

# PRESS & GUIDE

## More than 250,000 expected for Arab Festival

Event runs Friday-Sunday on east Warren Avenue

*By Jodi Rempala, Press & Guide Newspapers*

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DEARBORN - Hundreds of thousands of people are expected to visit East Dearborn's Warren Avenue this weekend for the 14th annual Arab International Festival.

The festival occurs annually on Father's Day weekend and offers a variety of entertainment for visitors of all ages.

The American Arab Chamber of Commerce with its presenting partner Ford Motor Co. and in cooperation with the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS), the Lebanese American Heritage Club and the city of Dearborn will transform more than 14 blocks on Warren Avenue (between Schaefer and Wyoming) into the largest Arab-American celebration in the nation.

As part of the cultural celebration the festival will feature live performances from local and international entertainers, food booths, henna art, cultural merchandise, children's tent, arts and crafts and a midway of carnival rides including a giant old-fashioned Ferris Wheel that overlooks East Dearborn.

The festival is a free event that attracts people from various cities in Michigan, Canada, Ohio, the Midwest and Middle Eastern countries.

Highlighting this year's festival will be Arab singing sensation Hatim Idar who was a finalist on Superstar - the Middle-Eastern equivalent of "American Idol" and the world's youngest drummer, 5-year-old Julian Pavone, who was featured on Oprah as one of the most amazing kids.

"The chamber is delighted to showcase our proud and unique heritage. This cultural celebration builds bridges in one of our state's most treasured communities and accentuates the economic vibrancy of East Dearborn," said American Arab Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Fay Beydoun.

Festival hours: are 5-10 p.m. Friday; noon to 10 p.m. Saturday and noon to 8 p.m. Sunday.

For additional information, contact the American Arab Chamber of Commerce at (313) 945-1700 or visit the Chamber on the Web, [www.americanarab.com](http://www.americanarab.com).