



Kids get their day

Youthful fun and joy will abound at the 18th annual Kids Day in the Park on Tuesday, July 8, from noon-5 p.m. Over 1,000 kids are expected to take part in this day chock full of shows and activities all located at Shiawasee Park on Shiawasee Road in Farmington.

A highlight of the day is the annual Pet Show and its wacky contest that proves pets and kids do the darndest things. Contest categories include best speaking or singing pet, fattest pet, twin class (the two most-evenly matched pets), best-dressed pet and owner, best-trained pet and the pet with the waggiest tail.

"We're now in our third generation of kids at this show," said Dr. John Richardson, DVM, of Plaza Veterinary Hospital in Farmington, who started the show 30 years ago.

Local dignitaries act as judges, and Richardson awards trophies to winners in all categories. Kids and their pets also get a chance to show off in the Founders Festival parade on Saturday, July 12.

"Zeemo the Magnificent" will perform a comical juggling and balancing act, as well as roam throughout the park before and after his stage show.

Another popular draw is the kiddie carnival with its games, small ferris wheel, cart rides, and big bouncers and balls for kids to jump and roll around on.

For a "down on the farm" feeling, there will be a petting zoo, hayrides and a chance for kids to have their photo taken on a pony.

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Bubbles and pets: Kids Day at Founder's Festival offers youngsters a chance to make giant bubbles, at top, or show off their own pets.