Grand time

Downtown Farmington's first classic car night hits on all cylinders



Cool: The '56 Bel Air dash

last Monday's first "Cruiso the Grand" classic can night in downtown Farmington. And so was the event itself, according to Roger Ratkowski, owner of The Pasta Stop and co-spanser of the weekly nostalgic extravaganzas, scheduled to take place from 5-0 p.m. each Monday until September. "Yes, it was a perfect night," said Ratkowski. "I think it was a very, very good success." More than 80 spifty, spruced up, four-wheel classics converged

on the parking lot behind co-sponsors The Pasta Shop and Page's Food & Spirits, located on the southwest corner of Grand River-Farmington roads. Ratkowski said he had anticipat-d about half that amount. Not all of the cars parked and stayed, however. Ratkowski said 51 classics were registered for the static display; the others pretty much were just passing through. Among the cars on exhibit

pretty much were just passing through.

Among the cars on exhibit were a 1941 Ford delivery truck used by the Detroit Times, a defunct daily newspaper; a late 1860s model Nava, brought to the ovent by Kevin Gushman of the Farmington Department of Public Services; and a red-and white 1956 Chevy Bel Air.

The Bel Air owner captured the first event trophy and dinner at The Pasta Stop.

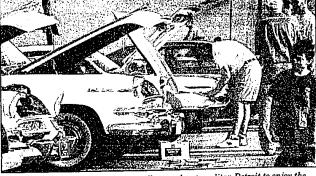
And many car enthusiasts, as well as curious residents from the surrounding neighborhood, stopped by to glance at the cars, listen to some old-time music and soak up the atmosphere.

"It wasn't elbow-te-olbow," Ratkowski said. But it was a continuous rotation of people and cars."

Mike Wiggins, deputy director

out the underbelly of '56 Thun-derbird, owned by Bruce Jones

and cars."
Mike Wiggins, deputy director
of the Farmington Public Safety



Nostalgic night: Car buffs came from all around metropolitan Detroit to enjoy the first "Cruise the Grand" classic car display held in downtown Farmington.

Department, said no incidents were reported that were connected to the event. City officials had expressed concerns about parking, noise spillage and traffic

the idea at a council meeting.

The public safety department also had Officer Terry Purves at

of them.

Such partic-ipation from businesses would help build a cus-tomer base for

the event, on the recentlyformed bike patrol.

That (brought) a nice presence, Ratkowski said.

Meanwhile, several other
downtown businesses want to
hop onto the event bandwagon,
perhaps boesting publicity and
awareness of the cruise nights.

Ratkowski
mentioned
Celtic Shamrock, in the
Village Mall,
and Fun with
Plaste as two
of them.

The general public can't see it as well from the main road,
Ratkowski said. "But word of
mouth and seeing the classic
over that."

Another council concern was
whether there would be any loi-

the aispiny, and stopping check it out.

"The general public can't see it as well from the main road," Ratkowski said. "But word of mouth and seeing the classic cars all over town will make up for that."

Another council concern was whether throw would be any loitering well into the night after the ovent. That didn't happen, said Ratkowski, estimating that classic cars, related traffic and pedestrians cleared out of the lot by 9:30-9:45 p.m.

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AGENDAS

Farmington School Board 32500 Shiawassee, 489-3300 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 9

Agenda items include:
Appointment of Power Middle School assistant principal.
Tuition tax credit proposal

presentation.

Elementary science curricu-

lum textbook recommendations.

Approve Farmington Community Library millage request.

Farmington Hills Council
City hall, 474-6115
7:30 p.m. Monday, June 8
Public hearing on 1998-99 city budget.

Consider resolution support-

ing SMART millage renewal

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