

PLENTY OF BARGAINS, FOOD AND MUSIC

Positively bazaar: Sidewalk Festival under way

By **BARRY SMITH**
The Patriot Ledger

QUINCY -- If you think your passport or driver's license photo doesn't do you justice, wait until you visit registered nurse Maryellen Maguire-Eisen's nook at the Sidewalk Festival in Quincy.

She takes photos of festival-goers using an ultraviolet reflectance camera that reveals the extent of skin damage caused by exposure to the sun. The black-and-white photos can be startling.

Maguire-Eisen, a Hanover nurse certified in cancer treatment, encourages people to pay attention to sun safety and skin care. She set up her Sun Protection Foundation service in a corner of the city public health department's festival stall.

Mayor William Phelan and Eric Stoeckel, president of the Quincy Business Association, the festival sponsor, were among festival-goers who took advantage of the nurse's counsel yesterday.

Maguire-Eisen's service is one of the

more unusual offerings to be found along Hancock Street during the annual summer festival, which continues through tomorrow.

"This is really a tradition," Phelan said as he cut a ceremonial blue ribbon yesterday morning to open the festival.

About 100 tents and canopies sheltered merchants, crafts specialists, sellers of seasonal merchandise, and food and beverage purveyors.

By midday yesterday, threatening skies had given way to white clouds, and festival attendance picked up during the afternoon. People of all ages strolled the stretch of Hancock Street that had been closed to traffic down-

town.

About 100 tents and canopies sheltered merchants, crafts specialists, sellers of seasonal merchandise, and food and beverage purveyors. The food and drink offerings included Italian sausage, Indian dishes, chicken and beef kabobs, pizza, french fries, ice cream and lemonade.

Green umbrella tables scattered along the route gave strollers a place to eat and rest.

Among the shopping choices were luggage, sneakers and shoes, tie-dyed clothing, sports memorabilia and vintage magazines.

Women's clothing including colorful sundresses and garments from Ecuador and India hung on racks.

People also could get temporary air-brushed tattoos.

Marcella, a Quincy resident in her late 60s, said the festival "brings everybody together. They're in a happy

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AMELIA KUNHARDT/The Patriot Ledger

Keeshawna Simmons, 4, and her cousin, Markya Simmons, look at mobiles at the Kam Man Marketplace booth at Quincy's annual Sidewalk Festival. The festival continues through tomorrow.

City Sidewalk Festival is positively bazaar

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mood. The jewelry is beautiful.”

Her friend Millie, who also declined to give her last name, seemed to be enjoying the day, too, but she spoke of the altered downtown shopping scene.

“The square isn’t like it used to be. We need some more stores,” she said.

Both women said they have been coming to the sidewalk festival for years.

Among festival first-timers was Catherine Dufur of Hyde Park, who said she has a daughter who lives in Quincy. She deemed the festival “very nice” as she strolled and shopped with her sister Mary Magrath, also of Hyde Park.

“They have a lot of nice things – rea-

sonable, too,” Dufur said.

Lobo, a long-haired shepherd dog trained in tracking and drug detection, was working the crowd with handler Brian Bersani, a Norfolk County deputy sheriff.

During the evening, on a stage set up in front of the Alba Bar & Grill, professional cabaret singers Jan Peters and Carol O’Shaughnessy were belting out vintage tunes, with backing from keyboardist Tom LaMark. After them, belly dancers performed.

During the early evening, Quillas, a five-piece band from Ecuador, played traditional Ecuadorean and South American songs on their wind and string instruments.

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