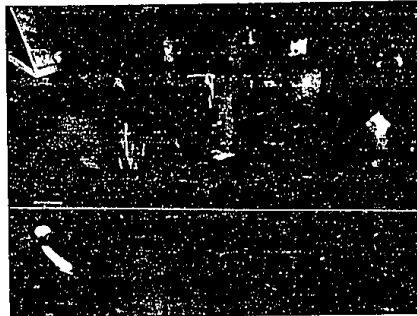




**Bass ball:** Jeff Reynolds, bass player in the band The Cadettes, sings the party anthem "Margueritaville" during the Founders Festival Fantasy Car Raffle Party at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena Saturday.

**Cocktail confab:** David Epstein, left, Larry Gelman, Sheri Gelman of the Farmington Chamber Board, Steve Maltzman, chairman of the Fantasy Car Raffle, and Claudia Maltzman chit-chat during a VIP reception Saturday.



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LAMBERT

**Window shopping:** Ed Sweeney of Livonia peers inside the shiny new red Corvette on display at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena. Sweeney went in with nine other people to buy two \$100 tickets in the Fantasy Raffle.

## Ticket to ride

*Annual Fantasy Car Raffle draws folks to arena party*

**S**ally Darby of Redford was grand prize winner in the 1996 Founders Festival Fantasy Car Raffle.

Darby's winning ticket was selected at random during a party Saturday at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena, which was sponsored by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce.

The ticket holder had choice between the grand prize of a brand new red Corvette or \$30,000. Cash won out over the hot rod, a chamber spokeswoman said.

"They're taking the money because we're writing the check right now," said Maria Esposito.

"We've had several calls go back and forth today."

All of the 1,000 allotted \$100 tickets were sold for the raffle. The coveted Corvette was on display during the festival near Metrobank.

RDR group won second prize of \$1,000. Three prizes of \$500 each went to Charles Damm of Farmington, Mike and Helen Sandretto of Farmington, and John Valentine of Plymouth.

Three prizes of \$250 were won by The Print House of Farmington Hills, Michelle and Carl Swanderski of Farmington Hills, and John Kennex of Farmington Hills. Christine Koziatek of South Lyon and James Venable of Auburn Hills won \$150 each.

## Fair weather has people flocking to Founders Fest

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

The last tent has long since folded on the Farmington Founders Festival, but organizers are still flapping with joy.

By all accounts, the 32nd edition of the annual celebration was a success.

Attendance was estimated at 80,000 for the week long event, which included Kids Day in the Park, the Miss Farmington Pageant and the annual parade.

Vendors and crafters were besieged by customers and there were no festival-related crimes reported.

More so, festival goers were treated to sunny skies and relatively mild temperatures throughout. Wilting heat and storms kept people away from last year's event.

"Obviously, the weather made

a difference," said Jody Soronen, director of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, which sponsored the event. "When we have good weather everyone turns out. We had that little shower on Saturday and then gosh people just popped right out of the sidewalk afterwards. We had big crowds Saturday evening."

Neighborhoods and downtown office workers didn't need an attendance figure to know the festival was well-attended: They just had to look at the unknown vehicle wedged in their regular parking spot.

Parking was at a premium downtown. A good portion of the Downtown Center lot was consumed up by two large tents and food vendors.

Farmington Public Safety Department fielded a few park-

ing complaints, said Deputy Director Mike Wiggins.

"I think it's part and parcel of having a festival, especially with the need to restrict parking the way we have to," Wiggins said.

"It's only three days out of the year. We address the complaints as they come in but keeping in mind people have to park somewhere."

Parking alternatives have been considered, Soronen said. One is having people park outside the festival — such as Farmington High or Oakland Community College — and shuttling them downtown.

That would mean renting a bus and hiring a driver, which is costly, Soronen said.

"We'll look into it," Soronen said. "We know parking is a bear, including for those people who work in the offices."

**Float of note:** Colonial Car Wash won first place for its float in the commercial division of the Founders Festival parade July 13.

STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LAMBERT



## Parade provides plenty floats to fancy

Botsford General Hospital with its "Blues Brothers" theme won the Presidents Award for the float with Best Festival Theme in the Founders parade July 13.

"Music, Music, Music" was the theme and the Botsford bunch booped to Jake and Elwood's beat, playing air instruments made from bedpans and crutches and passing out bandages.

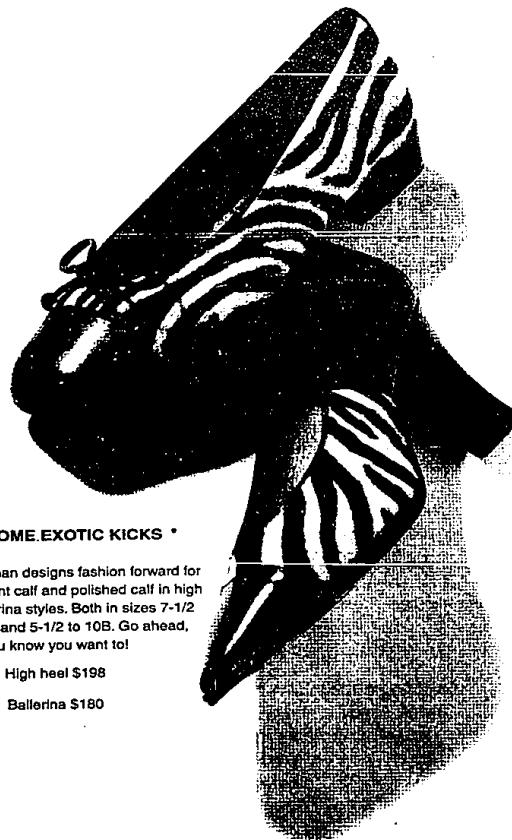
Representatives from all four of Botsford's corporate entities participated, said hospital spokes-

woman Bridget Gosine.

"It was a lot of fun," Gosine said.

Gill Year-Round School's float won the Queen's Trophy for original concept. Gill also received the Arts Commission's Award and first place for organizational float.

Other first place winners included: Colonial Car Wash, commercial float; Janet School of Baton, Baton Corps; and Farmington In-line Skate, precision drill team.



### GET SOME EXOTIC KICKS \*

Stuart Weitzman designs fashion forward for fall...Zebra print calf and polished calf in high heel or ballerina styles. Both in sizes 7-1/2 to 9-1/2 AA and 5-1/2 to 10B. Go ahead, you know you want to!

High heel \$198

Ballerina \$180

## Jacobson's

338 W. MAPLE RD. • BIRMINGHAM  
MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, AND SATURDAY, 9:30 AM TO 6 PM.  
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, 9:30 AM TO 8 PM. SUNDAY, NOON TO 5 PM.  
PHONE: 644-6900 • FAX: 645-8067