



Bargain buy: Brad Hosking of The Yellow Durbin helps Cindy Feder and Alicia O'Reilly of Livonia search for some sale items during the Midnight Madness sale Oct. 4 in downtown Farmington.

PHOTO BY
TON HOFFMEYER

Downtown sale offers music by moonlight

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

If they weren't necessarily there for Moonlight Madness, they may have attended to see Angry Red Planet.

The most important thing is that they were there, said one downtown Farmington business owner.

Downtown Farmington Business Association conducted another in a series of Moonlight Madness sales to draw shoppers to Grand River and Farmington Road Oct. 4. Merchants, who stayed open later, report mixed results.

"I think a lot people drive through town

and don't realize there a lot of smaller shops here," said Brian Ferrebee, owner of Comix Collectables in the Village Mall. "They are either on their way home from work or on their way to the... mall.

"This allows them to see what we have to offer."

Ferrebee's band Angry Red Planet offered the sound of rock'n'roll music to go along with ringing cash registers. The group drew a contingent of young music listeners to the deck behind the Village Mall.

Nearby businesses such as The Yellow Durbin, which specializes in fashions for teens and 20-somethings benefited from

spinoff business generated by the band's appearance.

"Moonlight Madness was excellent," said Brad Hosking, owner of The Yellow Durbin. "All day it was slow and then around 8:30 a lot of people started showing up."

"The band and the spotlight brought people down here."

Another clothing merchant didn't see the same results.

"During the day, it was busy," said Larry Salten, owner of Clothes Encounter. "After 7, there was really nothing."

"We stayed open until 10 and we had a few stragglers from the movies (at the Civic)."



On the rack: Heidi Fifield and George Qatsha of Novi take a look at what Clothes Encounters has to offer.

Year 2000 committee works towards goals

BY WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

A Farmington Hills committee of futurists is not willing to rest on its laurels and neither is the city that created it.

Farmington Hills City Council members and staff met with members of the Year 2000 committee in a study session Monday to determine how best to use the panel's findings and keep it as an active resource for future projects.

Jim Amish, the committee's chair and a "walk-on," said the committee was strictly advisory, but added that it would be willing to help the city continue planning city projects.

The committee, composed of 160 residents, began the task of selecting goals to make Farmington Hills "the most livable city in Michigan by the year 2000."

To date, 69 percent of those goals have been either accomplished, or are in the works. The rest have not been started.

Goals accomplished in 1995 include redevelopment of the Grand River Corridor, completion of a safety path on Farmington Road, development of the Woodland Hills Park, completion of the Farmington Hills Ice Arena, construction of the final phase of the 12 Mile Road Boulevard, passage of a public safety millage and continued develop-

"We need a balance between what's practical and feasible."

Terry Sever
—Hills councilman

ment of the city's park system.

Assistant City Manager Dave Call said 39 of 60 goals have been implemented since 1990. He said the committee accomplished so much that many members have not been active.

"It's not because of apathy," Call said. "There was not much need for volunteers to continue to meet."

Call said the council should provide direction so that any proposed capital improvements could be part of the next budget.

Amish said those committee members still active want the plan to continue to effect city planning.

"We do not want the original year 2000 report to be static," he said. "It makes us unique in communities that have gone through this process."

Call said although many cities began similar projects, Farmington Hills is one of the few that still uses the committee.

The committee did not limit itself when it came up with the goals. But many of the ideas turned out to be within the

province of the school district or in some other way not a proper function of the city.

The committee has made of list of those projects not started and prioritized them based on whether they would be mandatory or discretionary.

Some of the objectives not started include creating a master plan for culture and one for leisure, and creating and executing a plan to maximize the use of all public and private facilities by 1998.

Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi and Councilman Terry Sever asked that the committee look at the remaining items and prioritize them and bring them back to council.

The council could then determine how much in the way of resources or legal action would be required to complete them.

"We need a balance between what's practical and feasible," Sever said.

Council members said the committee should submit a report for a December council meeting so that goals could be delegated by the council to the appropriate commissions and groups, such as the parks and recreation commission and historical commission.

The boards and commissions would then make recommendations back to the city council for possible action.

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Cornucopia Ball organizers seek donations for its silent auction

The Farmington Hills Community Foundation for Children, Youth and Families is seeking in-kind donations for its silent auction at the second annual Cornucopia Ball on Nov. 9.

"We are looking for companies and individuals to contribute any thing of value for the auction to help our cause — whether that's a brake tune-up, a quilt, a lease car or a vacation," said Deborah Grant, trustee and co-chair of the Cornucopia Ball.

Proceeds raised from the auction and Cornucopia Ball benefit the foundation's existing and proposed youth centers, as well as other programs for Farmington area youth and families.

Last year, auction items included a membership

package from the YMCA, weekend getaways, picnic tables, art, and a variety of other unique promotions, items and collectables.

Donations are tax deductible. Donors will receive recognition at the ball for their contribution.

The foundation is also looking for additional sponsors of the ball. Botsford General Hospital has made a three-year commitment of \$10,000 a year, the Farmington Observer has contributed \$10,000 to be honorary hosts of the event.

Call 473-1841 for Cornucopia Ball tickets, sponsorship opportunities, contributions, or more information.