

Antics kick off downtown promotion series

Streetside Live! was fun for all ages

By Amy Rauch
staff writer

A CLOWN, a one-man band and a musical impersonator performed Saturday as part of Streetside Live!, an afternoon of family entertainment designed to promote the vigor of downtown Farmington.

About 200 people of all ages joined the three zany entertainers to cele-

brate the new gazebo-pergola (seating area) on the north side of Grand River, just east of Farmington Road, next to the Village Commons Shopping Center.

The promotion, one of many planned to help make the central business district a community green, supplements the Downtown Development Authority's five-year, \$1.4-million streetscape improvement program.

The entertainers — Willful Stumble, Mr. Bones and Bob Bloenk — kicked off the first of a series of downtown entertainment programs planned for 1989-90.

Willful Stumble, a one-man band, entertained with a round of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" and his own version of "Jingle Bells," called "Jangle Bells."

Stumble uses both hands and arms to simultaneously play the "wha-zat??" — a combination of a banjo, tambourine, bass drum, a variety of horns and a cap gun. Dressed in a red shirt, suspenders and baggy blue jeans, Stumble also told a variety of stories and jokes.

"WE WERE shopping and we came down for a little entertainment," said Ken Billis, 38, of Farmington, who watched the show along with his brother and father.

Detroit Free Press sports columnist Mitch Albom, public relations executive Ken Droz and WDIV-Channel 4 sports producer Mike Stone — all Farmington Hills roommates — emceed the event.

Multi-colored blankets dotted the lawn just outside of the \$40,000 gazebo project, funded by businesses, individuals and organizations. The project includes two pergolas (slat-roofed seating areas), pedestrian lampposts and landscaping. The DDA paid for a \$1,850 drinking fountain where the sidewalk leads to the gazebo.

Kids sat with their parents; seniors looked on from the terraces of the nearby Farmington Place Apartments.

Mr. Bones, a clown and magician, was a favorite among the kids, who crowded around him as he sang songs and performed magic tricks.

"He's funny. I liked his magic tricks and singing," said Elizabeth McConaghy, 10, of Farmington.

Mr. Bones appealed to adults as well as kids.

"I love this clown, he's fantastic," said Sue Scott, 40, of Farmington Hills, who brought her son, Christopher, 8.

"IT'S GREAT for the kids," said Cindy Hazen, 24, of Farmington



Mr. Bones, a silver-haired, sad-faced clown, entertains the Streetside Live! audience with his hobo charm.

Hills, who brought her children, Amber, 17 months, and Robby, 8.

Bones, dressed in a long gray cape and suspenders, wore a sad face. With kids huddled around him, Bones sang "Candyman," "High Hopes" and "Man in the Mirror."

He also raced through the audience, grabbing participants and dragging them to the stage.

Sheila Glantz, 41, of Southfield, joined Bones in singing "Candyman."

"I was the idiot up there," Glantz chuckled. "I didn't expect to be up there."

Glantz accompanied her sister, Anita Bogorad, 32, of Farmington Hills, to the program. "I wish I had my camera," Bogorad said.

"I didn't think I was going to stay, but I'm enjoying it," said Louis Manderville, 67, of Farmington. "I thought it would be for kids, but it's for adults too."

"I'm glad to see as many people down here today," said Farmington Mayor Richard Tupper. "It's a big-

'I didn't think I was going to stay, but I'm enjoying it. I thought it would be for kids, but it's for adults too.'

— Louis Manderville

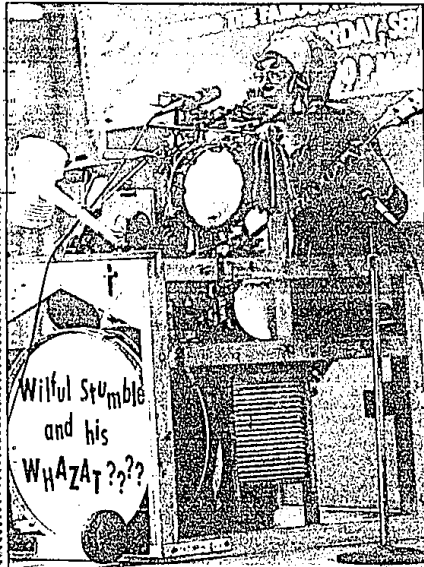
ger crowd than I (expected). The weather was a factor."

THE STREETSIDE Live! performances ended just before thunderstorms rolled in at 5 p.m.

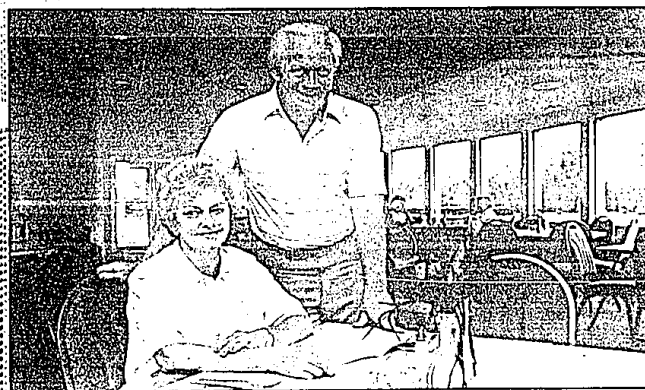
Two drawings were held in between acts for \$25 gift certificates from various downtown businesses.

The last act was Bob Bloenk, a musical impersonator who played his guitar and impersonated everyone from Elvis, Bob Dylan and the Beatles to Debbie Boone.

"This guy is very talented. I've been singing along," said Farmington Hills resident Murray Sittsamer, whose wife, Wendy Strip Sittsamer, is DDA executive director.



Willful Stumble plays his famous "wha-zat???" at Streetside Live!



Al Marmion, pro manager of San Marino Golf Course in Farmington Hills, is shown inside On the Tee restaurant, which his wife, Joan, man-

ages. She's assistant manager of the city-owned golf course.

Farmington Hills eateries granted liquor licenses

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Liquor will be soon be sold at On the Tee, a restaurant at the city-owned San Marino Golf Course on Halsted at I-695.

Farmington Hills City Council approved a special Class C (liquor by the glass) license Monday for Al Marmion, golf course manager and restaurant owner.

The license will not apply against the city's liquor license quota, the number of which is determined by population. Under a new state law effective March 31, a special non-transferable liquor license can be awarded to a city-owned facility.

In an unrelated request, the city also approved a new Class C liquor license Monday for Bono Yard II Restaurant, 31008 Orchard Lake Road.

The license became available when the city did a new mid-decade census in 1987, showing a larger population base and thus allotting the city additional Class C licenses. Simeon Ristic owns the Bono Yard.

RESIDENT RICHARD Lytwynuk called the city-owned San Marino

Golf Course "commendable," and added, "It's also very important to have a liquor license in this day and age, just to operate successfully."

A golf course neighbor and regular golfer also voiced support for the license.

There was little discussion among city council members in granting the liquor license to Marmion.

But councilman Aldo Vagnozzi questioned whether approval would cause any problem because of the city's recent co-signing for a \$250,000 loan for Marmion, allowing him to renovate the city-owned clubhouse and open the restaurant.

"I want to see our interests are protected," Vagnozzi said. "I don't want to rehab the whole thing."

There was an uproar from the community after city officials agreed to co-sign the bank loan. City attorney Paul Bibeau reassured the council the liquor license would cause no problem and that the city's financial interests would be protected.

THE LIQUOR license will be listed in Marmion's name, not in the city's, which will be the best move for the city in avoiding liability, said city manager William Costick. "We

think we're better off this way," he said.

A dance permit was also approved with the license, which will allow Marmion to occasionally rent a dance floor for special occasions or when certain groups request it for a party. He does not intend to have regular dancing at the restaurant, he said. Outdoor patio service was also part of the application.

The license does not allow liquor to be sold on the golf course itself, except on special occasions, for which a permit from the city would be needed. Then, it would be sold from stands on the course; five such permits are allowed in a year.

Although applications for liquor licenses are made with the state Liquor Control Commission in Lansing, cities must pre-approve any application for a Class C license. The 6-0 council approval Monday was granted subject to final police and fire inspections and fingerprint clearance. Councilman Paul Sowerby was absent.

Marmion's application was approved initially by Farmington Hills building, zoning, police and fire departments. The issue was taken to city council.

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