

# Kids Day

## Balloons and events made it magical

By Loraine McCallie  
staff writer

**B**ALLOONS READING "10th Anniversary Kids Day" floated across the length of Farmington's Shawwassee Park Tuesday.

Youngsters with painted faces balanced balloons amid ice cream treats, newly created art or bags full of freebies.

All area playgrounds were closed for the day so Farmington Hills' recreation staff could help run the many Kids Day events — but neither the staff nor the helium quite met the demand for balloons.

At last count, 6,000 youngsters enjoyed another day of magic planned by the Farmington Hills Recreation Division, the Community Center of Farmington-Farmington Hills, the Farmington Community Library and the Farmington YMCA. Sponsors were supported by a host of area businesses.

Kids climbed on fire trucks, dug in a sand pile full of Discovery toys, jumped on the Moon Walk and rode the Casey Jones Express.

Dozens of kids and their pets paraded across the stage vying for prizes in the Pet Show. Dozens of others from Kili's Tae Kwon Do demonstrated mastery over mind and body with know-how of the martial arts.

Kids posed with clowns for free



Matthew Nickels looks at his face after it's painted at Kids Day. His friend, Samuel Rovang, looks over his shoulder.

pictures from MotoPhoto, watched mimes and Professor Bloono and got lost in the Ball Crawl.

**THE BACKDROP** for it all was huge blow-ups of a dinosaur, a gorilla and a panda. The background music came from several stereos, an old callopie and, best of all, "A Reasonable Fascination." This musical duo is composed of Anne and Rob Burns, who strolled through the park in colorful costumes playing popular

music of the Renaissance on period instruments.

The event that always draws the biggest crowd is the Pet Show, sponsored for the last 22 years by Pets 'n' Particulars and The Plaza Veterinary Hospital of Farmington during Founders Festival and now an intrinsic part of Kids Day.

Dr. John Richardson served as master of ceremonies and handed out awards. Matthew Mikel and his mutt Browlie won in the "Kid with the Oldest Pet" category.

Michael Kharsa won in the "Most Articulate" category with his beagle Casey.

The "Largest Pet with the Smallest Owner" was Mary Brenet and her great dane Cuddles. The "Best Caged Pet" was Robert Crisp's ring-necked doves King Tut and Francis and their family.

Jake, a standard poodle owned by Natalie and Melanie Rock, took two prizes for "Best Dressed" and for "Best Trained."

The "Waggiest Tail" belonged to a cockapoo called Ralain owned by Lani Beth Kozzara. The "Most Unusual Pet" was a chamiseon named Bob owned by Courtney Blackford.

The weather smiled again on Kids Day. A beautiful July day is a Kids Day tradition.

The 25th annual Farmington/Farmington Hills Founders Festival continues through Sunday with activities throughout the community.



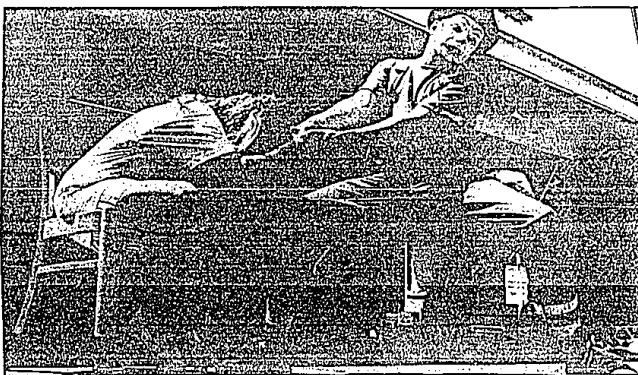
Natalie Rock, left, appears concerned about her poodle Jake's costume coming off as her

older sister, Melanie, right, comes to the rescue. Jake won "Best Dressed" at the pet show.



Professor Bloono entertains kids from the Farmington Training Center at Kids Day by

making small animals, such as this bumblebee, out of balloons.



Jackie Williams (left) plays a game of tug of war with Oakland University mime Jim Minor.

He played a joke on her at Kids Day by having her sit in a chair that collapses.

## Cities open recycling centers in cooperative effort

By Bob Sklar  
staff writer

In a cooperative effort, Farmington and Farmington Hills opened recycling centers for a variety of recyclable materials Wednesday.

"Within two years, we hope to be doing this at curbside," Farmington Hills City Manager William Costick said.

"This is a first step," Costick said before the ribbon was cut at Farmington Hills' recycling center, at the DPW yard on the west side of Halsted, between 12 Mile and I-496.

"Lots of residents have asked for this type of program. We do hope residents take advantage of this."

The Farmington Hills center, open 7:30 a.m. to dusk daily, accepts newspapers, glass bottles and jars, tin and metal cans, waste oil, car and household batteries and high-density plastic — byproducts of today's throwaway society.

"We're limited somewhat by the recycling markets out there, but those are evolving," said Dan Rooney, Farmington Hills DPW superintendent.

Farmington Hills Mayor Terry Sever said the goals are a "safer and

cleaner environment" and to "save our citizens dollars in the future."

Sever hopes the centers "create public awareness" in recycling.

**THE FARMINGTON** center, at the DPW Yard on the north side of Nine Mile, just west of Farmington Road, doesn't accept tin or metal cans. It's open 24 hours a day.

"Recycling reduces landfill expenses, protects the environment and preserves resources for future generations," according to the Farmington Hills Department of Public Services Recycling Center brochure. "Michigan residents generate enough garbage each day to completely fill the Pontiac Silverdome."

"Once a week," the brochure suggests, "make a trip to the recycling center as part of your weekday or weekend errands. If you have children at home, assisting with recycling can become their special project."

Both cities plan to tend to the yards daily to assure tidy appearances. Residents of both cities can use either yard.

Both cities are looking into processing grass clippings and leaves into reusable compost material.

The Southwest Oakland County Solid Waste Consortium represents six cities that have teamed to study solid waste and develop options, including recycling and composting. Represented are Farmington, Farmington Hills, Novi, Southfield, Walled Lake and South Lyon.

Oakland County produces 3,650 tons of solid waste per day and could generate as much as 4,750 tons in 2010, according to the consortium. Since 1978, the cost of solid waste disposal has increased from \$1.80 per ton to \$17.40, Farmington city manager Robert Deadman said.

**SPECIFICS** of what the recycling centers accept follow:

- Non-deposit glass bottles and jars — clear, brown or green. Rinse, sort by color and remove lids.

- Tin or metal cans. Remove tops, rinse and flatten. (Only Farmington Hills accepts them.)

- Newspapers. Bundle with string or twine, or put in paper bags. No magazines, telephone books, plastic bags or catalogues.

- Waste oil. From engine oil changes only. No anti-freeze or other engine fluids.
- Car and household batteries.



City manager William Costick, councilman Aldo Vagnozzi, Mayor Terry Sever and county commissioner Donn Wolf cut the ribbon to

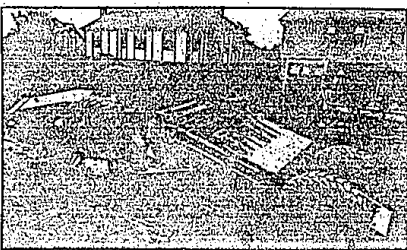
open Farmington Hills' recycling center Wednesday.

Each center boasts specially designated containers. Residents may drive into the centers and dispose of items. There are no disposal fees.

dry detergent and bleach containers. No clear plastic. No cottage cheese or yogurt containers. Rinse and remove caps.

### Flip-flop

Contractors flipped this piece of equipment this week as they worked on a boom area that will separate neighbors from a new Farmington Hills elementary school on 11 Mile, according to a neighbor. During the past year, several of the neighbors voiced opposition to the new school, saying it would make the area noisy and congested.



SHARON McMEUX/staff photographer

## Schools to get new computer

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only those people who need to know have access to that."

"We do have to be very, very careful," Protow added. "We are dealing with children's lives and private affairs."

**THE SCHOOL** board approved the purchase of the upgraded IBM system 400 computer for \$78,000, allowing the district to interface with a countywide system at Oakland Schools. It will be paid for on a lease purchase arrangement over the next five years. It offers the district the capability of putting terminals in

school buildings. Supervisor of information management, Kathy Jones, said it would take three to four months to install the new system and bring it on line.

Jones said logs would be monitored to show activity on each terminal, and that information can be placed within the computer on different access levels. Passwords would be changed regularly, she added. "Only the same person who would have a key to open a file cabinet could open a (computer) file," she said.

With the new system, it is estimated 42 terminals will be put in the

three high schools, 32 in the middle schools, 42 in the elementary and 100 in administrative support areas, including central office, transportation, food service and maintenance.

To show how computer use has grown in the district, Jones explained that the district has gone from two printers and eight terminals at central office to the current system of nine printers and 36 terminals. The new 400 will allow the district to immediately put in 218 administrative terminals, with capacity for 450. The system could also be expanded to handle double the amount, Jones added.