



### On Ice

Seeing: Zach and Michael Carroll, Adam Rosen, Tom Reetz and Nick and Lance Nannooshi enjoy shooting pucks on the rink built by dad Barry Carroll in the Woodbrook subdivision. The 40-by-80-foot rink sports two nets and plenty of room for sons Michael and Zach to practice their hockey skills. Carroll had 120 yards of dirt brought in to level his yard before he started building the rink. "It's like a swimming pool," Carroll said, adding that the ice is about a foot deep. Michael plays on the Farmington Pee Wee AA, while Zach plays on the Farmington House League. "They are pretty much out every day on the ice," Carroll said. The rink is also decorated with lights and painted sports logos.

DEAN PHOTO BY BILL BESSNER

## Identity

*Festival gets a new name and new dates*

The Farmington Founders Festival has a new name for the 2000 edition of the annual event.

At their regular meeting on Jan. 23, the Board of Directors of the 36th annual Farmington Area Founders Festival, Inc. approved some major changes for the 2000 edition of this family extravaganza.

The focus of their discussions, said Chamber of Commerce President Carleigh Flaharty, has been to make small enhancements designed to improve the communities' premiere annual event.

"These are not necessarily large changes, but things I think will improve the festival and make it more competitive," she said.

The festival has been renamed the Farmington Area Family Fest featuring the Founders Day Parade, and will take place on June 22, 23 and 24.

The purpose of the title name change, and the repositioning of the festival's event dates is an attempt to energize the festival and to return it to its former popularity.

"To those outside the community, understanding what the Founders Festival represents causes some questions," Flaharty explained. "We really wanted a name that reflects what the event is all about."

The late summer months of July and August in southeastern Michigan have been inundated with numerous festivals and craft shows over the past decade, and this has adversely affected the number of artisans that are available to participate in the annual Farmington area event, Flaharty said.

The board of directors' decision to move the festival to an earlier time period is in response to this situation, and the initial response has been very positive.

Vendors will also be asked to bring their own smaller tents, which will give organizers more options with the way the street fair is arranged on Grand River, Flaharty said.

The board is also discussing use of a shuttle bus to help alleviate parking and traffic congestion, which have kept some folks away.

The removal of the very large and obtrusive tent used formerly should create a more relaxed and enjoyable experience for the visitors to the festival. The tent also held heat, and the use of the smaller shelters is expected to make browsing a more comfortable experience, Flaharty added.

The main festival area will remain in the Downtown Shopping Center parking lot, and will include over 100 crafters, food vendors, displays, children's activities, and free entertainment.

The entertainment will be

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*Carleigh Flaharty*  
—Chamber president

expanded this year to include a Thursday schedule (in 1999 Farmington Hills hosted a circus on the night of the festival) featuring artists from the Farmington/Farmington Hills community, and on Friday and Saturday we will present a stellar line up of top local talent.

In addition to the Downtown Shopping Center site there will be an additional area for fine arts at the Memorial Park (Farmington and Grand River roads), and, possibly, some classical or eclectic entertainment at that location.

The annual Farmington Area Founders Day Parade will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 24 on Grand River Avenue.

Flaharty said the festival will offer something for every member of the family, from children to grandparents. The changes being made have been the result of feedback over the years, she explained.

"We've heard from people who've come year after year and used their suggestions to tweak the event," Flaharty commented. "This year's festival will have something to offer the whole family."

Applications for crafters, artists, and parade participants will be available beginning Feb. 7 at the Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce, Farmington and Farmington Hills city halls, or by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to F.A.F.F. c/o Watts Up, Inc. 44833 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth, Mich. 48170. Please indicate which application you are requesting.

Organizations wishing to participate on an official component of the Farmington Area Family Fest must also apply and pay the appropriate fees. Organizations with activities or events that wish to affiliate themselves with the festival should submit their request in writing as soon as possible to F.A.F.F. c/o Watts Up, Inc. 44833 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The Farmington Area Founders Festival, Inc. is a nonprofit foundation organized to perpetuate the annual Farmington Area Family Fest, and the annual Founders Day Parade. All inquiries may be directed to Michael Watts, (734) 459-6969.



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