



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DRESLER

Speechless: Athena Award winner Bernice Brandon thanks all of her supporters at Wednesday's luncheon.

Brandon from page A1

Brandon's selection as the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce's 2001 honoree. A national program, the ATHENA Award recognizes women who demonstrate leadership, who are active in community service and assist other women in their drive to achieve.

'Right at home'

To Linda Alvarado, who submitted the nomination, Brandon embodies all those qualities and more. The two met at a Chamber of Commerce event. "She made me feel right at home," Alvarado said of Brandon, adding she didn't know anyone who was more generous, friendly and caring. "She is a lender for men and women to follow."

That first meeting led to one of Brandon's most treasured involvements, with Steppingstone School. She serves on the board and has been active in the fundraising efforts. Brandon also serves on the board of the Longacre House and as an active volunteer with Boys & Girls Republic and Big Brothers/Big Sisters. She fondly recalled her first activity with the latter organization, a camping trip with 14 boys and 16 girls.

As a chaperone, she made a special connection with one girl, with whom Brandon was paired a year later as a mentor. She has

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Bernice Brandon
—2001 ATHENA awardee

treasured that relationship, she said, and learned from Cassandra as much as Cassandra has learned from her.

Brandon also thanked her mentor at work, Debbie Mashinske, who hired the honoree nine years ago at LOC Federal Credit Union. Now, Brandon is Member Services Coordinator and has been responsible for coordinating and presenting financial education courses throughout area school districts served by the credit union.

She expressed her appreciation to the LOC board for allowing her the opportunity to develop contacts in the community and to work in the schools.

More honors

In addition to her award trophy, Brandon received a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition, delivered by John Akouri, press aide to Congressman Joseph Krollenberg. "You, Bernice, are a diamond in

a field of zirconia," said Akouri, who participate in the Longacre House fund-raising "bachelor auction" that Brandon helped organize.

Representing Mayor Nancy Bates from the City of Farmington Hills, Christine Long presented a proclamation, as did Farmington Mayor Bill Hartsock. In addition, Hartsock delivered an "official mayoral hug" and two tickets to the Civic Theatre.

Brandon's most heartfelt words went to her parents, who described her as a "wonderful daughter" and said she's always been a leader. Brandon credited her mother with being her role model and her father with teaching her to take the time to listen to others and their points of view, as well as to maintain a strong work ethic.

Touched and perhaps a little uncomfortable with all the attention, she used her acceptance speech not only to thank the people around her and share her award with fellow nominees Dorothy Toth of Beta Internet Group, Farmington Hills city clerk Kathy Dornan and Terry Deichert of Roof Management, but also to urge those who attended to get involved.

"I am speechless," Brandon said of the honor. "I am truly blessed to have met my friends through the chamber. We are all winners here today."

Tigers picnic will benefit charity

Fans can take to the field at Comerica Park and join the Detroit Tigers players, coaches and their families on Sunday, June 24, as the Tigers' Wives Association hosts the fourth annual "Picnic in the Park" to benefit Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan, which is based in Farmington Hills.

Co-sponsoring this year's event are: Amerisure Insurance of Farmington Hills and DaimlerChrysler Corp. Fund, and WXYT-AM 1270.

You can have a picnic on the outfield grass with the Tigers and their families and participate in silent and live auctions while eating a barbecue.

The picnic starts shortly after the end of that day's 1:05 p.m. game against the Minnesota Twins. Tickets for "Picnic in the Park" are \$100 per person, or \$115 for the combined game ticket and picnic admission.

"Picnic in the Park" raises money to support B&GCSM, a youth development organization that provides programs in the areas of character and leadership development, education and career development, health and life skills, the arts and sports, fitness and recreation.

Tickets are limited.

To reserve tickets by telephone, or for more information, call (248)473-1400.

Hills Memorial Park dedication slated July 16

BY ALICE ASHMORE
STAFF WRITER

A beautiful space for Farmington Hills residents to honor their loved ones is expected to be dedicated just before the opening of Founder's Festival.

The long-awaited Memorial Park is slated to open this summer.

"We're gearing our opening towards Founders Festival," said Tom Bisnell, director of Public Works.

The Farmington City Council gave the go-ahead for the July 16 dedication at last Monday's council meeting.

The 3.2 acre park is located at the intersection of 11 Mile and Middlebelt Roads, and is intended to give residents a quiet and contemplative environment to honor their loved ones.

The land for the park was provided to the city by Hospice of Michigan.

Bisnell said the city will be marking four different items as memorials, including memorial bricks for the walkways, 60 trees, six bird houses and six benches to be placed on the granite surfaces in the park.

The proposed cost for the memorials are \$100 per brick, \$1,000 per tree; \$3,000 for a

birdhouse and \$5,000 for a bench.

"At first blush we have had some comment that this is a little high, but Hospice charges similar prices for a bench," Bisnell said.

A special acknowledgment would be placed on the memorial items, he said.

Memorials are available to Farmington Hills residents to honor anyone of their choosing, including those from outside the area. The memorials are also available to honor residents and former residents of Farmington Hills. Council member Chris McRae

said he appreciated the low-key approach the city had taken to marking the memorials.

Some complaints about the park have also been appeased.

"There has been a lot of issue with long grass — it has been cut," said Bisnell.

He said the grass was intended to be long from an architectural standpoint to resemble prairie grass.

Plans for an eternal flame at the park, as well as a flower garden have been shelved for the time being.

"That's for the future," Bisnell said.

BUSINESS NEWS

Jacokes buys Ewald

Jacokes Communications, an international, full-service editorial and design consulting firm headquartered in Farmington Hills, has purchased the assets of Ewald Motion Pictures (EMP), a Livonia-based video production company.

"I am delighted to bring the expertise and employees of this well respected organization into the Jacokes family," says Diana Jacokes, president, Jacokes Communications. "The opportunity to have in-house capabilities for video, CD-ROM, DVD, PowerPoint and other multimedia projects is a boon to both our clients and our bottom line."

Along with expanding its in-house resources, Jacokes says the purchase helps diversify her company's client base.

"EMP services clients in the health care, education and government markets," says Jacokes. "Our customers traditionally have been automotive manufacturers, Tier 1 and Tier 2 automotive suppliers, information technology firms and commercial developers."

All five key EMP employees have joined Jacokes Communications and will continue to occupy their Livonia office and studio until space is expanded at Jacokes Communications' Farmington Hills headquarters.

Cliff Ewald, former president of EMP, said his goal was to find a buyer who would take care of his clients and employees. "We have had a long working relationship with Jacokes Communications as a strategic partner or subcontractor on numerous projects. I feel confident that this move will enhance the strong

reputation that partner Jim Krutz and I have established over the last 14 years."

Jacokes Communications specializes in corporate communications and provides integrated communication strategies, on-site editorial consulting and a full spectrum of creative services including writing, editing, photography, design, translation, Web development, video production, printing and distribution.

For information, contact Diana Jacokes at 248-473-6010 or visit the company Web site at www.jacokes.com

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