

# The Farmington Observer

*HomeTown News... It's all about you!*

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A HomeTown Communications Network™ publication  
23411 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48335  
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## Ball from page A1

contain himself. First-time attendee Dick Carvill, longtime Farmington Historical Commission member and Warner Mansion docent, said the Cornucopia Ball is a community jewel mostly for how it helps kids.

"It means a lot as far as the groups they support," Carvill said. "Especially the programs for the middle schools. I think that's a wonderful thing. That gives the kids something to do and keeps them out of trouble."

### Good move

Although many commented that the move from the William Costick Activities Center to Glen Oaks was a positive one, some — including Webb — thought the live auction started too late. When it did, around 11 p.m., the crowd had thinned out considerably.

Webb said the event being on a Friday night (it previously was held on Saturday) did not help matters as far as people sticking around later. And, dinner was served about 20 minutes late.

Hopefully a return to Saturday (already set for Nov. 4, 2000, again at Glen Oaks) for the next Cornucopia Ball will alleviate some of the wrinkles, Webb noted.

"Saturday is their preference," said Webb, about the regular attendees to what Farmington City Council member Arnold Campbell called the "premier event" of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Campbell was among those who applauded the move to Glen Oaks. "I think it's a big plus to have it at the Glen Oaks Country Club because I think it creates a whole different ambience to the event," Campbell said.



Fun time: Cathy Webb, one of the organizers of the event, dances the hustle.

He also thought other changes enabled "a different spectrum of people" to enjoy the festivities. The event was black-tie optional (instead of required) and ticket price was reduced from \$150 to \$125.

All of those things, noted Webb, contributed to "our fresh, new, exciting look. We (on the Cornucopia Ball planning committee) were trying to make people come back to the ball."

Also helping to bring about that fresh look was Farmington Florist owner Linda

Trzcinski, who was the first ever honorary florist for the ball. She created beautiful arrangements that were used as table center pieces.

Trzcinski's work brought "an air of elegance and class to the room," Webb said.

Foundation Chairman Tyrone Tarit, during comments to the festive gathering, emphasized how "every detail has been planned with great care."

That campaign apparently succeeded. The attendance of 231 was a marked improvement over 1998, when only 147 came out.

And the area's corporate world also came through. Five firms qualified as honorary sponsors for their contributions of \$10,000

or more. Those included ACN, Bestak Companies, Botsford General Hospital and the Botsford Hospital Professional Staff, and the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Webb said some of the auction items that fetched big bucks included two from Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates and husband Charles. A gourmet dinner for eight, to be enjoyed in the Bates' home, brought \$900; a fully restored and furnished Yellow Victorian dollhouse created by Charles Bates generated another \$750.

Webb's husband, Jim, bought another big ticket item: a day with Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer, complete with lunch, for \$400.

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