



DAN LIPPITT/staff photographer

An umbrella keeps the drizzle off Emily Stefanko, 3, of Franklin, as she watches the Farmington Founders Festival Parade Saturday from a Grand River curbstone.



SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

Festival-goers who pass Books Abound on Grand River could get a drink of fresh-squeezed lemons and an earful of ragtime banjo music, both provided by owner Skip Rosenthal.

Better every year

Good weather plus crowds adds up to festival success

ORGANIZERS FOR this year's Founders Festival were pleased with the generally good weather, the crowds and overall participation in the summer event, now in its 27th year.

The festival ended over the weekend.

"All in all, I think I can count it a success," said Jody Soronen, Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce executive director, and chief organizer for the Farmington area's biggest event of the year.

"I thought our crowds were as good as we have had in any year," she added. "We were concerned because of the recession — we didn't know what to expect."

Between 80,000 and 100,000 people from throughout Farmington and neighboring communities attend the event annually, enjoying arts and crafts, sidewalk sales, a myriad of food booths and special dinners and events such as the Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant and the annual

festival parade.

MANY RESIDENTS look forward to the festival every year.

Harold Westfall, a Farmington resident for 76 years, has attended all THE festival parades. "I remember when Grand River was a cobblestone street," he said. "Farmington is a nice town. There are a lot of changes taking place. I think things got better every year."

Longtime Farmington resident Maggie Loudas who has come downtown for the last 26 years, enjoyed this year's parade with her two daughters and four grandchildren. "I wouldn't miss it," she said. "In fact, my son is getting married later today, and I'm here at the parade."

Many crafters told Soronen they were particularly pleased to be back in Farmington because they enjoy the people who visit the annual festival.

"It's nice to have someone else point that out to you," Soronen added.



SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

Youngsters (from left) Melanio Bauer, 11, her sister Kimberly, 12, and friend Crystal Ludy, 11, check out the sights and sounds of the 27th annual Founders Festival. They said this is the first year they've been allowed to be at the festival without their parents.



FINAL REDUCTIONS

60-70% OFF

OUR ORIGINAL PRICES

OUR FAMOUS

SEMIANNUAL SALE

LAST DAYS TO SAVE

HURRY IN TO THE TALBOTS STORE NEAREST YOU FOR OUR GREATEST SAVINGS ON SPRING AND SUMMER CLOTHES AND ACCESSORIES FOR MISSES AND PETITES.

(Some items previously reduced. In some areas up to 60% off original prices where offered.)

Talbots

SPECIAL STORE HOURS: Open Sunday, July 21, 12 noon-5 p.m.
Over 100 items, Portage and Twelve Oaks Mall stores will keep regular hours.

ANN ARBOR, 516 East Washtenaw Street, tel. 974-8556 • BIRMINGHAM, 255 South Woodward Avenue, tel. 252-7474
BAYTON VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER, 1332 Bayon Road, S.E., Grand Rapids, tel. 941-954-5900 • GROSSE POINTE, 11000 Lakeside Drive, tel. 248-5555 • TWELVE OAKS MALL, Ann Arbor, tel. 349-6500 • CENTRAL PARK PLACE, 1000 West River Drive, tel. 349-2444 • THE CARILLON CENTER, 6778 South Westridge Avenue, Portage, tel. 325-0772



SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

"I never grew out of it," says Betty Robinson, a Farmington Hills resident, referring to the cotton candy she consumes at the Founders Festival. She been attending the festivals on and off for about 20 years.