

Updowntowners make fun in the city

By Michael Hooper
Staff Reporter

The Updowntowners just want to have fun.

Fun for the Updowntowners is promoting the cultural and social life of Lincoln, maintaining interest in downtown Lincoln by sponsoring activities and events, and enjoying the events themselves, to which everybody is invited, according to Updowntowner president Doug Farrar.

Beginning last year in March, the Updowntowners have sponsored events each month — cocktail parties, street dances, fund raisers — to get people together for a good time.

A club of about 200, Lincoln's downtown booster club patterned itself after a similar club in Syracuse, New York, Farrar said.

Last month the club sponsored "Party in the Plaza," the first of three fundraisers this summer to benefit a proposed childcare facility at the YWCA.

Members of The Updowntowners include "diverse" types of people, Farrar said.

"People from all parts of Lincoln belong — people from Gateway, downtown, college; anyone wanting to promote interest in downtown Lincoln," Farrar said.

July 25 the Updowntowners will sponsor the second "Party in the Plaza" in the National Bank of Commerce's lobby at 13th and 'O' streets. Bubble blowing, yo-yo and hula-hoop contests are scheduled. The \$1 fee required to enter the contests will go towards development of a YWCA childcare project to be constructed east of the YWCA's building in a vacant lot, Farrar said.

July 27 the Updowntowners will sponsor an "Ice Cream Freeze Off." On the south side of 'O' Street between 14th and 15th streets, a tent will be erected and about 12 teams, sponsored by different charities, will make ice cream to be judged on best ice cream over-all, creamiest, best flavor, and for

best costume. A rag-time band will also play at the Freeze Off.

September 26 the Updowntowners will sponsor a scavenger hunt inside the Nebraska State museum.

For the Christmas season for December 7, the club is planning a downtown parade to include "Macy's type balloons," Farrar said.

Updowntowners are currently lobbying in support of the Lincoln Bond issue for the city's downtown renovation project, the subject of a July 30 election.

On July 30, the club will ask Lincoln residents to vote that day in favor of the bond issue.

"With the limited space downtown,

we can't do as much, but with the new city renovation plan, the Updowntowners will be able to put on larger events for more people," said Carol Jess, executive director of the Lincoln Downtown Association, the "sponsoring body" of the Updowntowners.

Farrar has been the Updowntowner's president since the club began.

He said the Updowntowners encourage membership, and that there are a variety of activities in which members can get involved.

"After people have been downtown, we want them to leave with a smile," Farrar said.

"We're trying to have fun," he said.



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Who's News

UNL animal science professor **Keith Gilster** was one of three award winners at the Nebraska Vocational Agriculture Association's annual conference July 10 in Norfolk.

Gilster was the winner of the Distinguished Service Award, presented annually to an individual who contributes to the development of vocational agriculture education and Nebraska's agricultural industry. He is a professor and extension livestock evaluation specialist in the animal science department at UNL.

Jana Beckman has been named the recipient of an Orville A. Vogel Scholarship valued at \$750 for the 1985-86 academic school year at UNL's College of Agriculture.

Beckman is the 21-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Beckman of Elgin. She is a junior majoring in ag honors/agronomy and plans to work in the sales management area for an agricultural chemical company.



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