

Kids have quite a Day

By Tom Baer
staff writer

Kid's Day co-chair Jill Locke eyed the large church across Shawansee from Farmington's City Park.

"Every year we pray that Our Lady of Sorrows doesn't have a funeral," she said. "If they have a funeral, we don't get any parking."

There was no funeral last Tuesday afternoon, but parking was still scarce in the area as thousands (one estimate said 6,000) youngsters and their parents jammed the park for Kid's Day, a popular part of the annual Farmington Founders' Festival.

"We're under the big umbrella of the Founders' Festival, but we run our own event," explained Locke, who is em-

ployed by the Farmington Community Library, which helped organized the affair.

And there was plenty for Locke and fellow chairman Dave Jatus of Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation to look after at the fifth-annual Kid's Day.

For one thing, a pet show drew 70 entries, mostly cats and dogs, but a few land crabs and spiders, too. Prizes

were awarded for the shaggiest and waggiest.

The line for the pony ride was long, but not nearly as long as the one for an autograph from former Tiger Al Kaline, who sat scribbling in the Domino's Pizza tent.

Some youngsters applied paint to paper in the Art-In-Tent; others had make-up paint applied to their faces. There was a Junior Grand Prix for kids on Little Big Wheel tricycles, and bugs frogs that jumped for the astonished children.

KENNINGTON METTOPARK supplied some animals for a petting zoo. The U.S. Coast Guard donated a helicopter for viewing and touching, and local police and fire departments had their equipment out, too. An estimated 6,000 balloons were given away.

In addition to the library and parks and recreation department, the Farmington Area YMCA and the Farmington Community Center are organizers of the event.

"The purpose of Kid's Day is to give kids a special day during the summer," Locke said. "We hold it during Festival week because lots of people stay home for that."

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A painted face adorns 5-year-old Dranden Popowicki of Farmington Hills.



photos by RANDY DOWST/staff photographer

Everything's rosy for Farmington Hills' Autumn Osborn and her cat named Rosy as they participate in the Kid's Day pet show best-dressed category.

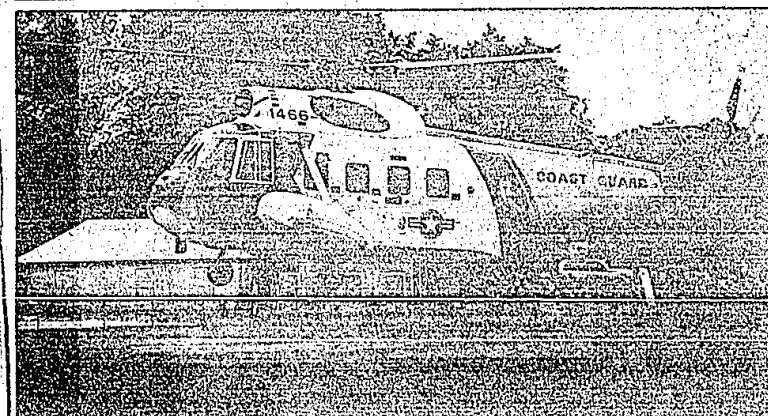


The line of youngsters (and plenty of adults, too) waiting to get Al Kaline's autograph snaked through the park.



Kid's Day scenes

In the five years since its inception, Kid's Day has become a popular part of the annual Farmington Founders' Festival. About 6,000 youngsters participated in this year's event last Tuesday. In the photograph at left, Ken Luark (far right) takes part in a tug of war sponsored by the Farmington Area YMCA. Below, a Coast Guard helicopter takes off after being an attraction for curious kids in the park.





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3:00-6:00 Mark Stess & Max Koester Contemporary Piano & Bass Duo	3:00-6:00 Susan Ivers Borne & Thomas D. Borne	3:00-6:00 Express Break Sessions — Two Performances	3:00-6:00 Fabulous Fashion Show
6:30-8:30 Phil Marcus Baer & Charlie Lottner	6:30-8:30 Mildred Scott & Derrell Bush	3:00 Fabulous Fashion Show	3:00 Fabulous Fashion Show

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