

SPECIAL EVENTS

Community fests offer activities for everyone

Finding something fun to do with your family this weekend won't be difficult. The Livonia Spree, Canton Liberty Fest and Farmington Area Family Festival are all taking place this week and offer a variety of activities and family fun.

Livonia Spree continues through Sunday at Ford Field, Farmington Road at Lyndon. Fireworks at 10:15 p.m. Sunday are a festival highlight. Call (734) 427-8190 for more information.

Canton Liberty Fest also continues through Sunday on the grounds of Heritage Park and throughout the Canton Civic Center complex along Canton Center Road, south of Cherry Hill. Fireworks are scheduled 9:30 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call (734) 897-6110.

The Farmington Area Family Festival, continuing through Sunday, takes place in downtown Farmington. Fireworks begin at sunset Sunday in Founders Sports Park on Eight Mile Road, west of Farmington Road. For more information, call (248) 474-3440.

Here's the Livonia Spree entertainment schedule:

Thursday, June 22

1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 p.m. Puppet Adventures on Spree grounds

2 p.m. Carnival opens

3, 3:30, 5, 5:30, 9, 9:30 p.m. Racing Pigs on Spree grounds

4-8 p.m. Child I.D. at the police trailer

4, 6 and 8 p.m. Chinese Acrobats

6-8 p.m. Taste of Livonia in Eddie Edgar Arena

6-9 p.m. Dinky Face painting on Spree grounds

6:30, 8:30 p.m. Kids Comedy Magic in tent

7-11 p.m. Steve King and the Ditties on main stage

7-11 p.m. Music by Tommy C in tent

Friday, June 23

2 p.m. Carnival opens

2, 4, 6 and 8 p.m. Chinese Acrobats

2, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 p.m. Puppet Adventures on Spree grounds

2-6 p.m. Dinky Face Painting on Spree grounds

3, 3:30, 5, 5:30, 9, 9:30 p.m. Racing Pigs on Spree grounds

4-8 p.m. Child I.D. at the police trailer

6:30, 8:30 p.m. Kids Comedy Magic in tent

7-11 p.m. Music by Espresso in tent

7-11 p.m. Music by Art of Fact on main stage

Saturday, June 24

10 a.m. volleyball on YMCA courts

noon, Spree and carnival open

1 p.m. Livonia Symphony Orchestra on main stage



Children's entertainment: Look for Marc Thomas and Max the Moose at the Canton Liberty Fest.

1, 3, 5, 7 p.m. Kids Comedy Magic in tent

1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 p.m. Puppet Adventures on Spree grounds

2 p.m. Family Fun Day on Spree grounds

2-5 p.m. Child I.D. at the police trailer

4:30 p.m. Kids parade

6-10 p.m. Dinky Face painting on Spree grounds

7-11 p.m. Jannis Leigh and Luck of the Draw on main stage

7-11 p.m. Music by 9 of 9 in tent

Sunday, June 25

2, 4, 6 and 8 p.m. Chinese Acrobats

7-11 p.m. Jack Dalton's Dixie Land Band in tent on main stage

7-11 p.m. Music by New Odyssey on main stage

7-11 p.m. Bugs Beddow in tent

Canton Liberty Fest entertainment schedule

Thursday, June 22

6-9 p.m. Paddle boats on the pond (\$1)

6-10 p.m. Sports Den (3 for \$1)

6-10 p.m. Fun Zone (\$5)

7 p.m. Canton Observer picnic eating contest

7:45-9 p.m., Chautauqua Express (amphitheater)

Friday, June 23

5 p.m., Firefighters Spaghetti Dinner (\$4-6)

6-10 p.m., Senior Center Bingo (\$1 per card, per game)

6-10 p.m. Sports Den (3 for \$1)

6-10 p.m. Fun Zone (\$5)

6-9 p.m., Paddle boats on the pond (\$1)

7:30-9:30 p.m., Fantastics (amphitheater)

7:30-9:30 p.m., Charlie Chaplain (strolling)

Saturday, June 24

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Classic Car Show

10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Arts and Crafts Show

11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fun Zone (\$5)

11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Paddle boats on the pond (\$1)

noon, talent show (amphitheater)

noon, Juggler Ben Spitzer (kids stage)

noon-2 p.m., bike stunt demo (strolling)

noon-2 p.m., Ala Mode barbershop quartet (strolling)

1 p.m., Elmo Thum (strolling)

1-3 p.m. Dixie Land Band (strolling)

1 p.m., Flying Aces Frisbee demonstration (kids stage)

2-3 p.m., Salem Rockettes (amphitheater)

2-4 p.m., barbershop quartet (strolling)

2-4 p.m. Charlie Chaplain (strolling)

2:30 p.m., Puppeteer Marc Thomas (kids stage)

3-5 p.m., Joe Moore on saxophone (strolling)

3:30-5 p.m. Reel Happy String & Swing Band (strolling)

4:30-6:30 p.m., Uncle Sam still walker (strolling)

5-8 p.m., MP2 (amphitheater)

6:30 p.m., lip synching Earth Angels (amphitheater)

8 p.m., National Anthem singer Sarah Medley (amphitheater)

8-9:30 p.m., Three Men and a Tenor (amphitheater)

9:30 p.m., fireworks

Sunday, June 25

8:30-11 a.m. pancake breakfast (\$3.95 adults, \$2.95 kids)

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Classic Car Show

11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fun Zone (\$5)

11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Paddle boats on the pond (\$1)

11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Arts and Crafts Show

noon, Dance Extreme (amphitheater)

noon, Magician Gordon Russ (kids stage)

noon-2 p.m., Reel Happy String & Swing Band (strolling)

noon to 3 p.m., All-American Meal by Central City Diner

1-3 p.m., barbershop quartet (strolling)

1 p.m., Elmo Thum (strolling)

1 p.m., Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps (amphitheater)

2 p.m., Ronald McDonald (kids stage)

2-4 p.m., Dixie Land Band (strolling)

3 p.m., Super Wayne (kids stage)

Farmington Area Family Festival schedule

Thursday, June 22

9 a.m. to dusk, downtown sidewalk sale

10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Crafts show in Big Apple Bagel parking lot

10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fine arts show in Memorial Park

noon to 5 p.m. Kids Day with Professor Bloono the Clown, in Shawwassee Park

7:30-8:30 p.m. Farmington Community Jazz Band in band shell

8:30-9:30 p.m. Farmington Community Chorus in band shell

Friday, June 23

9 a.m. to dusk, downtown sidewalk sale

10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Crafts show in Big Apple Bagel parking lot

10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fine arts show in Memorial Park

5-6 p.m. Black Market in band shell

6:30-7:30 p.m. Mudpuppy in band shell

7 p.m. Miss Farmington Pageant in Civic Theater

8-10 p.m. Thoretta Davis in band shell

Saturday, June 24

9 a.m. to dusk, downtown sidewalk sale

9 a.m. 4-mile run, 3-mile walk, in Shawwassee Park

10 a.m. Founders Parade on Grand River

10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Crafts show in Big Apple Bagel parking lot

10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fine arts show in Memorial Park

1-1:30 p.m. Juggler Greg Fernandez in band shell

1:30-2:30 p.m. Magician Amazing Jack in band shell

2:15-3 p.m. Ricky The Clown in band shell

3:30-4:30 p.m. Spirit of Country Dancers in band shell

4-5 p.m. Ara Toupezian Trio in band shell

5-6 p.m. Jill Jack in band shell

6:30-7:30 p.m. Forbes Brothers in band shell

Sunday, June 25

1-3:30 p.m. raffle ticket-holder party in Shawwassee Park

Sunset fireworks in Founders Sports Park

The Westland Summer Festival takes place Thursday-Tuesday, June 29 to July 4, in Central City Park, Ford Road near Carlson, and surrounding areas. Event offers entertainment, carnival rides, a parade 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, July 1, and Fourth of July fireworks. See Entertainment on June 29 for details.

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TELEVISION

Artworks in public places capture the 'Spirit of Detroit'

BACKSTAGE PASS

ANN DELISI

There are thousands of 45-year-old guys who have been known to sit around in their Detroit Red Wings jersey. One, in particular, is truly something special, having been observed and admired by millions of onlookers over the years.

■ The most controversial example of 'Art In Detroit Public Places' is undoubtedly the memorial to Joe Louis. It has been 14 years since 'the fist' caused a stir with its unveiling, and, over time, much of the negative feedback has subsided.

Detroit is there for us in good times and bad. Maybe that's why it seemed appropriate for the work to be fitted with a Red Wings jersey during the city's celebrations of the team's Stanley Cup championships.

Joe Louis memorial

The most controversial example of 'Art in Detroit Public Places' is undoubtedly the memorial to Joe Louis. It has been 14 years since "the fist" caused a stir with its unveiling, and, over time, much of the negative feedback has subsided. Once perceived by some critics as a hostile symbol of the city, it's now regarded as a powerful representation of the determined will of the former heavyweight champ, the city of Detroit, and the nation.

Fountain

The Jefferson and Woodward area is also highlighted by the Horace Dodge & Son Memorial

Fountain, which became the focal point of Hart Plaza when it was erected in 1978. Commissioned by the auto tycoon's widow, Anna Thompson, the piece created by Isamu Noguchi is a welcoming and inspiring fixture in a dramatic waterfront setting.

These three strikingly different works are located just a stone's throw away from each other. But you don't have to travel far to find more outstanding sculptures, dating back to 1872, when the Michigan Soldiers and Sailors Monument was dedicated at its Campus Martius and Woodward site.

I joined segment producer Todd Hastings last week on a fascinating two-day tour of the city's most prominent public art installations. You'll get a look at them on the June 25 BACKSTAGE PASS, along with a new appreciation for these gems of the city.