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## Party from page A1

cars on display (courtesy of sponsor Ford Motor Co.), and patrons sporting some of Detroit's finest hat fashions.

Participating restaurants are as varied as the Lark of West Bloomfield, Detroit's Traffic Jam, Birmingham's Midtown Cafe and the elegant Whitney near the Wayne State University campus. New this year are Forte of Birmingham, Southfield's Morton's of Chicago, Cravings Catering of Rochester, Pacific Grill of Southfield and Capital Grille of the Troy Somerset Collection.

Purtan calls it Detroit's version of the Kentucky Derby (minus the race): heavy on fashion, food, and celebrating spring.

"It marks the beginning of summer, really," said Purtan. "Every year we've been blessed with great weather, proving God must be Catholic."

"It's very classy, a great food event. It's relaxing. You can be yourself. It's a great party. It's not a stuffy benefit. You can sit on the lawn or under a tree and enjoy the best food and wine."

Like Purtan, Rich Fisher has been involved with the benefit for several years.

"All you have to do is walk through the Sarah Fisher center to understand why," he said.

"The highlight for me is strolling through and tasting the restaurants' magnificent offerings. The wine is the best you'll get. And there's a real mix of people, both young and old. It's fun to see how it's grown over the years."

More than 200 volunteers help ensure the event goes smoothly, from acting as parking attendants to planting flowers to cleaning up the mess afterward.

The event runs from 1 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, June 1. Tickets are \$100 per person or \$400 for patron tickets, which include two tickets, complimentary



Co-chairs: Radio personality Dick Purtan, left, TV news anchor Rich Fisher and businessman Eddie Jonna will present this year's benefit Garden Party.

valet parking and rare wine bar tickets. For more information, call the center's agency relations department at 626-7527, ext. 280.

## Computers from page A1

found influence on how we do business."

Hobbs said the process had been "well thought out." The new computer system would contribute to a "lean staffing pattern" that would keep the city at a lower number of employees

and expense than neighboring cities. Its need is based on a future where at least 75 percent of public transactions with the city will be electronic.

The new system will also give the city an added marketing tool with a data base of citizens and

services and will allow the city to keep pace with other cities.

Mike Lasley, director of the department of central services who directed the project, said only 12 of the original 52 companies asked to bid on the project were able to bid on both the hardware and software components, which was required. Another requirement was avoiding subcontractors, Lasley said.

The bidders were given a specific item-by-item spreadsheet to use for their bids. Those bids were adjusted to correct for errors or different components.

Peter Molnar, who represented Midwest Business Systems, complained that the bids were changed without any explanation.

Lasley said that in Midwest's case, the bid had not been multiplied out correctly to account for the correct number of units.

"He didn't do the math," Lasley said.

But Molnar and Michael Grievos of Data Systems Network, both had complained at the April 28 meeting about the process and consultant Roberta Estes.

Molnar, who spoke at Monday's meeting, said the successful bidder left out information even though their bid was represented as complete.

"You're still not being given the correct information," he told the council.

Sid Alexander, a citizen member of the committee that studied the issue and made recommendations about the system, recounted his experience and his belief that the city staff and consultant did an excellent job in finding the right system.

"My first experience with a computer was in 1942," he said, adding that he had worked with pioneering computer technology for many years since.

City Attorney John Donoghue presented a report detailing his findings after a lengthy review of the process, including consultations with professionals outside of the city.

"The process was clean, fair and impartial," he said. "You (city council) can have confidence in your decision tonight."

Mike Grady, president of Tricon, said installation would take about seven months and there would be a four-hour response time for any problems.

The contract also calls for on-site maintenance, a one-year warranty and options for longer warranty contracts or "work and materials" options.

Any reductions in equipment costs, such as one offered by Compaq in May, would be reflected in the contract which calls for spending "up to" \$1,320,740.

Councilman Jon Grant, who spearheaded the process and served on both committees involved with researching, designing and bidding the system, praised Lasley, the city staff and Estes.

"For many years we neglected demand for technology due to the high demand for tax dollars for other quality of life issues," he said. "As a businessman I know that we cannot operate the way we have been without increasing demands on the general fund, staffing and operational costs unless we have the



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