

# Hills resident honored for volunteer work

Marjorie Church, a resident of Farmington Hills, was among 10 volunteers honored by Brighton Hospital at a recent dinner at the hospital.

Brighton Hospital specializes in treating and preventing substance abuse and has become nationally recognized for its programs after more than 40 years in

this field. The purpose of the dinner was to call attention to the important role the volunteers play in the work of Brighton Hospital and to

thank them for their help.

The dinner was also an opportunity for the volunteers to get to know each other



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMIEUX

Mild dish: A religious statue displays a mild dish from Thai Peppers.

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"It's about as authentic as you can get," she said.

For several years, Dee Arthamas worked in her native country in the international hotel marketing field. She had traveled to other parts of Asia, Europe and North America before moving to the United States 11 years ago.

But when her venture into the clothing import business didn't pan out, the petite entrepreneur decided with her husband Alongkot and three partners to open the restaurant.

"A lot of our friends encouraged us," she said.

Unlike California or Chicago, which boast large Thai communities, Thai restaurants in this area have to cater to Americans.

"Thai food was bound to be a hit in the United States for several reasons, Arthamas said.

"I think Americans have become more adventurous with food," she said. "You used to be more like the English. But exposure to Mexican food, Indian food and Chinese food has changed that."

She added that many Americans have served in the military in Vietnam or have traveled to southeast Asia in recent years, where they were exposed to Thai and other exotic foods.

So far, that has translated to a brisk lunch and dinner trade at Thai Peppers, which features a lunch buffet of 10 Thai dishes as well as regular menu items.

Arthamas said she has learned not to underestimate



Dee Arthamas

American tastes in food. Selections at Thai Peppers live up to the restaurant's name, with ratings of how hot the food is from one to five. But unlike many Thai restaurants, three peppers indicate a dish that is "hot, with a nice burn and watering of the eyes," four peppers means "just ask for more ice water," and five (the hottest) mean "it's time for the fire extinguisher."

"People are surprised when I tell them that I only eat my food at (a rating of) one ('mild and spicy)," she said.

The restaurant, at 29402 Orchard Lake, is open Monday through Saturday.

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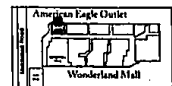
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