



STAFF PHOTOS BY BRYAN MITCHELL
At the ball: Among the dancers, top photo on the right, are Will Nutting and Lee Blizman enjoying the Mark Phillips Orchestra. In the photo at right, Nancy Donohue (left) and Karen Donohue look over some of the silent auction items which included three tables of donated items from around the community.



Ball from page A1

Charlie, in their house. Coincidentally, Nancy Bates chaired the campaign of Baczowski's opponent, Cathy Webb, in last year's state House election.
Later in the evening, the foundation's chairman, Richard Daguanno, handed out trophies to the honorary hosts: Botsford General Hospital, the Farmington Observer and James & Beatrice Ryan of Fourteenth Avenue Cartage Co. Inc.
Botsford's president and CEO,

Gerson Cooper, told the ball guests "the hospital felt so strongly about the cause" officials made a three-year commitment to be a major sponsor in 1995. The crowd cheered his announcement of its renewed commitment of three more years.
"The real challenge to all of us is to find other corporations that are willing to do this," Cooper said, before noting the hosts' banners hanging on the wall. "There's lots of room for banners around this room."



Auctioneer: Sharing the stage for the live auction were (left to right) Deborah Grant, Joanne Smith, Diana Lewis and Harry Hairston.

Commute from page A1

which are a non-peak hours.
With FAST-TRAC, the southbound travel time during the morning rush hour (6-9 a.m.) improved 8.6 percent while the average speed went up from 29.2 mph to 31.9 mph. The northbound non-rush hour traffic improved 20.3 percent. The biggest improvement was a 31.8 percent reduction in travel time for non-peak northbound traffic.
During the evening rush hours, northbound travel time improved 7.2 percent with an average speed increase from 25.3 mph to 27.3 mph. Southbound evening travel time improved by 6.5 percent.
"The system is working," said Jody Hood, West Bloomfield supervisor. She attended a presentation on FAST-TRAC Friday for township officials. They also took a ride in a bus along 14 Mile and Orchard Lake and were stopped only once by a traffic light.
"You're not really aware of it until you go for a long period of time without stopping," she said. "It's not ideal. It's not perfect," she said, but it does work.
FAST-TRAC is derived from a traffic control system developed

in Australia. With this system, camera-like devices are mounted on poles at various intersections. The devices do not produce picture images and can't see into cars. However, they do detect the presence of cars and monitor the flow of traffic.
The devices relay information to the road commission which automatically adjusts traffic light timing to allow the smoothest flow of traffic. Timing of traffic lights can vary up to 15 seconds.
Along with easing traffic, FAST-TRAC has hidden advantages, like reducing air pollution. With more cars moving there are less spewing out fumes idling at intersections.
According to the road commission, FAST-TRAC also has helped stem the number of traffic accidents at intersections where monitors have been installed.
Monitors have been installed at 300 intersections across the county so far. More monitors may be installed along Haggerty with the border of Commerce Township.

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