



Cooling off: Gary Bessinger, who works for Mutual Financial within walking distance of the festival, sips a lemonade. Below, ice cream, drinks, hot dogs, Italian sausage, fries and egg rolls were available from festival vendors.



STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LEMMEL

Greek to her: Bev and Chip Waack of Farmington consume festival meals, a Greek salad for her, a pizza for him.

## Can't beat eats

### Folks 'chewsy' about Founders Fest

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Founders Festival is for seafood lovers and weight watchers: When they see it, they eat it and witness their weight expanding west and east.

"This is not the place to come if you're on a diet," said Debbie Keenan of Farmington Hills, while munching an elephant ear, a deep-fried sugary confection. "I didn't see any of those places that sell health food."

Oh, there was plenty of nutrition to be had. Nearly all the food groups could be found in one hot dog lunch. There was meat and a bun for bread, of course. Cateup covered for the vegetable (David Stockman told us so) and the lemonade was the fruit. A dripping ice cream cone served as a delightful dairy delectable.

Caloric consumption included everything from french fries to spinach pie. And, for those who couldn't find a sandwich called a hero, there was certainly a gyro.

Bev Maurer of Farmington Hills was fit to be tied for a bow, which includes pork, Spanish

onions and barbecue sauce baked. The Great Wall in Farmington makes and sells the delicacy.

"Each year, I come back and get a bow," Maurer said. "I make two stops there every year, one at Christmas to buy ornaments and this."

Founders Festival food brings Betty Smith downtown. She travels from Dearborn Heights to consume the corned beef sandwiches at Dagwood's Deli.

"I've come here for many years for Dagwood's (corned beef) sandwiches," Smith said. "They're a little smaller this year."

Gary Bessinger, who works at Mutual Financial in downtown, was "indulging" himself with a gyro from It's Greek to Me. He welcomes the palatable change of pace.

"I'm not done yet," Bessinger said. "I'm probably going to have an elephant ear or caramel corn."

Food brings many to the festival, but hip replacement surgery was on Bob Underwood's menu. He was consulting with his doctor Thursday and happened upon the food booths.



Festival feeding: Bob Underwood of Belleville consumes an Italian sausage at the Founders Festival.

"I was still hungry," said Underwood, wolfing down a monstrous Italian sausage and peppers sandwich.

Bev and Chip Waack of Farmington had the festival spirit. Instead of going to a sit-

down restaurant, they dined in the ambience of the food tent.

They weren't into the festival's customary guilt-food binge eating. Bev Waack stabbed at a Greek salad instead.

Lettuce weep.

## Kids' school lunches to take bigger bite out of pocketbook

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

A bite of lunch will cost a few more bits this fall.

Lunch prices increase to \$1.75 from \$1.60 for elementary students and \$2.20 from \$2 for junior high and high school students as called for in the new Farmington Public Schools' nutrition services budget. In a rare 6-2 vote, Farmington Board of Education approved the budget.

Trustees Bobbie Feldman and Cathy Webb voted no. Webb, in particular, objected to passing on costs of the program to families in higher lunch prices at a study session June 13.

Webb said the board and food service staff need to be aware of the wages and benefits employees receive, which are "highly unusual" compared to other districts in the state.

After casting a "no" vote, Webb

appeared to turn down the burner to assuage any ruffled feelings.

"Basically, I have some philosophical business differences," Webb said. "No way did I ever mean that to reflect negatively on our employees nor our management team. I hold you all in the highest regard."

Nutritional services budget runs at \$180,000 deficit, and requires money from other district funds to subsidize it. Lunch price increases are expected to generate \$67,000 in revenue, said Cheryl Cannon, assistant superintendent for Finance.

Salaries and benefits account for \$909,884 — or 51 percent — of the nutrition services' \$1.7 million budget.

Hourly rate for cooking managers is \$12.45-\$14.00; satellite managers: \$10.85-\$12.31; cook/bakers: \$11.60-\$13.12; and

kitchen help: \$10.66-\$12.10.

Employees hired after July 1992 receive \$2 less an hour as part of a two-tiered wage system agreed to by the Custodial Maintenance and Cafeteria Workers and the district.

Both sides agreed to 2 percent annual raises through the 1997-98 school year.

Comparisons to wages in the fast food industry are not valid, trustee David York said. Unlike fast food restaurant workers, food service employees are limited in the number of hours they work.

The food service program also educates children about nutrition. The program has been cited nationally.

"I'd like to state for the record again the questions raised do not reflect mismanagement," York said, "because the contrary is true: It's an award-winning program."

### Share your stress

Attention, Farmington-area residents who think they are stressed out over a job or personal situation. The Observer would like to hear from you.

The newspaper is planning an article on the subject of stress. Reporter Bill Coutant wants to meet some local people who are coping with stressful situations.

Those with stressful stories to tell should write The Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335; call the paper (477-6450) voice, 477-9722 (fax); or stop in at the office in downtown Farmington.

### Back to Summer Fun

Now that the 31st-annual Founders Festival is history, the Summer Fun Series for youngsters continues on Wednesdays in downtown Farmington.

From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, July 19, Three Oaks Furniture will present "Create Your Own Masterpiece" under the big tent in the Downtown Center parking lot.

Fun With Plaster will supply materials that participants will need to paint a plaster "masterpiece." A \$3 charge will be made for materials.

The Summer Fun Series, which runs through Aug. 9, is sponsored by the Downtown Development Authority.

### FARMINGTON FOCUS

#### Memory Lane

From the July 21, 1955, edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

■ Ten-year-old Ronald Fox of 28730 Grand River suffered bruises, abrasions and a possible skull fracture after being thrown from his bicycle into a creek while riding down McGee Hill in Farmington. He was treated at Bedford Receiving Hospital.

■ Harry McCracken, Farmington Township clerk, celebrated his 90th birthday June 14 at work, where colleagues surprised him with a cake and other refreshments. McCracken was photographed with Joan MacDonald, the newest township employee.

■ Manager Bob Utley's Arrowsmith Indians clinched the Babe Ruth League championship with a 6-0 victory over the R.L. Polk Dodgers.

Bob Utley Jr. was the winning pitcher and contributed a home run.

■ Frank Barber was elected commander of the Groves-Walker American Legion post.

■ Short item: "If you have troubles, come in and tell us about them. If you haven't, come in and tell us how you do it! — Sign on a placard door." Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335; faxed to 477-9722; or dropped off at the newspaper office. For the computer literate, the Internet E-mail address is: pockyboconline.com.

## BACK to SCHOOL SIDEWALK SALE



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