

City takes big step with new walking path

Downtown Farmington will put its best foot forward on Saturday when it introduces a permanent walking path through the downtown area.

Coinciding with National Physical Fitness and Sports Month, the Walking Path Kick-Off will be held 10 a.m. to noon.

With activities taking place along the walking path's routes, the event's hub of activities will be on the grounds of the Farmington Municipal Building, one block west of the Farmington Road/Grand River Avenue intersection.

Originating from the municipal building, the walk features two routes — a ½ mile and 1 ½ miles — that wind through the downtown. The walking path, sponsored by the Farmington Downtown Development Authority, is a natural progression of the DDA's revitalization program.

"One of the main goals of our program is to make the area more pedestrian-friendly. Additions such as new sidewalks and crosswalks have paved the way for the walking path," said Wendy Strip Sitsamer, DDA executive director.

"Walking is a universal sport that appeals to people of all ages. It's very popular to walk in malls and we're providing an outdoor downtown alternative," said Strip Sitsamer.

At the event, there will be a "Sweet Walk" for children to sample snacks from area restaurants as they walk. Seniors can stroll to the sounds of past arias accompanied by the Sweet Adelines.

And to stir some competition, adults can try to spot the "Ten Most Wanted Walkers" and win prizes donated by Downtown Farmington businesses. Identified on posters hanging in the area's businesses, the "Ten" will walk around town while participants get their signatures in order to qualify for prizes.

The 10 are: Colleen Burcar, WKQT-FM; Jan Dolan, State Representative — 69th District; Keri Dwyer, Miss Farmington 1989; Richard Headlee, Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Chairman of the Board; Jimmy Launce, WJR-AM; Peter Nielsen, Mr. International Universe 1984 and 1985; Parkey the Panda, Farmington Hills Recreation Department mascot; Joe Pollmeni, UPI Photographer; Shirley Richardson, Mayor of Farmington; and Scott Welland, 1982-1988 Guinness World Book record holder for backward marathon running.

The prize packages are: Wheel Deal, Shape Up for Summer, Picnic in the Park, Four Out the Door, Party Pack, Business Matters, It's For the Birds, Take Me To The Cleaners, Relaxation Station, and Out With A Crowd.

Opening festivities will begin at 10 a.m. at the municipal building when all of the walk's participants limber up with a group stretch led by Suzy Ran's owner of Suzy Ran's "Science of Slimming." Following the stretch, Welland will send off his cohorts with a "retro-walking" race (backwards, that is).

Botsford General Hospital and Downtown Farmington health care professionals will also be on hand to conduct health screenings and provide training advice.

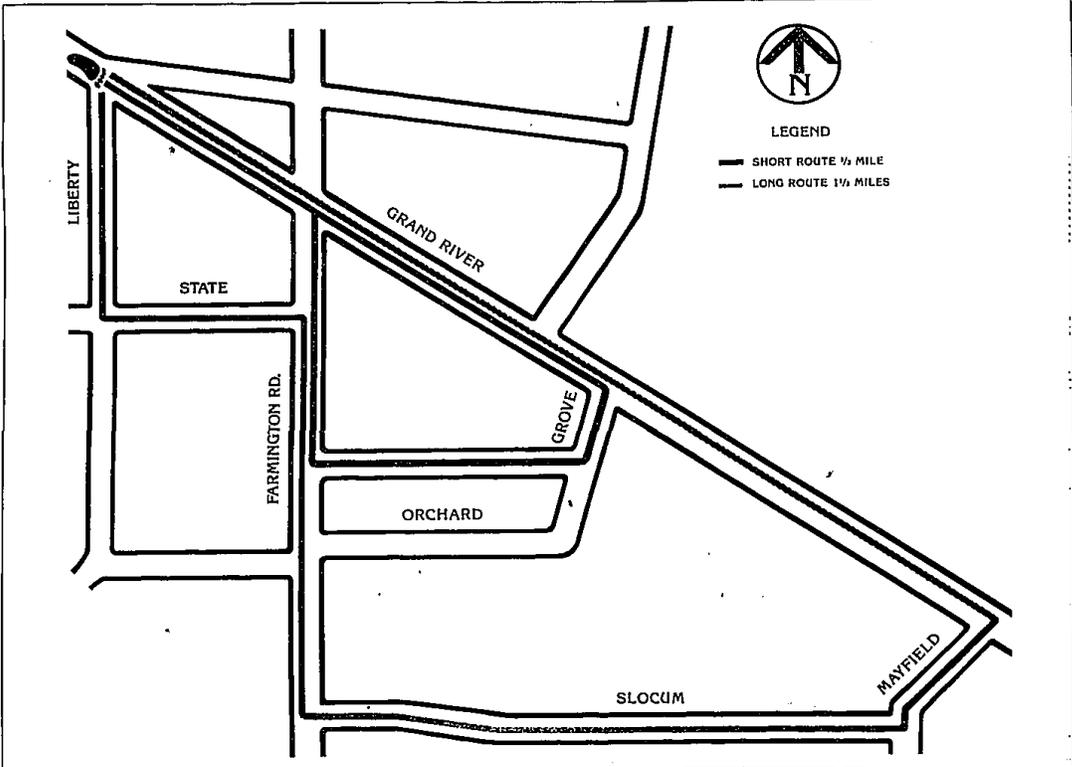
To add to the day's activities, the annual Farmington Beautification Committee Flower Sale will take place at the Downtown Farmington Center parking lot.

The path's routes, designed by Botsford General Hospital's Total Rehabilitation and Athletic Conditioning Center, will be designated by footprints on the sidewalk at key points along the walk's routes as well as one large sign at the Municipal Building.

For the event, pylons will line the walk to help familiarize participants with the routes.

The Walking Path Kick-Off is expected to last until noon. A rain date has been set for Saturday, June 2.

Prizes are:



This is the route of the new downtown Farmington walking path. Below are the 10 celebrity walkers taking part in the official opening of the new path.



- Wheel Deal — Wheel alignment for your car or van at Center Fire.
- Shape Up For Summer — One month exercise program at Suzy Ran's Science of Slimming. Unlimited use of facility which includes aerobics classes, weight training, circuit training and use of exercise equipment.
- Picnic in the Park — Picnic meal from Dagwood's Deli & Eatery, wicker picnic basket from Wooden Heart, and a bouquet of flowers from Michele Marc's Flowers.
- Four out the Door — Four movie tickets to the Civic Theatre, spending money for concessions, three hours of child care for up to four children at A Child's Garden.
- Party Pack — Decorated birthday cake to serve 18 people from The Baker's Loaf, party supplies from the Bon Ton Shoppe, and balloons and birthday candles from Kitchen Creations.
- Business Matters — Office supplies from Executive Office Supply, printing services from Apple Printing, and typewriter cleaning at K & R Office Services.
- It's for the Birds — Handmade, assembled cedar bird feeder from Warren's Country Corner, bird seed from Damman Hardware and a bird watching book from Books Abounds.
- Take Me to the Cleaners — One year of dry cleaning (specified amount each month) at Farmington Cleaners.
- Relaxation Station — Relax during six hours of pampering yourself at the Total You Spa Salon. Your choice of beauty services ranging from hair care to massages. Lunch included.
- Out with a Crowd — Progressive dinner for four — appetizers at Dimitri's, dinner at Marco's Dining and Cocktails and dessert at Sweet Connection.

Hills tax money to flow to storm drain project

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WITHOUT AN increased tax rate for operations, city officials are balancing the new budget, which will be in effect beginning July 1, by relying on increased state equalized valuation. The city's 1990 SEV is projected at \$2.2 billion compared to \$1.9 billion last year.

Approximately \$108 million of the increase is in new construction and \$112 million is in economic adjustments or increased values on property already on the tax roll, Rosch said.

"This is the second year we've rolled back the tax rate and we've been able to do that by the new construction, and increased tax base," Costick said.

The proposed budget also will be balanced by cutting out \$1.2 million in new spending requests from the

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city's various departments, Costick said.

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Only one of the four new positions — a police officer — to be created in 1990-91 will be paid with operating money. A new code enforcement officer will be paid with federal Community Development Block Grant money. The new office supervisor in the building department will be paid

