

'Operation Cow Plop' chips in for Harrison band

The annual "Operation Cow Plop" turned out to be quite a moo-ving experience Sunday afternoon at Founders Sports Park in Farmington Hills.

The star of the unique Farmington Harrison High School Band and Orchestra Boosters' fund raiser was Bell, a 450-pound heifer from Kennington Farm Center.

At 2 p.m. Sunday, band member Anthony Rogers and Kennington Farm Center handlers Jennifer Tucker and Julie Inglis led Bell out onto the specially fenced field, much to the delight of the cheering audience of several hundred.

About 30 minutes later, the black-and-white cow did what

everybody was there to witness. People paid \$5 to buy so-called "Plop Plots," with more than 2,850 of the square-foot parcels purchased.

The plots - each complete with a "deed" for buyers - corresponded to sections of Founders Sports Park's Soccer Field No. 1.

Setting up the grid system was band parent Bill Pyant, a computer consultant. He designed a program to match each "Plop Plot" with the deed numbers in a random scramble system. Deed-buyers had no idea where their plots were until after the event, said Nancy Hurley, Harrison band booster and event publicist.



Cow Bell: The star of "Operation Cow Plop," at Founders Sports Park, was a heifer named Bell, grazing while event judges watch. From left are Farmington Hills Fire Chief Richard Marinucci, 47th District Judge Marla Parker, Harrison High School Band Director Mark Phillips, Hills police Chief Bill Dwyer and Mike Killian of the Michigan Anti-Cruelty Society.

During the half-hour waiting period, however, good-natured quips were prevalent.

"This is more fun than watching the Lions game," said Farmington Hills police Chief Bill Dwyer, one of three celebrity judges. Also judging the event were Farmington Hills Fire Chief Richard Marinucci and 47th District Judge Marla Parker.

Their job entailed walking out to drop spots, measuring

deposits to make sure they were the minimum three inches in diameter and sticking flags into the ground to mark the location. After one such marking, Bell went over to the flag and disgustedly yanked it out with her mouth.

Special guest was Mike Killian, of the Michigan Anti-Cruelty Society. He called Bell "the cleanest cow I've seen in a long time."

Livonia resident Ellen Shere-

da won \$1,000 for accurately guessing where Bell's plop would take place. Hurley said Barbara Cooper of West Bloomfield and Rick Fournier of Rochester Hills had their names selected in a drawing for the second- and third-place prizes. Cooper and Fournier won \$500 and \$250, respectively.

Harrison Band Director Mark Phillips described the event "a great way to raise funds for our music programs."

The marching band, meanwhile, competed against 80 bands Friday and Saturday at the Bands of America National Championships in Indianapolis.

For those interested in visiting Bell, she is located at the Kensington Farm Center, Kensington Metro Park. Winter hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas. For more information, call Farm Manager Debbie Cavallero, 1-800-477-3178.

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AGENDAS

Farmington City Council
City Hall, 474-5500
9 p.m. Monday, Nov. 17
Agenda items include:
■Oath of office.
■Election of mayor and mayor pro tem.
■Consider purchase of automated salt wetting application system.

Farmington Hills Council
City Hall, 474-6118
7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 17
Agenda items include:
■Dry Floor Activities at Ico Arena.
■Briefing on storm water management.
■Consider forming of task force to study sister cities program.
■Consider new "Payment in Lieu of Taxes" proposal by Grand River Estates, Ltd. (Housing for Drake and Grand River area).
■City manager report on employee computer purchases.

Farmington School Board
Schulman Building, 489-3300

7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 18
Agenda items include:
■Superintendent's report: PTA Update - Janet Holm, presentation from Beautification Committee and focus issue - K-12 Technology Education.
■Approve adult education staff compensation recommendations, substitute teacher compensation recommendations and special assessment paving project.
■Discuss upcoming feasibility study on lighted football fields.
■Preview of Dec. 2 study session on Mission 2007 Study Report - Elementary Restructuring and Curriculum Committee Report on middle school late start proposal.
■Reports from building and site committees on design projects at Kenbrook, Longcroft and Gil Elementary schools and discussion of energy issues.

Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission
Farmington City Hall
4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 18

Agenda items include public school report, CAC report, INFO TV-12 video and Time Warner Report.

Transportation Town Hall
Farmington Hills City Hall
7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 18

Update transportation projects at the state, county and local level. State Rep. Andrew Raczowski hosts. Guests will be Ernie Salvas, Metro Detroit District Engineer at MDOT; Tom Binassell, director of Farmington Hills Public Works; and Rudy Luzano, Oakland County Road commissioner.

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