

Festival-goers weather the storm

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"I've been here 20 years, and I can remember only one year with this much rain," Soronen said. "But it's early. We're hopeful. We hope we can do something to turn it (the rain) off."

Private vendors who sell the food and folk associated with these affairs will be hurt most by the wet weather, Soronen said.

"It'll cost them dearly," she said. "I feel for them. A lot of these people make their living selling this stuff, going from one of these (festivals) to another."

"And I feel for the local service clubs which have booths out there, too."

LATE FRIDAY morning, the rain stopped, although the skies looked gray and threatening. Still, spirits seemed

high at the Meadow Fresh booth in the Downtown Farmington Center's parking lot.

"We're enjoying it," said Marion Simola of Farmington Hills. Straw sun hat squaring on her head, she was waiting for someone to purchase her imitation milk product.

"We were here until 10 p.m. last night listening to the entertainment," she said. "We'll have to close up shop if the rain keeps up, though. No use staying if there're no customers."

At a kissing booth to benefit Farmington High School seniors, blonde, blue-eyed Liz Berger, a senior to be, waited for business.

"It (the rain) has made business a lot slower," she said. "But we're better prepared now. We have a bigger un-

brella and some Saranwrap over our sign."

The heavy rain Friday didn't stop the Farmington Jaycees from firing up the charcoal in their barbecue pit. The Jaycees estimate they'll burn up 1,000 pounds of charcoal while broiling 300 chickens, each 2 1/2 to 3 pounds.

"We're serving food today," Jaycee Tom Brown of Livonia said with a laugh.

Fellow Jaycee Al Dedeker of Farmington Hills added, "We cooked all day yesterday. Instead of singing in the rain, we were cooking in the rain."

A FEW BOOTHS away, Mary Carey and her daughter Lisa were running what Lisa called "a rambling bakery."

"We kind of go all over to festivals and things," Lisa said. Ann Rossi, a clerk in the bakery, said the rain hampered commerce.

"Nobody made any money yesterday," Rossi said, referring to Thursday. Up at the arts-and-crafts end of the downtown center parking lot, Mary Turton surveyed the horizon.

"They say it's clearing up over Lansing," said Turton, who was in charge of assigning spots for the 50 "crafters" booths at the center and 200 more near the Masonic Temple.

"We hope we can continue. If it clears, the crafters will be happy."

Catherine Holley of Sterling Heights failed to sell any copper stained glass in her parking lot booth Thursday.

"It was the rain," she said. "Some of the vendors didn't even unpack. Others went home by 2 p.m. One woman came from all the way from the other side of Grand Rapids. She left early."

Station music ruled out of place

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"People are playing music that's not my taste, but they're still playing the music," she said.

WOB's workers say the radio station broadcasts mainly to Farmington and Farmington Hills and mostly attracts the 18-to-24-year-old age group.

"We're a Farmington and Farmington Hills radio station, but they won't let us play our music at a Farmington Founders Festival," Reeves said.

Festival Chairman Rob Falls said committee members voted this year that there wouldn't be rock and roll concerts during the festivities and

even denied another radio station a request to have a concert-in-the-park type activity.

"If we could accommodate the station (with electricity hook-ups) we'd have to round up all the committee members and vote on it," Falls said. "If we voted no, it would be because we want to keep this a family thing, for the taxpayers and for the community."

"A lot of people don't like rock," he said.

THERE ARE members on the committee who were against having "this type of music" played during the festivities, Falls said.

Farmington readies petitions

Petitions are now available at the Office of the City Clerk, 23500 Liberty Street, Farmington, for the nomination of candidates for three seats on the Farmington City Council.

Petitions may be filed from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, Aug. 2-12 at 5 p.m. All candidates who qualify will be placed on the ballot. There is no primary election, and voters will elect three councilmen on a non-partisan ballot at the general city election Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Candidates for nomination must have the following qualifications:

• Must have been a resident of the city of Farmington for three years immediately prior to the last day for filing petitions.

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