



Public service: Farmington Hills councilman Jon Grant puts the drinks on the table for customers Rebecca Gee, left, and daughter Kristen, 8, at the annual Farmington Families In Action "Celebrity Server" night Wednesday, which raised more than \$700 for substance abuse awareness programs.

Celebrity crew steps up to the plate for a good cause

BY DAVE VARGA
STAFF WRITER

Being a celebrity server isn't really all of that.

As a busboy or whatever the PC term is for that these days, I was shown the ropes by Mark Pringle who demonstrated the particulars of clearing a table into a big plastic bin, spraying and wiping with a hand-wipe and then emptying the bin in the kitchen.

After clearing my second table, I got a succinct review: "It's too wet," said Nancy Bates, Farmington Hills councilwoman, as she started to seat some people at the table.

Many of us "celebrities" learned the food serving business isn't as easy as it sounds, but we tried. After all, it was a good cause and who could say no to Betty Nicolay, founder of Farmington Families in Action.

George Darany Jr. of the Farmington Big Boy at Eight Mile and Farmington hosted the annual FFIA Celebrity Server Night Wednesday, where more than \$738 in tips was raised and donated, plus 10 percent of the day's total sales.

In addition, many of the regular waitresses donated their tips and some donated their time that night. The money will help FFIA in its substance abuse education efforts.

"We all enjoy it and we all have a lot of fun," said manager Wendy Smith, who kept the operation flowing for the three-hour fundraiser Wednesday.

At the front door, Farmington Mayor JoAnne McShane, former state Rep. Jan Dolan and Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer were seen working as greeters, while Miss Farmington



Band together: Drum major Adrienne Strezelsky, at right, joins the Farmington High Marching Band in serenading customers at Big Boy restaurant.

Jennifer Hoemke and her runner up Amanda Wasvary wore crowns and smiles for visitors.

Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff filled pop glasses, as Farmington Hills City Manager Dan Hobbs served tables. Superintendent Bob Maxfield didn't even discard his sport coat to deliver drinks and food to his tables.

Other servers taking orders were Farmington Councilman Jim Mitchell, Farmington High Principal Jim Meyers, Lanigan Principal Marva Turner and Farmington Hills Councilman Jon Grant.

Grant was happy to work again this year. "They said I was getting really good at it. They offered me a part-time job," he joked.

In all, 43 people gave at least an hour of their time. Steinkopf Nursery also donated tulip bulbs for visitors.

As for tips, well, this busboy only got a few from his mentor. Pringle, a baby-faced 24-year-old, suggested wiping off the bottom of the plastic bin before setting it on a chair. Getting the stuff to the kitchen without breaking anything is key. And try not to throw away the crayons, he said.

Washing your hands frequently in the kitchen is also important, especially before stacking the cleaned dinner plates. Those countless soap washings are one job hazard. "Your hands never dry," he noted.

While he had worked there off and on for six months, Pringle said his mind was on more imaginative pursuits than scraping up fallen fries and stacking Slim Jim plates. He writes poetry. "I want to write greeting cards. There's not much money in it, but you know..."

Spa comes up with sweet idea



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Successful Women event
Elaine Cavin, the local Edward Jones investment representative, will host a free satellite broadcast on Oct. 14. The program features author Pamela Gilbert who will share highlights from her recently published book, "The Eleven Commandments of Wildly Successful Women."

For more information on the broadcast, contact Elaine Cavin at 815-1003.

Calling all Chamber Members

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce is looking for Chamber members to participate in the membership drive during Oct. 20-24.

Current members will be eligible to win a trip for two to Tucson and many other prizes for participating in the Membership Drive.

Teacher Appreciation

Target stores nationwide will hold a Teacher Appreciation Day from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18. School faculty and staff will be treated to local school entertainment, food, gift bags and prize giveaways, including National Park Discovery school learning kits while supplies last.

The Big Boo To Do

From 1-3 p.m. Oct. 12, Target

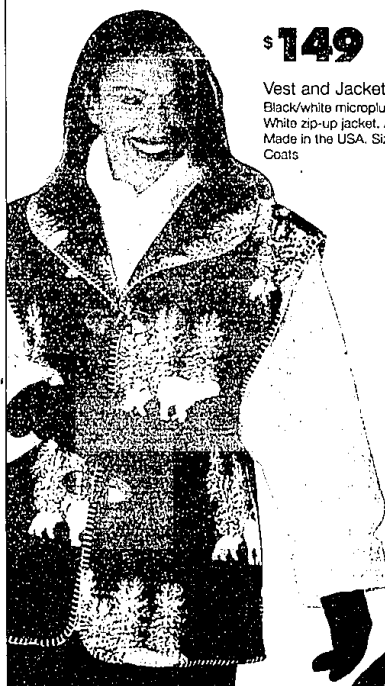
stores nationwide will turn into Halloween central with "The Big Boo To Do," a Halloween celebration. Families can prepare for their haunted Halloween with tips, samples and information from a variety of vendors and local organizations.

Retired and ready to tutor

Beverly Brun, a 27-year veteran of the classroom, has retired from full-time teaching to start her own tutoring service in her Farmington Hills home. Mrs. Brun, a certified Michigan elementary teacher, has spent the last 10 years as a full-time upper elementary teacher at William Allan Academy in Northville. She works with students to reteach and reinforce reading and math skills, provide assistance with writing techniques and help with assigned school work. Call 477-3209.

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