

Library gala celebrates Friends' generosity

BY JONI HUBBARD
STAFF WRITER

More than 300 guests were treated to refreshments and classical music at this year's Farmington Friends of the Library gala, held Friday evening at the newly expanded

12 Mile facility in Farmington Hills. According to library director Bev Papai, membership in the Friends organization has grown from 350 when she first started 30 years ago to over 1,200. "And those are families, so there are far more individual

members," she added. Papai spent the first part of the evening meeting and greeting many of the guests, whom she has known for years. Earlier in the day, during an in-service session for staff members, she delivered a "state of the library" address, which reviewed the previous year and established goals for the coming year.

In addition to training, library staffers set up for the evening's meeting, which was catered by Vineyards Cafe and Catering. Papai said owner Ron Asmar has contributed refreshments for the event for the past 17 years.

"This is his contribution and his way of supporting the library and the Friends," Papai said.

Mary Koczura, who runs the library's Book Mark Cafe, contributed beverages, so guests could enjoy a cup of gourmet coffee with their desserts, which were made by Friends members.

Great Lakes Brass, a quintet featuring trumpets, french horn and trombones, entertained the crowd with classical and inspirational tunes, as well as blues, marches and show tunes.

A review of the group's contributions over the year included a \$30,000 give of a TechnoProbes Vide Spin Browser for the children's section on the lower level, a plas-

ma television screen, a \$7,000 mime sculpture by Jerry Sobie and support of the Young Adult program's Battle of the Books, held during the Festival of the Arts.

In all, Friends contributed \$11,900 to programming and nearly \$75,000 in other library improvements and book donations. The group has also made a significant commitment of funds for the coming year to support educational features in the children's section.

Friends Board member Bob Brewer said the friends raise funds through book sales and memberships. The group recently sent out a mailing to people who had once been active and dropped out, and received a tremendous response.

"Our major foundation is to raise funds for things they wouldn't normally be able to buy," he said, adding the gala is a way to thank those who have contributed.

Board members include Rose Marie Fertig, President; Bonnie King, Vice-President; John Carlson, Treasurer; Rosalynne Greenberg.

Secretary; Jack Horvitz; Lucy Schoener; library board liaison James McLaughlin and Papai.

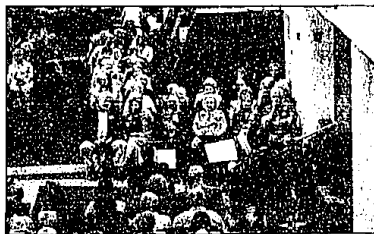
For more information about the Friends or the Farmington Community library, call (248) 553-0300.

hubbard@hometownlife.com | (248) 477-5450



EMILY PRICE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Emily Price plays French horn in the Great Lakes Brass Quintet.



Library supporters gathered to enjoy the music of the Great Lakes Brass Quintet.

TAX PROBLEMS?
Never Talk to The IRS!
Talk to Tax Resolution Specialists of Michigan

- Offer in Compromise
- Rescind Liens/Levies
- Penalty Abatement
- Audit Representation
- File Old Returns
- Insurance Spouse Relief
- Installment Payments
- Payroll/Sales Tax Relief

Call (248) 985-HELP (4357) for a FREE consultation
Tax Resolution Specialists of Michigan
Member of American Society of Tax Professionals

REPAIR THOSE CHIPS
Monday, June 16
AAA - Sales Office
38751 W. 12 Mile / Farmington Hills

Little chips lead to big cracks and ultimately a new windshield. Harmon AutoGlass will repair those annoying chips for AAA and most other auto insurance policyholders at no charge!

**NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED
REPAIRS WHILE YOU WAIT
ALL INSURANCE WELCOME**

Michigan
www.harmonglass.com or call 1-877-4HARMON

HomeTown Web site gets record number of hits for May

The Farmington Observer's web site, www.hometownlife.com, has recorded record usage for the month of May and extraordinary growth over the past six months.

Observer & Eccentric General Manager Peter Neill announced today. Total site hits for May were nearly 22.8 million, up 58% from December, 2002.

The number of "unique visits" by individuals who logged onto the hometownlife.com site is up 31% over the same

six months, according to Neill. "These statistics plainly show the Farmington Observer is offering local residents a uniquely informative web site to go along with our local newspapers," he said.

Another index of high usage for the site, according to Neill, is the number of page views per visit — 5.02, up an entire page from last December. The number of visits per hour — an index of how many individuals were logged on to the site at any one moment — was 638 in May, up 31% from December. Hometownlife.com brings web users the very best of HomeTown Communications Network's 40 Michigan com-

munity newspapers and 21 telephone directories, according to Dan Sutton, HomeTown Digital general manager.

"The site includes local news from all the newspapers, as well as searchable listings of their classified and retail advertising," he said. HomeTown Communications Network is the parent company of The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Hometown Digital.

The hometownlife.com site offers links to help-wanted ads placed by employers, with views up 78% May over December. "Putting a help-wanted ad in the Farmington Observer, plus extending its

reach through our web site, is the best way to get lots of applicants, right around the corner," Neill said.

The site also includes listings of real estate for sale downloaded daily from Multiple Listing Service computer files. More than 21,000 individual homes for sale were reviewed by prospective buyers on the hometownlife.com site in May alone. In addition to the hometownlife.com site, HomeTown Digital offers custom web design services, together with electronic business cards and eBrochures.

They may be reached at 1-800-989-4614.

Sale • Sale • Sale • Sale
25% off
SHRUBS

OVER 10,000 PERENNIALS
PETUNIA & MARIGOLD FLATS Only \$8.99

NO COUPON NEEDED • FRESH NEW STOCK DAILY
THOUSANDS TO CHOOSE FROM!

FARMER JOHN'S Greenhouse
Sun, Rain or Shine, we open up to you! Greenhouse, 20030 Haggerty Road, Farmington Hills
248-553-7141
Open 7 Days • 9 am to 9 pm (May thru August)

Farmington PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Early Childhood Programs
Now Enrolling
for Fall 2003-2004
FULL DAY CLASSES (7:15 am - 6 pm)
Call About Other Opportunities for Three & Four Year Old Children
Call 248-489-3373
Licensed, NAEYC Accredited

California Premium Ripe & Sweet Strawberries \$1.99 lb.
A Very Good Source of Vitamin C

JOE'S PRODUCE
Michigan's Finest "Since 1945"

Joe's Specials!

Georgia, Freestone Sweet & Juicy Peaches 99¢ lb.	Junco Jimmy Adkins Sweet & Juicy Mangoes 99¢ lb.	Texas Seedless Watermelon 49¢ lb.
Tender Bi-Color Sweet Corn 10¢/2.00 20¢ oz.	Vietnam Salad Mixes 9¢ lb.	Holland On-The-Vine Tomatoes 2¢/3.00 1.50 lb.
California Driscoll Long Stem Strawberries 3.99 16 ct. pkg. Perfect Dipping Berry	California Beringer White Zin, White Merlot Wine 4.99 750 ml.	Georgia Sunny Ridge Blackberries 2¢/3.00 1.50 lb.
California Meridian Wines Cabernet, Merlot & Chardonnay 6.99 750 ml.	California Beringer Estate Cabernet, Merlot & Chardonnay 7.99 750 ml.	Gioello Montigniceno Pinot Grigio 6.99 750 ml.
Edy's "A Family Favorite" Ice Cream Buy One Get One Free Save \$2.00 ea.	Super Sharp Cheese 4.99 lb.	La Gonia Delle Venezie Pinot Grigio 7.99 750 ml.
		Edy's Whole Fruit Fruit Bars Buy One Get One Free Save \$2.00 ea.

Prices Good Through June 18, 2003
Joe's Produce
33152 W. Seven Mile • Livonia, MI 48153
www.joesproduce.com (248) 477-4333