

Well wishers



Young visitor: Roberta Starks, 9, a third-grade student at William Grace Elementary, poses with Beatrice Kurt of Clinton Township from the rehabilitation unit at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills. Starks and the 230 other students of Grace drew "get well" cards to Kurt and other patients at Botsford recently. Botsford and William Grace have worked on a number of projects together in a fledgling community partnership. More activities are in the works.

Downtown to host summer fun

From entertainment by a moose named Max to a contest featuring teddy bears, summer comes alive once again downtown Farmington hosts its annual "Summer Fun Series" beginning Wednesday, June 16.

The program, in its third year, is a 10-week series of events including a variety of performances and interactive experiences offering quality time for families. According to Judy Downey, executive director of the Farmington Downtown Development Authority,

the purpose of the series is twofold.

"First, it's designed to get people acquainted or reacquainted with the downtown shopping district," Downey said. "The area has many unique shops we hope parents will visit when they bring their children down. Second, it is an opportunity for parents to entertain the kids each week when they may be running out of ideas."

The series has been well received over the last two summers, with an average weekly attendance of more than 800 people.

In addition to the entertainment — which will include a variety of favorite musicians, magicians, and a petting farm, among much more — goody bags and balloons will be given to the children.

Also, downtown businesses will hold sidewalk sales each Wednesday, and the Civic Theatre will hold special children's matinees each week.

The series begins June 16 and runs every Wednesday for 10 weeks, ending Aug. 18. All activities are free of charge, except a \$2 materials fee for "Create Your Own Masterpiece," on July 28.

Activities will take place under the green and white striped tent in the downtown Farmington center parking lot on Grand River, one block east of Farmington Road.

The series is sponsored by the Farmington DDA, an agency of the city committed to maintaining a vigorous downtown district while retaining a small community atmosphere.

New cash raffle supports festival

It will cost you a buck a bet, but chances are you could walk away with a handsome cash purse and help support the 29th annual Farmington/Farmington Hills Founders Festival at the same time.

The 50/50 Raffle is new to the festival's fund-raising efforts. Traditionally, the Chamber of Commerce solely runs a Fantasy Car Raffle, where for a \$100 ticket, ticket-holders have the opportunity to win a 1993 Corvette or \$30,000.

While the Fantasy Car Raffle continues, the new 50/50 Raffle was included to offer those who couldn't afford the \$100 ticket an

opportunity to participate.

"Over the years, people have commented that they would like to participate in our raffle, but the ticket price was a little too steep," said Jody Soronen, executive director of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce.

"The 50/50 Raffle seemed like a perfect solution — we expect a great response as support for the festival, has always been very strong."

Tickets for the 50/50 Raffle will be priced at one dollar each. The winning ticket will receive half of the total pot raised. "Truly, the odds are much better than win-

ning the lottery," added Soronen. "Although the prize isn't quite as big, participants can join in the fun, while supporting a worthy, community cause."

"The Chamber has always relied heavily on the Corvette Raffle to help cover the Festival's costs," said Soronen. "I am confident the 50/50 Raffle will also be an integral part of that effort."

Among a variety of expenses in-

curring by the festival are entertainment, printing, publicity efforts, electricity and tent expenses.

Ticket sales are usually slow to begin with, though the Chamber anticipates a brisker pace as the July 11-17 festival draws near. Winning tickets will be drawn following the festival parade on July 17. Ticket holders need not be present at the drawing to win.

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