



Something to see: Livonia residents Jewel Manees (left) and Marky and Melinda Wagner watch a demonstration of a Whirly-Gig toy by crafter Brenda Martin of Grand Rapids.

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val favorite. "What can you do? You have some good days and you have some bad days. There is only three days."

Added Nick Lentz, owner of It's Greek to Me, "When you only have half of the traffic, you're going to only have half the business, right?"

A lack of power compounded matters, Lentz said. His food booth was without electricity for three days. He had to rent a generator.

Greek Boy restaurant had to continually transport food back and forth from its Orchard Lake restaurant because of the power outage.

Greek Boy restaurant usually sells 400 pounds of chicken during the festival, owner Jamie Elsas said. Only 60 pounds of poultry were sold this year.

"You want to buy some chicken?" asked Elsas, who called festival business "a dud."

Some food and craft vendors closed up early. "Most of the vendors got disgusted with the whole thing," Lentz said.

While vendors spoke of losses, Founders Festival had plenty of winners.

Most notable is the grand prize recipient in the annual Corvette raffle.

Betsy Campbell, wife of Farmington Mayor Arnold Campbell, had the winning ticket for the Corvette or \$30,000. Matthew Gerich won the \$1,000 prize.

Those who collect \$500 include: Ann Marie Podlaski, Janet Mitchell, and William Shile. Chris Thole, Debra Page and Eric Wheeler had the winning ducats for \$250 and the Block family and



A big day: Three-year-old Brittney Massa of Farmington celebrates her birthday at the festival parade with her cousins Megan Burley (left), 8, and Bridgette Burley, 11.

Margaret Rencok will receive \$150.

George Grey of Farmington took first prize of \$10,000 in the Farmington Elks raffle. The Basketball Court also raffled off a Keith Primeau Detroit Red Wings jersey.

Those who didn't receive prizes

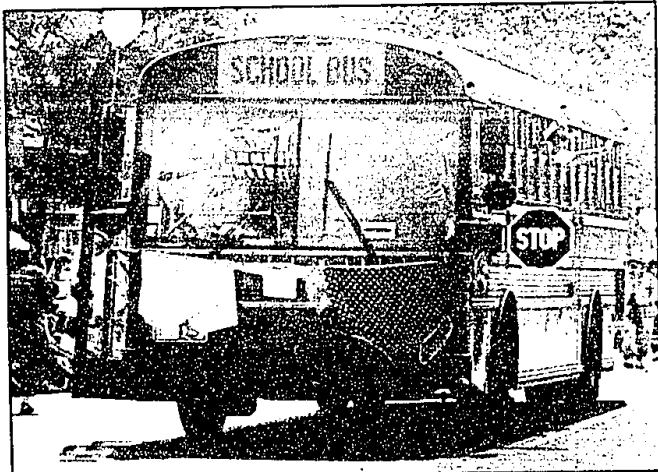
but turned out for the festival nonetheless were winners in organizers' eyes. Though crowds were down, the annual parade was well-attended.

"They are troopers," Soronen said. "We have a lot of loyalists who pride themselves on not missing a parade."



STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LA MOORE

A pet's place: Meghan Stewart, who'll be 11 tomorrow, shows off her pet hooded-rat, Tornado, during Kids Day at the recent Farmington Founders Festival.



The bus wore pants: A Farmington Schools bus is dressed for the day, as drivers clown around during the festival parade.



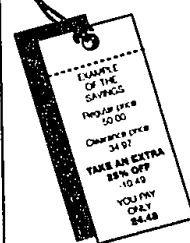
Checking the event: Above, Kathy Tellner (left) of Farmington Hills crosses Grand River with her daughter-in-law Jennifer Sprys-Tellner of Brighton. Tellner bought the chairs from a festival booth for Sprys-Tellner's birthday. At right, festival-goers look warm, even though they're taking it in before the midday heat.



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