

## oral quarrel

# Founders' Festival gets mixed reviews from callers

Today's Oral Quarrel asked readers how they felt about this year's Farmington Founders' Festival. Following are the responses.

• I believe it was too much like a carnival. Too many eating places. Not good for anyone.

• Too many eating places. No order. Certainly mismanaged.

• Well, all it needed was a freak show to make it complete, and then it would have been a complete carnival. I do hope they change it next year and do something about that mess that was there.

• This years Founders' Festival was not the first bad one. They have been getting worse year after year. We remember the first one when it was really a small town affair with little booths, and it was a real small town celebration. Now it has become honky tonk. If that is the term people want to use. It's just no fun, it is crowded. We avoid downtown because there is lack of parking and nothing but junk.

• I think the festival is just the pits. Farmington doesn't need to be dragged down anymore. Let's get rid of it right away, please.

• I thought the festival was junky and congested. It should simply be eliminated.

• I like the festival. I think the merchants are selling junkier goods than they did in the past and that is why they are not getting the sales they used to. I used to get some real bargains there but lately I don't buy anything from the merchants. I buy it from craft dealers.

• I agree the festival was a little too much of a carnival atmosphere this

year. I would like to see the booths moved to a large parking lot area, the way they run the West Bloomfield annual festival, and I would like to see the quality of the goods sold maintained at a high level so the festival will have an aura of high quality.

• How could any festival be great when it was rained out.

• The committee, I feel, did an excellent job on the short notice they had. The only problem with the festival was the rain. If the store owners are complaining, why didn't they get on the committee and assist. After all the festival was for them. If the store owners in the center don't like it, let's move out to some shopping center that appreciates it, namely, Orchard Lake.

• I think that the Farmington Founders' Festival should continue, however, maybe moving into a central location and having sales on one day might help. Having it more like the Livonia Spruce as opposed to the weekend event. Have it one central location instead of spreading it all over.

• The festival was very good. The difficulty was the merchants didn't do well because they had just junk to sell this year.

• The festival was so bad, I was ashamed to tell anybody I went to it. If we can't get a quality one, something like the Ann Arbor or Plymouth area, we ought not have one at all.

• I thought the whole thing was disgusting. Downtown Farmington looked like a gigantic flea market. I went to the A&P to grocery shop and I couldn't find a parking space because the entire shopping center was full because of that stupid carnival. Finally I gave up and drove home and had my husband drive me back to the store and when I

was done shopping, I called him and he had to come back and pick me up. To put it mildly, the festival was disgustingly stupid.

• I love the variety of the booths from 50 years ago and the crafts from the Elks was fantastic, and I just thought that there was something for everybody, and I just want to see more of it.

• I think the 1983 Festival was terrific. I think the committee did an outstanding job. As far as the changes are concerned, I would leave that up to past committees to evaluate it and make recommendations to the new committee.

• All they have done is to turn the Founders' Day Festival into a drinking party so far as I can see. The one way you can change it, is to knock off those beer tents up and down Orchard Lake Road where the drunks come in and out into the Elks Lodge and into the VFW.

• It looked like a cheap carnival. Crummy food booths and when they left there, the place was absolutely filthy. I would like to see them cut the food concession stands in about one half or less.

• I lived in Farmington for 30 years and every year it gets worse. I believe it should be stopped completely. It's a disgrace to the city. It's a mess.

• I agree with the merchants who say that it was a honky tonk festival. I would like to see the merchants working together for the people of Farmington to bring together. For instance have the Farmington Jazz Band and not as many dance studios. Perhaps other groups who entertain singing and so on together.

• The festival was not complementa-

ry to Farmington or Farmington Hills nor has it been for the last few years. It has been a bad carnival. Keep out the commercial portable vendors. Limit the number of activities in the downtown center so the people can still shop and in fact use the sidewalks. Give permits primarily to arts and crafts but spread them out to both cities. OCC parking lots were empty when downtown was jammed dangerously with people.

• The concert and fireworks were great.

• I thought the Festival was the worst it has ever been. My suggestion is to have it a maximum of two days, Friday and Saturday or Saturday alone, possibly at Oakland Community College. More emphasis should be placed on the actual founders of Farmington.

• First, no advice was asked of former committee members so improvement could be made. I was a participant in 1980 and 1981. The long term plan then was to complete eventually with the Ann Arbor Art Fair. The foot path this year for food and crafts was not conducive to drawing and pleasing crowds. There have not been six years of doing it. Do not include the years I participated in it.

• I feel the Farmington Festival should be discontinued but if it isn't going to be discontinued, it should be held at the OCC campus on Farmington Road. They have ample parking space there and the fireworks are at the very end and therefore everything would be right there.

• I think the Founders' Festival was fantastic. The parade was great. I don't see that there was anything I would like to see changed other than a little less rain.

• I liked the Founders' Festival very much except I didn't like the many food vendors. Other than that, and a little more sunshine, I liked the festival.

• I enjoyed the festival but I think it was better when the crafts were in the downtown center, like you had it a couple of years ago, so the people could look at things there while having something to eat rather than having to walk all the way over to the Masonic Temple. It was too bad that the weather didn't cooperate but we have no control over that and I thought the fireworks were just great. On the whole it was a good festival.

• Basically I would like to thank the committee for a job well done. I think our family really enjoyed the parade. All three Farmington area schools were represented. I think it was excellent. We enjoyed the pig roast over at Drakeville, the ethnic downtown and we enjoyed browsing at the downtown crafts. We also enjoyed the orchestra and fireworks and we think the committee did a super job and keep up the good work. I didn't like all the criticism.

• A few years ago I participated in the festival and I don't believe there has been six years of doing in the festival because profit was made when I was involved and others involved knew profit was made so there hasn't been six years of doing.

• I think something ought to be done about the cars that drive in the plaza area during the festival off of Farmington Road. All it is a bunch of kids, a bunch of young punks cruising around. They should keep the cars out and keep that area for pedestrians. Also the price of some of their food is terrible. \$2.50 for a kielbasa sandwich is outrageous. If the kielbasa is good and the bread is good, fine then I don't mind paying it. I think the prices they charge for the food is terrible. It clearly is taking advantage of the situation.

• I think it would be much better if they brought back the rock and roll bands in the downtown area especially if the bands could be from the Farmington area itself. This year it was boring.

• I was very disappointed in the food. We had to go way down to the bowling alley for the roast and it was very expensive and we were disappointed in the size of the sandwich and then the

other meal at the Elks Club. They use to have them right there in the Farmington shopping area. I think the sandwiches should be served in the main area there where all the stores are, under a tent, like they used to and reasonable prices. I don't see why we can't have a decent meal right in the heart of Farmington at a reasonable price.

• I think no wonder they had complaints this year, the layout was just terrible. It reminded me of a circle of wagons, the Indians are coming and if you drove down Grand River, you didn't even know there was a festival, because you couldn't see anything.

• This year's festival reminded me of a carnival. Also in the years past, a financial report was always published in the paper and as an interested resident, I would really like to know how the festival did this year.

• I was a 1980 and 1981 booth participant and I thought the organization was much better in '80 and '81. I think attitudes of the committee this year was very poor and in charging the people as much as they did, I thought was very wrong, and I would never participate again under those circumstances.

• I thought the festival this year was very bad. To improve it, eliminate crafts and feature local businesses more.

• It was a disgrace years ago and still is. I feel it should be abandoned along with T.J. Maxx and perhaps that will keep some of the bums out of Farmington.

• Give it back to the people. In behalf of the Mothers Against Drunk Driving, don't let city officials issue temporary permits to fraternal organizations to set up more drinking tents and free more drinkers on Orchard Lake Road.

• As a Farmington resident of 14 years, I am very sad to admit that the Farmington Festival is a waste of all of our time, effort and money. I think we ought to cancel it completely. Instead try to renovate our downtown area. Make it more appealing to everybody, especially the residents of Farmington. Make it look more like Plymouth would be very nice or Northville. Something nice and quaint is what we need.

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