

Tent visitors enjoy Grapes on the Grand

BY SUE BUCK
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Gerald and Debby Pothoff of Farmington Hills wouldn't have come to the Farmington Founders Festival Friday if they hadn't read about Grapes on the Grand in the newspaper.

This year was the first time this event was offered at the festival.

"We usually don't come to this, but this made us come," said Debby Pothoff. "This is great."

"We love all kinds of red wines, especially California wines," Gerald said.

The Pothoffs make a habit of finding fine restaurants in every city and have dined at John Cowley & Sons, whose co-owner Greg Cowley organized the event.

Suzanne and Bill Eaton of Hamburg went from station to station to sample several of the 30 different wines available. Suzanne, who enjoyed an Australian wine, said she and her husband have come to the Festival for years.

Cowley was pleased with the first night, when attendance was about 200 people. The Thursday night event was a \$30 per person fund-raiser for the Main Street program.

He varied menu items each night. On Friday, the event featured lamb chops, a Cowley restaurant favorite, which received good reviews in *Hour Magazine*, according to Cowley.

The wine tasting added another dimension, said Farmington City Councilwoman JoAnne McShane. "It's a completely different venue."

The tent had a daytime use during the festival July 15-17. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., each day, it provided a sheltered respite for those who wanted to take a break from festival activities and featured visions of a future downtown Farmington.

It also offered children a Monster Mural to paint, an activity enjoyed by Christopher Ely, age 9. By sitting on the ground, he could easily paint the lower part of the mural, which is 20 feet long and 6 feet long. It featured a child's view of what Farmington should look like in the future.