

# Community service

## Celebrity servers raise money for families

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

Some of Farmington and Farmington Hills' movers and shakers literally are serving up community service on a platter. Mayors, principals, elected officials and others are scheduled to participate in the Farmington Families in Action-sponsored "Celebrity Server Night." The fifth annual event will be 5-8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7, at the Farmington Big Boy, 20788 Farmington Road.

"Anyone can come in," said spokeswoman Connie Carroll, a counselor at Dunckel Middle School. "People like having the mayor, or school board - or Miss Farmington - serve them. Local celebrities."

Carroll said last year's event

raised \$2,000 for Farmington Families in Action. All tips collected by the 37 celebrities will go to the youth program. Big Boy also will donate 10 percent of the day's total sales.

Celebrity servers include 1998-99 Miss Farmington-Farmington Hills, Erin Cogswell, last year's title holder, Jennifer Hoomke, 47th District Judge Maria Parker, Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi, Farmington Mayor Mary Bush and schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield.

Representatives from several area businesses also will serve meals to what Carroll said is expected to be mostly a family clientele. Those include Holly and Mark Owen of Colonial Car Wash, Sandy Hain-Gaber of Hearts and Roses, and Jody

Soronen of the Farmington Chamber of Commerce. "The response has been overwhelming, judging from the number of invitations I sent out and the responses I got back," Carroll said. "People are enjoying being a part of this."

The event is one of many scheduled during "Sober October Strengthening Community Connections," all to benefit programs organized by Farmington Families in Action. From 7:30-9 a.m. Thursday, Mort Crim, former WDIV news anchor, will be the keynote speaker at Sober October's Kick-Off Breakfast, at Glen Oaks.

Other events and endeavors this month include: a window display put up Saturday at the Korner Barber Shop, Grand

River and Farmington Road ; Steinkopf Nursery's tulip planting, beginning Monday, Oct. 5; and the distribution of red ribbons, which Carroll said help remind people about the need for drug and alcohol awareness education.



Farmington Public Schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield

The Farmington Big Boy is on Farmington Road, just north of Eight Mile. For information, call (248) 477-2590.

## Chase from page A1

er. The Keils were issued a three-month license Friday in federal district court in Chicago allowing them to sell the remaining stock of their inventory.

"We're happy that they're at least doing this," said Ellen Keils, who dreamed up the idea for the game which deals with shoppers searching for particular

**'We can't tell you how happy we are to have this dispute settled. We're thrilled. And there's no hard feelings.'**

*Ellen Keils*  
—Beanie Chase inventor

drawn game board, Keils hired Farmington Hills graphic artist Melody DiGioglio to draft the finished version. It took close to a year for the game to develop from the idea stage to the finished product.

"I fell in love with the product and thought I was promoting it," Keils said at the time the game was first marketed.

"We can't tell you how happy we are to have this dispute settled. We're thrilled. And there's no hard feelings," Keils said.

The game is available at Deb's Crafts in the Village Mall in downtown Farmington, Robin's Nest in Plymouth, and Gags & Gifts at 14 Mile and Orchard Lake.

The three-month license will take the Keils to Christmas day. The game is slated "for players ages 7 to adult."

Keils says she has three new board game ideas she plans to pursue once the Beanie Chase matter is settled.

Ellen Keils can be reached at this Web site: [www.beaniechasegame.com](http://www.beaniechasegame.com) or call (248) 477-8072.

The Keils' own peril came shortly after they produced the game last July and began marketing it in local stores and over the Internet.

Ty Inc., the Chicago-based toy company that created the popular Beanie toys in 1993, issued a four-count copyright infringement lawsuit against the couple in August.

The Keils invested \$80,000 in life savings to create and market the game, which retails for \$24.95. They are allowed to recoup their loss, but not profit from the game.

"We're happy that they're at least doing this so that we can get our lives back, get back to our real babies," said Keils, mother of two preschool sons.

Keils dreamed up the idea for the game while she was home on maternity leave after the birth of her second son. An avid Beanie Baby collector, she has more than 200 of the little furry animals in her personal collection.

From the rough hand-

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