

Schoolcraft culinary benefit helps fund scholarships

Schoolcraft College's annual Culinary Extravaganza will be held 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 22 in the Wadsworth Center. In addition to tasting selec-

tions from almost 60 restaurants, caterers or beverage suppliers, patrons can sit in on a free wine tasting session, get a peek at Schoolcraft's new

ViaTech Center and participate in a live auction with many tempting items.

Food to sample range from appetizers to desserts, coffees, wines and beers. Combine clam chowder from Opus One with beef tenderloin stuffed with Boursin cheese from the Henry Ford Museum, and finish with cream from Ashby's Sterling Ice Cream and a wine from Pelee Island Winery or an espresso from Espresso Source International.

Put together endless menus as you sample the oriental braised short ribs of beef from Great Oaks Country Club; the shrimp nachos from Sweet Lorraine's Café; the pan-seared scallops from Papa Joe's Gourmet Market; the shrimp and crawfish étouffée from Zoup!; the truffles and tartlets from Over The Top Catering; the prime rib roasted for seven hours from Carvers; the sushi appetizers from Benihana; the oysters on the half shell from Tom's Oyster Bar; and the Florentine lobster sherry bisque from the Michigan Star

Clipper Dinner Train.

Other restaurants include Five Lakes Grill, Emily's of Northville, Schoolcraft's own American Harvest Restaurant, The Farm Restaurant, the Loving Spoonful, Bonfire Bistro and Brewery, La Shish, Steve and Rocky's, the Bay Point Country Club, Villa Maria, Ascades, and Mama Mucci's Pasta.

Vine 2 Wine Custom Winery, McLean Wines, L. Mawby Vineyards, Central Distributors of Beer, Inc., the Michigan Grape and Wine Council, the Cardinal Coffee Company and Pepsi will bring abundant samples of their products. Lee Hershey, local wine connoisseur with more than 30 years in

the wine industry, will conduct a free tasting.

Among the items featured at this year's live auction and dinner for four at Latitude in Bay Harbor, with an overnight stay at the Weatheravane and dinner for two at Tipawingo; a two-night stay at the Black Star Farms Winery Inn; a cooking class for two by a shadowing of Chief Brian Polyn of Five Lakes Grill as he prepares for the Saturday dinner crowd; a Las Vegas trip for two; a one-night stay and tour of Pelee Island Winery; a Schoolcraft entertainment package with tickets to the Madrigal performance, the Valentine Dinner Dance and the 2003 Culinary Extravaganza; tickets to the 2003 Shaw Festival; round-trip

tickets for two to any Spirit Airlines destination; a two-night stay for two at the Weatheravane Terrace Inn in Charlevoix; a weekend gourmet cooking class at the Farm Restaurant; and a sit-down dinner for eight prepared by Schoolcraft's Certified Master Chef Kevin Gawronski.

All proceeds from the event will support student scholarships.

Culinary Extravaganza 2002 tickets are \$50 per person. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Schoolcraft Development Office at (734) 462-4670.

Schoolcraft College is located at 18600 Haggerty Road, between Six and Seven, just west of I-275.



JIM JACOBSON/OBSERVER

Tom Marek and Suzanne Thomas Hughes, co-chairs of this year's Culinary Extravaganza, invite area residents to sample fine food and wine on Sept. 22 in the Wadsworth Campus Center at Schoolcraft College.

DDA cancels plan to draw Windsor residents

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

A two-part plan by the Farmington Downtown Development Authority to bring Windsor residents to Farmington has been cancelled.

"We're not doing it," said Ron Baker, of Marketing Communications Counsel, Inc. "Quite a few people have voiced concerns about it. Everybody is concerned about revenue."

The promotion, which involves offering par discounts of 30 to 40 percent, may be reworked later. The discount need not be applied to everything in the store. Merchants could specify what items they want offered at discount, he said.

Also terminated is the "Let's Have Some Fun In Windsor" promotion, patterned in a similar fashion to the a Mackinac Island trip giveaway held earlier this year.

The vacation included two nights and three days for two in Windsor, a room at Casino Windsor, two breakfasts and two dinners, a tour of Windsor, \$50 in "full fling" money and transportation.

Baker's firm was hired to help market and promote businesses within the downtown development district.

For the Windsor project, Baker said he sampled opinions from merchants at Damman Hardware, Village Shoe Inn, Clothes Encounters and Three Oaks Furniture.

MCC decided Tuesday, instead, to help the new Downtown Merchants Association of Farmington with its first Friday event Oct. 4, when businesses will stay open until 8 p.m. and kick off the Fall Harvest Festival.

MCC will also assist with a first-ever scarecrow promotion, which will include merchants and residents.

"We all know that foot traffic down Grand River and Farmington Roads is near nonexistent," said Barbara Goins, owner of Celtic Shamrock. Scarecrow displays will slow down traffic and encourage area residents to get out and walk the business district, she said. Scarecrows are due by Oct. 3 to the Village Mall parking lot at Grand River and Farmington Roads. They will remain up until the DDA trick-

or-treat event Oct. 26.

The MCC will recommend using part of the \$5,000 in advertising money which the DDA previously approved to help market the city.

"We can switch gears," Baker said.

The merchants also plan events from 2-5 p.m. Oct. 12 and Oct. 19 at Memorial Park, adjacent to the Masonic Temple on the northwest corner of Farmington and Grand River.

On Oct. 12, they'll offer a pumpkin contest with prizes for adults and children, a picnic eating contest, entertainment, local crafts and donut and cider sales.

There's an adult Halloween costume contest in Memorial Park Oct. 19 with apple bobbing, local crafts and candy and caramel apple sales.

Another topic under discussion is using slides at the Civic Theatre to help to promote downtown businesses.

Also under consideration, especially when Cowley's Old Village Inn re-opens, is a "pub crawl," which may include more than one city, Baker said.

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