

Sunday-In-the-Park kicks off Founders' Festival

Pets, owners bask in spotlight

By SANDI HORNE

Creatures ranging from large, hairy Bouvier des Flandres to parakeets and tiny guinea pigs were all on hand as the 12th annual pet show got underway July 22 in Farmington City Park.

The pet show, traditionally held in the Farmington Plaza on Friday during Founders' Festival, was part of the Sunday-in-the-Park activities this year.

There were 40 pets entered by their young owners in 10 different categories. Contestants had to have been under 14 to be eligible. They had to show their pet around a ring, under the watchful eye of the judges. Judging this year's competition was Terry Sever, chairman of the board of the Farmington Area Jaycees and past president of the Founders Festival; Betty Hugg, first vice-chairwoman of the festival, and Gary Miramonti, chairman of the festival.

Dr. John Richardson, Farmington veterinarian, was emcee of the event and the Farmington Plaza Merchants provided trophies for first through third-place winners.

In the twin class category for the two pets most evenly matched, Lesa Gela, 11, won first prize with her two parakeets, Romeo and Juliet. Andy Montgomery's cocker, Buffy, won in the category for the pet with the waggiest tail.

MOST TALENTED pet honors went to Sara Austin, 12, and her dancing schnauzer, Barney.

Gail Watson's collie, Taffy, won first prize for the pet with the bushiest tail. In the longest pet category, Jennifer Mobley won first prize with her dog, Bear, a Bouvier des Flandres. Carol Cummings' Siamese cat, Tammy, won first prize in the most articulate pet category.

Smallest pet honors went to Sharon Clonciola and her guinea pig, Tiny. The most unusual pet in the show was a cockatoo named Sandy, owned by Sue McMaster.

Winners of the most original costume for pet and owner were Chad Pirecord and his Doberman, Teeko, dressed up like a cowboy and his trusty steed.

Second place within that category went to Laura Sakal, 8, and her dog, Max, for their imitation of Little Red Riding Hood.

The ugliest pet award went to Kathy Crane's pug, Buffy. Jerry Courtard and his beagle, Snoopy, won first prize in a special class for Snoopy look-alikes.



A little cowpoke named Chad Pirecord and his doberman, Teeko, won a prize for having the most original costume. (Photo by Sandi Horne)

Councils play ball

By SANDI HORNE

Singing, dancing, water balloon tosses, sack races and softball were all a part of this year's Sunday-in-the-Park picnic, held on June 22 in the Farmington City Park.

The annual picnic, usually the closing event of the Founders' Festival, was the kickoff event for this year's 15th festival celebration.

For the first time, the Sunday festivities featured live entertainment. The Clark Family Players, a harmonica-playing and singing group, entertained picnicers with a medley of songs, ranging from those popular in the 1940s to more current tunes such as "Delta Dawn" and "Country Road."

The Clarks will perform in the Downtown Farmington Center from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on July 25. They will be wearing their clown uniforms.

For those who favor disco music, a Rent-a-Disco was featured at the picnic with disc jockey Don Gonzalez flipping the records through a sound system that sent music across the park.

A puppet show sponsored by Oakland County Parks and Recreation entertained the younger set.

Two-legged races, water balloon tosses and hopping contests were some of the games available for the young picnicers to enjoy.

DESPITE COMING in third in the hopping contest and being unable to undo the string tying together her feet, Sally Campbell, 9, said she was having "a pretty good time."

Although soaking wet from a water balloon, Joan Benoit, 14, said, "It's nice how everyone gets together and has fun during the Founders' Festival."

For the second year in a row, Farmington and Farmington Hills city council members ducked it out on the softball field. Farmington won the event, 10-9, despite blowing an 8-2 lead, and retained their milk jug trophy.



"Hail to the Victors" ought to be the theme song for the Farmington City Council. For the second year, they've knocked out the Hills officials in softball. Posing around the milkcan trophy are: (from left) Hills Mayor Pro Tem Keith Deacon, city Councilman Alton Bennett, Hills Councilwomen Jan Dolan and Joanne Smith and victorious city Mayor Dick Tupper. (Photo by Sandi Horne)

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