Parade boasts floats, music, clowns, boos

BEFRESHING temperatures and blue skies highlighted the 25th annual Farmington Hills Founders Festival parade, which proceeded proudly along Grand River Saturday morning.

In addition to the Moslem Shriners, clowns and local floats and cars, the parade drew anti-abortion sentiment from one local Catholic group, which, in turn, drew a bit of heckling from the crowd.

The Knights of Columbus-Farm-ington St. Francis Council in Farm-ington Hills marched with a "Right to Life" anti-abortion banner that crossed the entire width of Grand River.

Afterward, officials of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, which sponsors the festival, were discussing the entry and how it would be handled next year as well as other possible organ-izational changes.

But in general, the crowd appeared to enjoy the 2-hour parade, which included more than 50 entries this year. One parade-goer said the traditional Saturday event highlight-ed "the best festival ever."

As usual, people started lining the street at Grand River and Farmington Road, stretching east toward Mooney Street, early Saturday.

The local Mothers of Twins club float took the President's Award for best of festival with its "Noah's Ark" theme. It also won first place in the Organizational Float category.

OTHER WINNERS this year in-cluded:

• Queen's Trophy — A float with a "Constitution" theme, sponsored by the Bevel'y Hills and Parmington area committees on the Bicentennial of the U. S. Constitution, took this second place festival prize. The group sponsored an anti-drug raily Wednesday and participated in the burying of a time capsule at the Biessings of Liberty plenie in Heri-tage Park Sunday.

• Commercial Floats — Botsford General Hospital's blue and white float took first place; Strawberry Hill Market's float won second

• Organization Floats — Mother of Twins club won first place, followed by the Farmington Hills Beautification Commission float in second and the St. Fabian cub scout float in third.

Baton Corps — Derek's Devils won top honors for their twirling,

Ten-year-old Adrienne Perry of the Farmington Rockets cheerleading team gives a cheer as the Founders Festicheer as the Founder's Festi-val parade passes by Satur-day morning along Grand River through downtown Farmington. The team, which sports orange, black and white uniforms, placed third best in the Precision Drill Team category of the parade procession judging.



Ray Miller, 3, of Redford Township, gets boosted to a better seat along the parade route by his dad, Bob.

followed by Janet's School of Baton in second place.

• Precision Drill Team — The

Farmington High varsity cheerleaders took first place, followed by the Harrison High junior varsity cheerleaders. In third place were the Farmington Rockets cheerleaders, who marched behind their float.

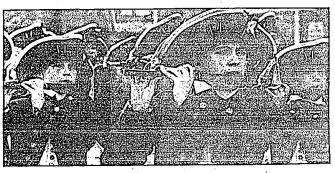
Motor Drill Team — The New Center Lions Motorized Drill Team won honors.

The parade was sponsored by Botsford General Hospital, Farm-ington Hills.

Early parade-goers were treated to a new event, the Founders Festival Bed Race, won this year by the team from World Wide TV & Appliance; the Farmington Hills Fire Department team was runner-up. Story and photos from the event will appear in Thursday's Observer, with other festival coverage.



which won the top prize, the President's Award, in the Founders Festival parade Saturday.



The Plymouth Fite and Drum Corps drew big applause from these lining Grand River in downtown Farmington during the parade Saturday. Holly Allen marches and plays for the crowd, visiling town for the parade and other Foundors Festival activities—the festival draws people The festival draws people each year from throughout the metro area.

Staff photos Sharon LeMieux





Five-year-old Charile Pepper of Farmington Hills gives a passing clown "five" during the day.

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