Playing it by ear, Blue Circle finds sweet harmony with Cafe

As darkness fell around the Governor Warner Mansion Tuesday night, glowing fireflies hov-ered above the manicured lawn in silent counter-point to the steady hum of conversation coming

from the front porch.

For Cheryl Blau and Michael Varverakis of



"I just read about it and thought it was a nice idea," she said. "I'm just enjoying some time

away."
Philippe Cavaille and Claudia Hecht came to get a look at the mansion itself, which was open for the evening. Both are living in Farmington Hills temporarily; he works in the automotive industry, she's a nanny and attends school.
"We're European," Pierre explained, "and we like history."

like history."

The crowd at the first "Cafe on the Porch," held Tuesday night at Farmington's historic Governor Warner Mansion, could best be



Chat: Mary Burck was the first customer to arrive. Ellen Abdou is an active Warner Mansion volunteer.

described as eclectic. More than 30 people wandered up the steps and through the home of Michigan's first three-term governor, much to the delight of Blue Circle members, who hosted the event.

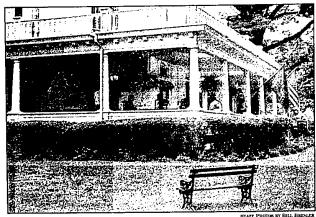
the event.

Margaret Howard, A Novi resident who was
drawn into the circle by Donise Tawyea, sat
behind a long table and collected the \$5 admis-

semine a long time and contected the so same-sion fee.

"Isn't this wonderful?" she said, after directing another couple around to the refreshment table.

That was a common reaction among all who attended, according to Blue Circle member Brian Colder.



Evening Java: More than 30 guests enjoyed the first Cafe on the Porch.

boxes of board games and magazines sat within arm's reach of any table. But mostly, people just sat and talked and laughed and listened to the night fall and Grand River traffic slow, if only a lit-tle.

Behind the scenes, a few glitches presented themselves, as glitches always do. Golden said the decaf coffee urn had a part missing, so only caffeinated coffee was available. Some improvements will be made as the event grows, and each week will have slight variations, because a dif-ferent Blue Circle member will be running

ferent Blue Circle member will be running the show.

The mansion won't be open every night, but there will be plenty to do on the porch and the grounds.

The main reason for us doing this is to draw attention to the mansion and raise funds so other neat projects can come of this, "Golden said.

If the Cafe really takes off, extending the cafe an additional night during the week might be a possibility, he added. Right now, Blue Circle members are just taking one step at a time.

"Wo're kinds playing it by ear," Golden said.

And what a sweet tune it is.

said.
And what a sweet tune it is.
Joni Hubred is editor of the Farmington
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Peace and quiet: Philippe Cavaille and Claudia Hecht enjoy quiet tin porch. Both are from Europe. iet time on the

Farmington uses state program to replace out-dated police car video cameras

The City of Farmington will purchase six in-car video sys-tems with accessory equipment and warranties from Kustom Signals Inc. through a state pro-gram that will save them some money.

money.

Still, the total approved replacement video package of \$31,668 exceeds the budgeted amount by by \$4,065, including \$3,171 for the recommended patended warranties, said Assistant City Manager Bill Richards.

New cameras will replace existing equipment that is outlated, he explained.

"Although in-car videos have proven effective at resolving disputes and providing reliable evidence, the existing equipment, due to advances in technology, is no longer being manufactures and repair parts are nonexistent." Richards said.

The city will use the State of Michigan Extended Purchasing Program, through which the state takes bids on certain items then passes the savings of the larger purchase on to cities.

The state has awarded a bid for new in-car video systems which are reported to be more durable, higher quality video and audio, and compliant with airbag deployment regulations, Richards said. It utilizes an

AAA hosts Child Safety Seat Fitting Station

Four of five child anfety seats are installed or used incorrectly, according to one national study. Conducted by National Safe Kids Campaign, found that most purents make two ornor mistakes in installing and using the seats, leaving childred angerously unprotected.

To help educate area residents to the proper use and installation of child safety seats, AAA Michigan has established the AAA Child Safety Seat Fitting Station at its Farmington Hills branch location, 38751 W. 12

Mile.

The free fitting station will be sent. The free fitting station will be sent.

Mile.
The free fitting station will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdny, July 11. Reservations are recommended. To schedule a fitting, call (800) 646-

What Parents Need to Know

All children younger than 4
must be in a child safety seat, in
all seating positions.

Forty percent of children are
not secured at all.

Never secure an infant in
the front seat of a vehicle with a
passenger-side air bag. The back
seat is the safest place for kids
of all ages.

Send in the registration
card to be notified in the event of
a recall.

■ How to properly install the sent
■ How to properly secure your child in the seat
■ The different types of child seats and when to use them
■ Common mistakes and how to avoid them

CAMPUS PIPELINE

NEW LAWYER
Clark Horner of Farmington
Hills graduated May 19 from
Lewis & Clark College with a uris doctor degree.

nurs doctor degree.
NorRHWOOD LEADER
Edward Azar of Farmington
Hills and a student at Northwood University, recently
httended the National Leadership Conference for Business
Professionals of America in Ana-

Azar took sixth place in the Entrepreneur category.

CHEMISTRY HONORS

Annise Berger of Farming-ton recently received a Graduate Meritorious Award from the Eastern Michigan University Chemistry Department at its annual chemistry alumni and awards banquet.

awards banquet.

CUM LAUDE GRADS

On May 12, Farmington resident Andrea G. Leonardis and Farmington Hills resident Katherine M. Svoke graduated cum laude from Albion College. Leonardis received a bachelor's degree in economics and man-

agement and Svoke received a bachelor's degree in physical

education.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Staccy Maxwell of Farmington Hills has received an award for academic excellence from The University of Michigan Athletic Department and was also named to the Dean's List by the Division of Kinesiology. She is a 1999 graduate of Farmington High and has just completed her sophomore year at U of M majoring in Athletic Training.

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