

Spirited success

Fest's a treat for city merchants

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

For a holiday that celebrates ghouls and the rising of haunted spirits, downtown Farmington was anything but dead for its first-ever Halloween Fest Oct. 29-30.

A number for the approximate amount of people is as difficult to tackle as Casper the Ghost on an end-around. No bones about it, though, the fest was a success, according to merchants and organizers.

The weekend, jointly sponsored by the Downtown Farmington Business Association and the Downtown Development Authority, was a treat for visitors. There was a free showing of the horror film classic "Frankenstein," trick-or-treating at downtown stores and a costume contest.

People displayed their Halloween spirit in a number of ways. Merchants kicked in \$1,000 worth of prizes, teenagers showed up in droves for a student-produced horror film and the even less than frightful purple dinosaur Barney was on hand.

Kitty Bazzy won first place for her costume depicting a chorus line. Michael Guilmond took second for his "Bounty Hunter from Hell" outfit and Daniel Jidov, Patricia Jidov and Lorraine Jidov were third with their hooded casket-carrying performance.

"It's a great exposure," said DDA director Judy Downey. "That's what promotions are all about."

Drako Mitrikeski, owner of the Farmington Bakery, didn't expect a big turnout with the numbing cold and drizzle predicted.

He sold out of baked goods within three hours Saturday. People were munching down as if it were a scene out of "Night of the Living Dead."

See FEST, 8A



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMIEUX

Doing what counts: Count Dracula, a.k.a. Al Lazar of the Gold Loft Jewelry Store in downtown Farmington, cleans a ring for an unsuspecting customer.

Barnyard in the city:
Farm animals are corralled for small ghosts, goblins and an occasional Cookie Monster. Animals came from Haverhill Farms in Walled Lake.



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