

Halloween fest to scare up fun

BY MARY RODRIGUE
STAFF WRITER

Planners expect 2,000 trick-or-treaters to take part in the third annual downtown Halloween Fun Fest to be held on Saturday, Oct. 28.

The event is sponsored by the Downtown Development Authority for the city of Farmington. DDA Executive Director Judy Downey said 75 percent of downtown area businesses are expected to participate. Kids can stop by for a treat if they see a welcome sign from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"The first year I came up with this idea a couple of years ago it was a rainy day, and we still had 1,000 trick-or-treaters," said Downey. "Last year it was a nice day and we had 1,500 to 1,600. We expect it to grow again as it becomes more known."

"Halloween seems to be growing in popularity again and parents feel comfortable with the daylight trick-or-treating."

And treat collecting is just the tip of the iceberg. Special events continue all day long, centered in the downtown area.

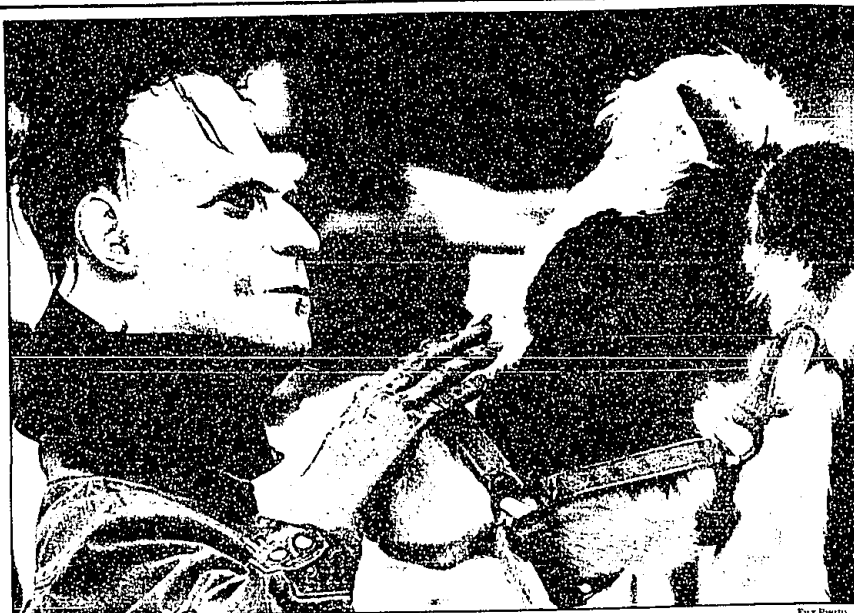
The full day of free activities includes a petting zoo, pony rides, and a moon walk. A huge tent will be pitched in the downtown center parking lot. There will be ample parking in the downtown area and near the Farmington Training Center, Downey said.

There will be a children's costume contest as well as one for pets and adults. More than \$1,000 will be awarded in cash and gift certificates for contest winners. Kids compete for gift certificates. A nighttime adult competition offers \$500 for first prize, \$200 for second and \$100 for third place.

"We've had a lot of terrific costumes, very clever," Downey said.

Free movies, including "Beetlejuice" and "Young Frankenstein," will be shown all day at the Farmington Civic theater. Other planned activities include a Halloween puppet show and live music in the evening.

An added feature this year will be a cake walk every half hour. A variety of dance talent will also perform under the big tent. Food vendors will be selling their wares all day.



Monster bash: The petting zoo returns to this year's Halloween Festival in downtown Farmington Oct. 28.

FILE PHOTO

Local students face MEAP test this week

Farmington Public School fourth and seventh grade students will take the Michigan Educational Assessment Program tests Oct. 16-27. Students are tested in reading and math.

Retesting for state graduation endorsements will be offered during the same period for 1996 and 1997 graduates. Seniors may retest in reading, math, and science.

Juniors may retest in reading and math.

All public school students are required to take the MEAP test. Only parents or guardians can exempt their children from testing. Accommodations will be provided for special needs children. Parents should contact the child's teacher or counselor for information.



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