNETT/staff photographer

Keith Turner of Orchard Lake got his hands dirty in addition to organizing Rouge Rescue '88 II.

School spirit helps Rouge

On the hottest day of the year, 10 faculty, students and friends helped clear logs, deadfall and overhang from an untouched, tree-shaded stretch of the Rouge on Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus Saturday.

"Basically, I've lived in the woods all my life, and I like people to have a river they can use," said Orchard Lake resident Keith Turner, 25, who coordinated this follow-up to the Friends of the Rouge's basinwide Rouge Rescue '88 June 4.

"I just got sick of seeing trash blowing through the area," said the former windsurfing and sailing instructor. The trash is a byproduct of not only passersby on I-696, but also OCC students, he added.

A part-time robotics student and custodian on the Farmington Hills

campus, Turner would one day like to see the river as it meanders west from campus used for canoeing.

"Natural beauty isn't something there's a lot of in southeast Michigan," he said. "The river offers a potentially beautiful alternative to the plastic landscaping that a lot of companies try to push on people."

If properly boiled, water taken from the campus waterway is drinkable. "Tests done by our biology department determined it's free of fa-

tal chemicals and parasites," Turner said.

Bass and other fish first introduced by the biology department in the mid-'70s still inhabit the waterway, he added.

OCC provided dump trucks and drivers for the daylong cleanup Saturday. Afternoon temperatures reached 100 degrees.

Next year, Turner hopes to make the OCC stretch of the river part of the basinwide Rouge Rescue '89.

Holiday closings listed

The Fourth of July will mean several closings next week.

The Farmington and Farmington Hills city halls, the Farmington Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, the 47th District Court in Farmington, the Farmington Community Library, the Farmington Observer and all banking institutions will be closed Monday, July 4, Independence Day.

Many retail outlets also will be closed.

Trash normally picked up on Mondays will be picked up Tuesday, July 5, in Farmington Hills next week only. Farmington's trash collection

schedule will not change next week.

The Farmington Community Library will be closed Saturday through Monday.

The Farmington and Farmington Hills post offices will be closed July 4. There will be no regular residential or business mail delivery or job-by-window service. Special Delivery Express Mail and perishables will be delivered as usual on the holiday. Mailbox collections next week will be done according to the schedule posted on individual boxes.

Normal hours will resume for all Tuesday, July 5.

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