



Hold your noses: Councilwoman Shirley Richardson (left), Mary Bush, Ray Boujoulian and Walt Sundquist were on hand for a cheek (and cow plop) passing. Boujoulian won the Meadow Muffin Mania event.



What's the poop?: Spectators await the cow's decision during Meadow Muffin Mania at Farmington's Shiawassee Park.

A winner: Josh Wrobel, 9, looks pleased after winning a boat race.



Family day turns into 'cowadunga' time

By CASEY HANE
STAFF WRITER

It was made-to-order weather in Shiawassee Park Saturday, with just enough sun for a summer day and a breeze to keep people cool. But that didn't keep things from heating up at the city's first annual cow raffle, Meadow Muffin Mania. Winning the first and only prize of \$1,867 was Ray Boujoulian, owner of Contemporary Awards of Farmington, who said he often plays and occasionally wins in the Michigan Lottery, but that Saturday's win was special.

The "plop plan" called for releasing a cow into a pasture of pre-marked squares, and where he "plopped" was the winning square. "I thought it was a great idea," said Boujoulian, who had purchased multiple tickets for the event. "I support all these things."

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Meadow Muffin Mania was part of the long-awaited Family Day in the Park, a sort of old-fashioned family picnic which ran from about 1:30-10 p.m. throughout Shiawassee Park. Featured were games, crafts for kids, a chicken barbecue, puppet shows, miniature boat races on

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the Rouge, square dancing and historic dance demonstrations and an old-timers softball game.

The day was a celebration of the anniversary of Farmington's incorporation as a village 125 years ago in 1867 — the amount reflected in the raffle winnings.

The Farmington Area Jaycees sold more than 600 tickets for their chicken barbecue, held in the late afternoon on the east side of the park. About 20 people took part in the Old Timer's Baseball Game early in the afternoon, including Farmington-area residents Ervin Valhration and

Cliff Terry who were active in various Little League activities starting in the 1950s. Ninety nine-year-old Farmington Place resident Irene Livermore tossed out the first pitch in pre-game ceremonies.

Volunteers from the Farmington Hills-based Metrobank staffed an old-fashioned lemonade stand, where they reported 900 cups of lemonade and the same number of popcorn bags had been served by 4 p.m.

"Quite frankly, I thought the day was perfect in every way," said city councilwoman Shirley Richardson who chaired the 125th Anniversary Committee which sponsored the event. "Everybody was delighted. It was great to see the family togetherness and spirit."

Special events for kids included miniature boat races, where various age categories were awarded ribbons for their efforts in building boats fashioned of milk cartons. Seven-year-old Loren Allmeyer of Farmington had her family there to cheer her on, and she eventually earned first place in her age category. "I'm proud," she said.

Loren's dad is a chef. "so he got me all the stuff I needed to make it," she added.



On the square: Square dancers dressed for the occasion at Farmington's Family Day in the Park Saturday.



Smoky job: John Richardson (left) and Bob Button, Farmington Jaycees, flip the chicken during Family Day.