

# Festival of fun

## Visitors choose arts, crafts, music, shopping, eats



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Lindsay Jackson, 6, of Farmington Hills was enjoying her first visit to the Farmington Family Fun Fest Thursday afternoon in Memorial Park.

She came with her mom and neighbors, Pam Vanvalkenburg and sons, Justin, 8, and Jared, 5. "I've been coming since Justin was 13 months old," Vanvalkenburg said.

Even the boys' grandmother, Marilyn Schopansky of Southfield, has been attending the festival every year with her daughter and grandsons.

Earlier in the day the group had attended Kids Day at Shiawassee Park and were ready for the quieter activity housed behind the Masonic Temple building at Farmington Road and Grand River.

While the three women sat on a shaded park bench, they watched the kids enjoy themselves under a tent sponsored by the Farmington Area Arts Com-



Just right: Mary Dion decorates seagrass hats in her Memorial Park booth.

mission.

Volunteers Marvel Steiger and Carol Grentzel from the Hill & Dale Garden Club presided over large tables set up with kid-pleasing fun. On one kids could smear a pinecone with peanut butter, then roll it in birdseed

and take it home to hang on a tree for the birds to peck at. The volunteers pre-strung the cones with twine and mercifully provided little plastic bags for kids to carry the finished product home.

"The kids just love it," Grentzel said. "It's been a very popular activity. We've gone through bags and bags of pine cones. We're almost out."

Kids could also get creative on rolls of blank newspaper - choosing from fat chunks of sidewalk chalk, magic markers, stampers or finger paints to create murals to take home.

"They're doing sidewalk art on newspaper," Steiger said. "We've had lots and lots of kids and they seem to enjoy it. We had one child decorate a large area with stampers."

Large cartoon canvases of the Mona Lisa and other famous paintings - with head holes cut out - were propped around the tent for kids to enjoy. The booth operated from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Having fun: Sarah and Matt Gutknecht decorate ceramic art that they may use to decorate their rooms.

STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BAZZLER



Browsing: Festival visitors checked out the open-air booths that replaced the large tent that housed a crowd of crafters in the Downtown Farmington Center. A breezy, warm day made strolling easy and fun.



High notes: Above left, the Farmington Community Jazz Band swings, while at right the band's Mike Summerfield plays a solo on his alto sax.



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