

Celebs dish it out for good cause

BY TIM SMITH AND HEATHER NEEDHAM STAFF WRITERS

Local celebrities served up some hospitality and good food for a worthwhile community cause on Wednesday night at the Farmington-Eight Milo Big Boy.

And, with the restaurant "jam-packed," the sixth annual Celebrity Server Night was considered a smash success, according to Connie Carroll, an O.E. Dunckel Middle School counselor who organized the event.

Carroll Thursday said \$905.25 in tips were collected during the program by the celebrity servers, who included local elected and school officials as well as business people.

All of the tip money — along with 10 percent of the restaurant's total take for the day — will go to Farmington Families in Action, a substance abuse awareness group.

"It was jam-packed," Carroll said. "We had a steady stream the entire night. People were waiting in line to get in. It (the event) was incredible."

After being seated, the patrons enjoyed music performed by members of the Farmington High School Marching Band.

Marie Stahl, co-president of FFIA, said \$1,000 was raised at last year's Celebrity Server night, including \$800 in tips and about \$200 donated by Big Boy.

Proceeds go toward FFIA programs, including Talking With Your Kids About Alcohol (TWYKAA), Beginning Alcohol, Addiction Basic Education Issues (BABES) and Generations Responding to Issues and Problems (GRIP). Funds are also used to cover speakers' fees at functions and the after-prom and after-graduation parties, which are also sponsored by FFIA.

Finding people interested in waiting tables at Big Boy wasn't a problem, Stahl said. "I think people are very willing to dedicate an hour or two of their time."

"It's so easy to get these people involved," Carroll said. Though Carroll tells the celebrity servers that experience



Taking orders: Farmington Hills Assistant City Manager Dana Whinnery takes a dinner order from Josh Vallender and his parents Jeff and Nancy.

isn't necessary, some servers perform like they've done it before. Actually, many have.

Last year, Farmington schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield wheeled around the dessert tray like a pro, she added. This year, however, he wielded a coffee pot.

"He (Maxfield) wanted to do desserts, but they didn't put together a dessert tray," Carroll said Thursday. "He did coffee." She also said she was grateful to now Big Boy owner Fred Rafou and the staff, who donated the time and money to make the fund-raiser work.

Several Big Boy employees who were not scheduled to work Wednesday night, showed up anyway and donated their time to the cause, for example.

"He (Rafou) was so gracious," Carroll said.

Celebrity Server Night is one of several FFIA-sponsored programs and special events held in support of October is Substance Abuse Awareness Month, or "Sober October."



Moving fast: Farmington Hills City Council member Jon Grant hustles a tray of food to the customers.

CELEBRITY SERVERS

Celebrity servers included John Barrett, Farmington High principal; Nancy Bates, Farmington Hills mayor pro-tem; Steve Brock, Farmington Hills city manager; Eric Brouillette, school board president; Mary Bush, Farmington mayor; Erin Cogwell, former Miss Farmington; Dr. Jonathan Cromwell, Cromwell Chiropractic; Jan Dolan, community activist; Jerry Ellis, Farmington Hills council member; Linda Enberg, school board trustee; Jim Fuqua, executive director of the Farmington Area YMCA; Marge Gorchow, Botsford Hospital; Jon Grant, Farmington Hills City Council; Sharon Hain-Gaber, Hearts and Roses; Katy Hill, principal, William Grace; Terry Klenczar, director, adult/community education; Steve Koponen, middle school teacher of the year; Frank Lauthoff, Farmington city manager; Floyd Lewis, Forest Elementary principal; Todd Lipa, youth center director; Rich Marinucci, Farmington Hills fire chief; Bob Maxfield, superinten-

dent of schools; Estralee Michaelson, school student assistance; Mark Morawski, elementary teacher of the year; Ginny Morris, coordinator for Miss Farmington; James Myers, director school/community; Cheryl Oliverio, Farmington Hills City Council; Pam O'Malley, principal, O.E. Dunckel; Mark and Holly Owen, Colonial Car Wash; Maria Parker, 47th District judge; Leslie Reinhold, 1999-00 Miss Farmington; Ken Sanders, East assistant principal; Eugene Seaborn, East principal; Mande Skeeger, YMCA director; Jim Stark, Northwest Gazette; Brian Swinchart, schools athletic director; Tyrone C. Tartt, chairman of Farmington Hills/Farmington Community Foundation for Children, Youth and Families; Alice Toroyan, Youth Program coordinator; Aldo Vagnozzi, Farmington Hills mayor; David Walsh, 47th district court administrator; Dana Whinnery, Farmington Hills assistant city manager; Melanie Young, SWOCC community relations.



Glass act: Priscilla Brouillette carries a load of clean glasses. Jon Grant waits for his next assignment.

FFIA breakfast Oct. 22 to promote substance abuse awareness month

In recognition of the upcoming 2000 calendar year, Farmington Families in Action wants to see more zeroes when it comes to drugs and alcohol.

FFIA, a group promoting awareness and education in substance abuse, is holding its 11th annual breakfast from 7:15 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. Friday, Oct. 22, at the William Costick Center, 11 Milo at Middlebelt.

The event is part of a series of "Sober October" activities

promoting awareness of substance abuse. Tickets are \$12, limited seating is still available.

There, speaker Milton Creagh of Atlanta will address the FFIA's annual topic: "Zero Tolerance for '00: Enough is Enough." Creagh is the national spokesman for PRIDE, a national anti-drug campaign.

FFIA steering committee member Becky Dworin said events like the upcoming breakfast and the red ribbon cam-

paign are intended to promote awareness of drug and alcohol abuse, not promote total abstinence.

"It's not teetotaling that we want to promote, it's just that there are limits to everything," Dworin said.

To inquire about ticket availability for the Sober October breakfast, contact Becky Dworin at (248) 661-4646.

Customers welcome hardware's planned move a few doors away

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM STAFF WRITER

Customers seem to be pleased that Damman Hardware is moving to bigger digs in the Downtown Farmington Center.

The hardware store, pending final approval of a deal with the landlord, next March will move into the 20,000 square-foot space formerly occupied by Farmer Jack. The new quarters will be 7,000 square feet larger than the current space. Damman has been open in the center since the mid-1980s.

Damman Hardware President and CEO Rick Damman last week confirmed that negotiations with center landlord Kimco Realty Corp. are nearly completed. Attempts by the city to get another grocery retailer in the space were unsuccessful.

There is a Farmer Jack super-

store on Farmington at Nine Milo.

People shopping at Damman Friday afternoon said they looked forward to the move.

"This is the best hardware store around for miles," said Lynda Struble of Southfield. "These people have been around and they're much more friendly than at most hardware stores."

She said Damman Hardware has an appealing small-town flavor that bigger hardware stores lack.

"(Damman) is like the old-time hardware stores," Struble said. "They have everything."

The store's service is also a plus. She said the store was able to match perfectly a batch of house paint she'd mixed herself. Cindy Shroy from Steinkopf Nursery in Farmington Hills was buying furnace filters.

"I think (the move) would be a wonderful idea," Shroy said, adding that the increased space would be a benefit.

Farmington Public Schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield, who was driving through the center Friday afternoon, said he was glad the city was able to fill the space.

"If they couldn't get a grocery store there then I guess (Damman) is a good choice," Maxfield said.

Customer Shirley Cielo, who was getting keys duplicated, said she also had hoped for a grocery store in the spot. She has shopped at Damman for 15 years.

"I guess it's okay," she said. "I'd rather have a good store there. Damman is a nice hardware store."

FARMINGTON NOTABLES

Resident receives award

Kenneth Holzheimer, supply chain performance specialist for Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, was recently honored with the 1999 Automotive Industry Action Group's outstanding achievement award for his dedication to supporting AIAG's

cooperative auto industry efforts.

Holzheimer was one of 16 individuals selected to receive the award, which recognizes active volunteer participation and leadership. He is a resident of Farmington Hills.

Company is outstanding

Trinary Systems, Inc. in Farmington Hills have been honored with the 1999 Automotive Industry Action Group's corporate outstanding achievement award for their dedication in supporting the organization's cooperative auto industry efforts.