

Despite heat, parade draws a crowd

By Casey Hana
staff writer

THE CROWDS lining Grand River along the Farmington Founders Festival parade route were thankful for the clouds that brought relief and a slight breeze Saturday morning.

Muggy, 90-degree weather continued Saturday into the festival's final day. But no one let it rain on their parade — although it did sprinkle briefly before it began.

Those attending didn't seem to mind that organizers downsized this year's Downtown Farmington event, not offering prizes for floats or payment of expenses for those participating. The parade was nearly cancelled because its sponsor, the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, lost a site for the annual carnival, which funded the parade.

FOR MANY, the parade was a morning preview to the rest of the festival, which continued throughout

the day. They viewed more than 70 local cars and floats and the always-enjoyable Detroit Muslim Shrine, who participated heavily with their drum and bugle corps, bagpipe band, miniature cars, motorcycles and other colorful shows.

Many families enjoyed curbside picnics and cold refreshments as the parade made its way down the avenue during the annual event, which began shortly after 10 a.m. It was preceded by the Farmington Area YMCA-sponsored Fox Trot running race, and runners received much applause as they approached the parade viewers.

Others brought books or knitting to pass the time. The smell of barbecue sauce, pizza and kielbasa filled the air as eager, tiny faces anticipated the parade fun. Youngsters darted along sidewalks on bicycles and skateboards.

SATURDAY WAS a politician's dream. It seemed representatives for every open office doled out information, and some free popcorn and

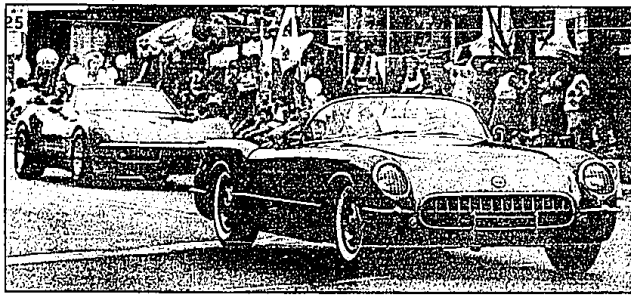
balloons, while barking the praises of their candidate. Other candidates rode in the parade.

Balloon vendors hawked their wares along the curbs, where children grabbed at their favorite colors and shapes. Metrovision of Oakland County taped the event with three cameras for future broadcast on local cable television.

Besides the Shriners music, the local Kiwanis Band and recorded music from several floats, the parade was strangely silent without the usual number of local marching bands. The Mole Junior High band from Milford was the only school band to march.

Local historian Jean Fox was this year's parade grand marshal and Russ Tuttle of Boisford General Hospital's staff emceed the event from the Farmington and Grand River intersection.

The parade was filled with young women honored with a variety of 1986 titles, including Miss Farmington and her court.



A 1954 Chevrolet Corvette leads the Corvette Club of America procession.



Charlie the Chicken belongs to the Farmington Area Jaycees.



The Farmington Area Community Women enjoy the crowd's acceptance of their float.



Former firefighter Carrie Hajar (left) and Farmington Hills firefighters Al Smolen and Lee Panoushek engage in a bit of warm-weather fun with the aid of a fire hose.

Staff photos
by
Randy Borst



One of the Keystone Kops from the Muslim Shrine takes to the road on a miniature scooter.

ANNE KLEIN



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