

Streetside Live! hits downtown Saturday

Downtown Farmington will host the "off the wall" antics of Downtown Farmington Streetside Live! Saturday, Sept. 9.

A collection of zany one-man shows, Downtown Farmington Streetside Live! will be a free outdoor performance in Downtown Farmington.

Held from 2-4 p.m. at the Downtown Farmington Gazebo, the show will feature three performers who will deliver out-of-the-ordinary solo acts.

Mitch Albom, Mike Stone and Ken Droz will emcee the event. Detroit Free Press sports columnist Albom, public relations executive Droz and television sports producer Stone are housemates in Farmington Hills.

The event will be presented by the Farmington Downtown Development Authority (DDA), an arm of the city that works to maintain a vigorous downtown district and still retain a small community atmosphere.

IN ORDER of performance, the three acts in Downtown Farmington Streetside Live! will be Mr. Bones, Willful Stumble and Bob Bloenk.

Mr. Bones is a silver-haired, sad-faced clown who hopes to steal the hearts of everyone in the audience with his hobo charm. Wearing a ragged shirt, baggy pants and worn-out shoes, Mr. Bones will mix some

magic and clownish humor with his musical numbers for a non-stop "clowning around" show.

Willful Stumble, a traditional "one man show," will play a musical contraption known as the "whazat?" The "whazat?" is made out of just about every imaginable instrument and makes just about every imaginable sound. Willful has performed with his "whazat?" at many places across the country and appeared on both local and national television shows including the Hee-Haw show.

Bob Bloenk is a musical impersonator who will take the audience from the 1940s to the 1980s with only a guitar, a few prop changes and his talent. His one-man show will feature nostalgia, comedy, music, audience participation and, as he calls it, "other stuff."

The two-hour show will be held at the recently completed gazebo on the north side of Grand River, a half mile east of Farmington Road.

THE GAZEBO is part of the \$40,000 gazebo-pergola project that was funded by businesses, individuals and organizations in the community. The earlier project entailed the construction of the gazebo and two pergolas (seating areas), the installation of lampposts and a drinking fountain as well

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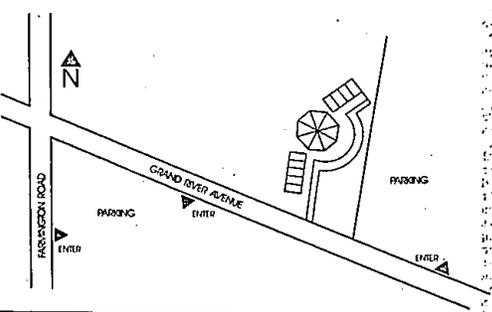
as landscaping the area.

There will be both lawn seating and chairs set up for the performance.

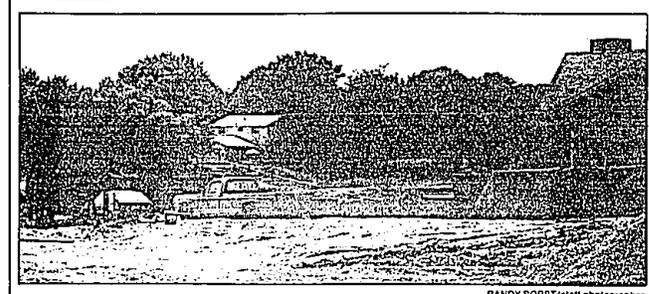
A rain date for Downtown Farmington Streetside Live! has been set for Saturday, Sept. 23.

Settled in 1824 and incorporated as a city in 1928, Farmington boasts 150 businesses within the DDA district, an area in the heart of Farmington anchored by the intersection of Grand River and Farmington Road.

DOWNTOWN FARMINGTON GAZEBO
Grand River Avenue, a half mile east of Farmington Road



The new downtown Farmington gazebo is on the north side of Grand River, between the Farmington Place senior citizen apartments and the Village Commons shopping center.



This view shows the relationship of neighboring houses in Kimberley subdivision to the south end of the new Meadowridge Condominiums complex on Middleboit.

Green area damaged

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"I would like to have some ordinances in the city with some teeth, that people would respect and would think twice before they allow a contractor to do whatever he wanted to do for 20 minutes," she added.

The city's new tree protection ordinance requires a city permit to remove or relocate most varieties of trees.

The planning and community development department will issue permits only if a tree poses a safety hazard, is badly diseased or damaged, threatens utility service, blocks access to a lot or hinders a lot's development.

Five residents on Kiltartan in the bordering Kimberley subdivision notified city officials in August after realizing the damaged wetlands were not part of the Meadowridge development.

PLANS TO replace the uprooted vegetation with new vegetation native to Michigan satisfied the five residents at the Aug. 23 meeting.

"I think it is more than a misfortune," said councilman Paul Sowerby, who called for civil or criminal penalties for site plan violations that result in destruction of natural resources.

"To say that the residents are happy, I don't know what alternative they had. These trees are gone."

Restoration plans designed by Marie Donigan, city staff planner, and Bryan Devlin, a landscape architect with Ludwig & Associates in Farmington Hills, involve planting 44 red twig dogwood shrubs and 59 winterberry shrubs, which stand 24 inches tall.

"When we came to this site, we have saved every possible tree that was on the site. Over 100 trees," Zait said.

The original \$104,000 estimated for Meadowridge landscaping has now topped \$210,000, including restoration plans, Zait said. All landscaping will have a one-year warranty.

CITY MANAGER William Costick said a cash penalty could be applied to site-plan violators or the city could require a ratio of trees replaced far greater than the number of trees destroyed.

Assessing a criminal penalty, as Sowerby suggested, is another option, he said.

Sowerby asked Costick for a report on how much staff and budget he'd need to effectively enforce site plans so the city isn't in a position of issuing "a shallow and hollow threat."

Costick will provide an analysis of possible penalties at the city council meeting Oct. 9. He plans to survey surrounding communities as part of the analysis.

She's pro TV watcher

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past 14 years. Before that, she spent four years as an account executive for RKO Radio and five years in media research at Kenyon and Eckhardt.

"Why do I have an ability to tell you what the United States will watch? Maybe it's a niche I have," she said. "Many people think I have a crystal ball in my desk, but I don't."

Advertising was a job that Cuda fell into just by coincidence. When she set out for college at Kean College, she wanted to become a certified public accountant. Cuda never finished. Instead, she moved to Michigan and got married, returning to work years later.

Her job often means long hours, sometimes from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m., and a lot of stress. She negotiates with network stations late into the night. But Cuda loves it.

"You have to love it. You don't know you're working, you're so into it. You can't get up and leave because New York could be gone. Whatever the job takes, that's what you have to do.

"I think I like that gut-grinding feeling that I go through every day," write waiting for the previous night's rating to come in, she said. "I know I predicted a show. You predict it and you know it."

ONE OF the aspects that Cuda likes best about her job is the instant rewards. She remembers a time when

K mart ran an advertisement for tennis shoes and the shoes quickly sold out.

"They called us up and said, 'Get us off the air.' They don't like to give rainchecks," she said. "There are not too many jobs where you get that kind of feeling. This job has results."

Cuda's predictions for this year?

"There's not too many new shows that are going to make it," she said. "It's not a good year."

Whether a television show makes it depends more upon what is showing on other channels at the same time than the quality of the show, she said.

One new show, which Cuda said is one of the best family shows she has seen in a long time, is Peaceable Kingdom. But the show is up against tough competition, Growing Pains and Unsolved Mysteries.

"It probably won't make it... no, it won't make it," she said. "It's up against the competition. That's very sad."

The old standbys like Alf, Roseanne, Who's the Boss?, Cheers, L.A. Law and The Cosby Show should enjoy another prosperous year, she said. Sixty Minutes and Murder She Wrote will also be successful, along with made-for-TV movies, which pull the hard-to-reach television audience.

When she's not watching television, Cuda likes to spend time with her grandson, travel or just curl up with a book.

"I love to read. That's my escape."

M R. J.

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Litter has sour taste for ice cream store neighbors

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The boycott will probably continue into December, Cleves said. The store is in a shopping center north of 13 Mile.

"It's the constant trash... ice cream containers just throw into the alley. Imagine what kind of insects and rodents that attracts," Cleves said. "There's room in the dumpster, but they just throw it in the alley."

VASOVASKI SAID she has received no direct complaints. "Nobody has called," she said.

The problem is acute in the summer, she said, because of higher sales volume and because kids use the store as a hangout.

The store also has had problems with trash collectors, who "let it fall outside of the truck," she said.

"It's a combination of problems. We are going to get a lock (for the dumpster) and bag the ice cream containers (tossed in the dumpster). We understand what's going on and we're trying to do something about it," said Vasovaski, one of the store's owners for 10 years.

Cleves said her association calls city hall "all the time" about the litter problem. "But they say all they can do is ticket them."
Co-owner Debbie Magdevski's husband, Carl, who with his wife co-owns a Baskin-Robbins store in Plymouth, said he's not aware of any tickets. He blames "kids having fun" for the trash strewn behind the Farmington Hills store.

THE STORE hasn't been ticketed since January, said Lee Bilzman, Farmington Hills chief zoning en-

forcement officer. City records before January were not available, she said.

Records show the store was issued two warnings, one in March and one in April, for having trash and debris around the area. When the city checked again in July, everything was fine.

The checks mean that no debris was found around the area when inspected. "This in no way disputes what people are saying," Bilzman said.

"All we can do is continue monitoring, and whatever we can do within the ordinance," she said.

Bilzman said she was not aware of recent complaints about the store. She said litter often blows back into the alley. Increasing the number of trash receptacles is one possible response, she said.

\$4 million in Hillside work set

The Farmington school board awarded \$4 million in bids for the construction of Hillside Elementary School, on 11 Mile, between Halsted and Drake.

"We just spent a bundle of money," said Helen Prutow, board president, said after the bids were approved Tuesday.

The school district received 180 bids from 150 contractors, accepting 14 of the 28 bids necessary — masonry, landscaping, plumbing, as-

phalt paving, carpentry — for construction of the new west side elementary.

Twelve bids still must be awarded.

Four of the bids were over and 10 were under projected budget. It's unusual for such a large project to come in so close to budget.

"It's very close — most of the items came in under budget," said R. Jack Inch, board treasurer. "It was very pleasing to have them come in

under (budget)."

The new 600-student elementary school will be built to help ease crowding of Farmington's elementary schools. Elementary enrollment is projected to climb into the 1990s.

Bonds totaling \$7.7 million will pay for the project, expected to be completed in September 1990. Voters approved \$7.3 million of that amount in January. The remainder will come from interest earned on the money.