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downs and a high ceiling that gives the room a spacious feel.

According to Foundation President Dick Miller, the transition into new quarters has gone "smoothly."

"Boech has been great. They've been very, very accommodating. They shown a lot of flexibility," he said, relating their willingness to wait until the last possible minute for a dinner head count as an example.

Miller said some thought had been given to canceling the Ball

right after the Sept. 11 attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.

"That was discussed," he said. "Everybody sort of wondered, is it appropriate or is it not appropriate? On Sept. 11, we didn't know whether there was going to be another plane on the 11th or the 30th. We're a very small piece of the American fabric compared to that."

Then the mood in the country shifted and President George W. Bush urged Americans to go

back to their daily lives. While the committee didn't consider the event bigger than issues of terrorism and the recent anthrax scares, Miller said, "I think the bottom line is we're going to go about our business. We just felt this is the way we do business."

Light response

According to Foundation Board member Debbie Grant, decorations will be similar to previous years, with floral arrangements, candles and bal-

loons continuing the Cornucopia's fall theme. Dance music will be provided by Sheila Landis and The Top Drawer. Honorary emcee and auctioneer will be David McCarron from The Boos Gallery in Birmingham, and honorary host is Harry Hariston of UPN.

"Our response has been a little light," Grant said of the invitations to the event. "I anticipate we'll have about 150 guests. That's our goal."

The slowed economy and the

impact on businesses has left the ball's financial outcome in question. Miller, who is president of Berton-Malow, an architectural firm with offices in Farmington Hills, has been to a number of fund-raisers since the tragedy and said the attendance at each varied quite a bit.

Last year's event raised more than \$27,500 through admissions, silent and live auction items that included art work, gift baskets, vacation trip packages and event tickets for sports

teams and theaters. Whether that amount is matched, however, won't determine whether the event is a success, Miller said.

"My feeling is, it's a success if people come and enjoy themselves and forget about everything for an evening."

To donate silent auction items, reserve a table or purchase tickets for the 2001 Cornucopia Ball, call (248) 874-8928.

REC NEWS

The following is a list of recreational activities offered through the city of Farmington Hills. For information, call (248) 473-1800:

HAUNTED HIKE

This spine-chilling, self-guided Halloween walk in Heritage Park will take place from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Oct. 26 and 27. Not recommended for children under the age of 7. The cost is \$5 per person, payable at the site.

YOUTH BASKETBALL

Another exciting season of youth basketball games is kicking off, with a boy's league and a girl's league. Deadline to register is Nov. 30.

FRIDAY NIGHT MADNESS

Kids ages 6-12 can enjoy an evening of swimming, movies, food and organized games from 7 to 11 p.m. Friday, Oct. 26 at the Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills. Registration is required by 4:30 p.m. the day of the program. The cost is \$10 per person.

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exposure to anthrax.

"I'm not worried about it personally," he said, adding that while most co-workers are handling the situation well, some "get a little paranoid."

"They (health officials) take care of the senators and congressmen, but they don't take care of the little guy (postal worker)," he said.

"For the most part everybody is taking it in stride," said Lawrence Bright, a mail clerk at the downtown post office.

At about 9:40 a.m. Wednesday, a customer offered up a box for Oliver to tape. "It's got food for New York," she explains, adding, "What's going on with the mail in New York?"

Many customers talk with postal workers about the anthrax scare. "Basically they ask, 'Are you worried?'" Oliver said.

"Not really," Bright said, when asked whether he or fellow staff members were worried.

Postal staff at the main Farmington Hills post office on 12 Mile declined comment.

USPS safety measures

On the U.S. Postal Service Web site, and on an information line, the USPS has announced it is adopting new safety measures.

The postal service is also alerting people to how to deal with suspicious mail. The public is urged to watch for mail with: excessive tape or string; oily stains, discoloration or crystallization on the wrapper; mail with no return address; excessive postage suggesting a foreign origin; and misspelled words badly typed or written.

If you get suspicious mail, don't open, shake or bump it. Put it in a zip-locking plastic bag or otherwise isolate it, the USPS said.

Postmaster General Jack Potter on Wednesday announced that the postal service is reviewing the use of irradiation, already used successfully to fight bacteria in food.

"This new technology won't be cheap, but we are committed to spending what it takes to make the mail safe," Potter said.

"We will be providing employees who process mail with masks and gloves for their protection if they choose to use them," he added.

"We are changing the procedures we use to clean mail sorting equipment. We are installing and will use vacuuming equipment exclusively to clean the equipment to absorb dust and other particles."

"Postal facilities will use stronger, antibacterial cleaning chemicals as part of routine maintenance. Supervisors and postmasters will continue to give mandatory stand-up talks to employees to provide the information they need to stay safe," he said.

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