



Sounds: The band Two Steps Higher featuring Denise and Tom Sutphen entertained the audience

Bowled over

Chili cook off adds spice to fund-raiser

For the third straight year, Page's Food and Spirits took first place among celebrity judges at the annual Chili Cook Off for Charity at the Farmington eatery March 1.

Marriott Detroit Airport in Romulus captured the People's Choice Award for its entry into the contest, which is sponsored by the Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills Scholarship Pageant. The pageant donates money raised from a raffle to a worthwhile cause. This year, \$300 went to the Farmington Hills Community Foundation for Children, Youth and Families' afterschool program.

"It was very successful," said Ginny Morris, Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills pageant organizer. "Every year, it gets bigger and bigger."

Reigning Miss Farmington Jennifer Hoemke attended the fund-raiser along with WKBD-TV Channel 50's Harry Hairston, Q-95.5's Susan Cruise and Farmington Hills Assistant City Manager Steve Brock. They tested their taste buds along with several chili devouring enthusiasts.

"Some of it was real hot; Some of it wasn't real hot," said Dennis Page, Page's Food and Spirits owner. "It covered the whole gamut. I thought they were all very good."

The band Two Steps Higher featuring Denise and Tom Sutphen entertained the audience, which enjoyed chili and, more than likely, a few antacids afterwards.



Lovin' spoonful: Steve Brock, Farmington Hills assistant city manager, dips into one of the eight or so entries in this year's cook off. Page's Food and Spirits won the Celebrity Judges Award while the Marriott Detroit Airport took the People's Choice honors.



Chili reception: Dave Pawlowski and Bill Diehr of the Farmington Hills Activities Center chat with Page's Chef Doug Royle over what makes a good, steaming bowl of chili.

Seniors have ticket to ride with several new vehicles

Getting around Farmington and Farmington Hills for area senior citizens should soon get easier, with several new vehicles getting ready to roll.

Two wheelchair-accessible vans will help the elderly reach their doctors' offices, grocery stores and senior activities at the Costick Activities Center on 11 Mile Road, said Farmington/Farmington Hills Senior Adult Supervisor Mary DiManno during Monday night's update to the Farmington City Council.

One will seat 10 passengers and two others confined to wheelchairs; the second will seat seven passengers and one person confined to a wheelchair, DiManno summarized.

"What we hope to do with these vehicles," said DiManno, "is increase medical transportation from three to five days a week ... and provide a senior shuttle from senior apartment complexes in Farmington and Farmington Hills to the (Costick) senior center."

A third vehicle, which seats 15, might join the transportation

fleet sometime this spring. And, said DiManno, there now are two cab companies participating in the Dial-A-Ride program. As of Feb. 1, ABC Cab joined holdover Northwest Transport Company to provide cut-rate taxi cab rides to residents age 60 or older and to eligible handicapped persons.

Dial-A-Ride is made possible by the Michigan Department of Transportation, Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation and municipal credit dollars pledged to the program by participating communities. In Farmington, those funds amount to \$2,460.

"We'd also like to get to those homes where people can't make the Dial-A-Ride due to low income or other handicaps," said DiManno, who recently took over as senior adult supervisor from Loretta Conway.

Also introduced during the council meeting was Beth Falkenstein, the newly-hired senior adult specialist. Her first day on the job was Monday.

After the meeting, DiManno said an all-out effort will be

made to let senior citizens know about the extra services, including the second taxi cab provider, that "improves the dignity of life for seniors in our communities."

"The help with transportation is key," DiManno said. "Once their cars are taken away, there's no place for them to go."

Both Mayor Mary Bush and City Manager Frank Lauhoff said they were optimistic the additional vehicles and services would help solve the problem of helping older residents make their way to the Costick center, where a myriad of activities are scheduled daily.

Following are phone numbers for various services:

■ Dial-A-Ride, Northwest Transport Company, (248) 474-3333, or ABC Cab, (248) 477-4300. Service is from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week.

■ To arrange a ride with one of the vans from the Senior Specialized Transportation Program, call (248) 473-1866 between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. At least 48 hours advance notice is required.

Republican shindig kicks off rally for November election

John Engler and L. Brooks Patterson, Spencer Abraham and Candice Miller.

A Who's-Who of state Republican leaders wined, dined and waxed political during Friday's Lincoln Dinner at Troy's San Marino Club.

The outing provides candidates with a chance to thank supporters while lining up volunteers for the November election. Around 650 people attended.

Troy resident Dave Lambert said he's eager to back Engler for a third term as governor. "I think he's doing a great job," Lambert said. "I think he's provided a lot of leadership and put the state on stable footing. I'm more concerned about what's going on nationally and internationally."

Rochelle Heyniger, a candidate for the Oakland Community College Board of Trustees, also touted the governor.

"I have the utmost respect for John Engler," she said. "I don't think there's anyone in the state who can handle the state as well as he can."

Gena Helmsmetter has already signed up as an Engler volunteer. The Rochester Hills resident will serve as Oakland County Co-Chair for the governor's 1998 campaign.

"He did a great job with our taxes and he's doing a better job with the roads, considering what he inherited," said Helmsmetter. "In my opinion, he's improving them little by little."

Secretary of State Candice Miller introduced Engler as "America's Greatest Governor,"

praising him for cutting taxes 24 times while reforming the state's welfare system.

"So while others were afraid, all of us, everyone in this room, has stood by our governor," said Miller.

Engler himself praised Oakland County and its thriving business climate.

"My state of the county for Oakland County can be summed up in five words: As good as it gets," Engler said. "We stick together and we're going to win together everything in sight."

State Rep. Penny Crisman, R-Rochester, said the governor deserves to boast a little. "I think he needs to tell how much he's accomplished during his reign of governor," she said. "I'm absolutely thrilled to be part of these changes."

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