

Win this playhouse, built by Mayfair parents, at the Founder's Festival.

Mayfair to raffle off play center

A deluxe, handmade puppet theatre/play center will belong to one lucky family after this year's Farmington Area Founders Festival.

Mayfair Co-op Preschool parents have been hard at work constructing and decorating this one-of-a-kind toy that will provide hours of fun for one or any number of children. The unit is on display now through June 28 at the Korner Barber Shop in downtown Farmington.

Equipped with a variety of props, the puppet theatre/play center can become a restaurant, school, doctor's office, command center or market – a child's imagination is limitless. The structure features changeable signs, two chalk boards, shelving and storage containers, windows and can fold up for easy storage.

Tickets are \$2 each, 3 for \$5 or 10 for \$10 and can be purchased now by contacting Mayfair Fund-raising Chairperson Sharon Vidulich at (248) 476-6186 or from any current Mayfair family.

The play center will be on display at Kid's Day in Shawwassee Park on Thursday, July 17, and at Founders Festival in front of the Farmington Center on Friday, July 18, and Saturday, July 19.

Tickets will be available at both sites. The drawing will be held on Saturday, July 19 at 9 p.m. Proceeds will benefit children at Mayfair Co-op Preschool, a nonprofit preschool located at 30150 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. To learn more about Mayfair visit www.mayfairpreschool.com or call (248) 626-2759.

Rotary awards \$2,000 scholarships

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington Rotary Club and Farmington Rotary Foundation awarded their annual James M. Ellis Scholarships June 3 at the Hung Hua Restaurant on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills.

The recipients of the \$2,000 scholarships were Krysten Marcus of Farmington High School, and Jessica Katz and Matthew Balla of Harrison High School.

The recipients of the runner-up awards and plaques were Andrew DeOrio of Farmington High School and Philip Carlisle and Meara McWilliams of North Farmington High School.

"These three annual scholarships are given by the Rotary Foundation in honor of James Ellis, past president of the Farmington Rotary Club, who was very active in youth affairs," said Harold Wolkind, chairman of the Foundation since the early 1980s.

Shortly after Ellis died in 1985, the scholarship began honoring a single student. "This scholarship has since grown, with the involvement of the Farmington Rotary and Farmington Rotary Foundation, to the extent that they are now awarding three scholarships and three runner-up awards, and have for a number of years," Wolkind said.

Students must be nominated



This year's Rotary scholars Andrew DeOrio, Krysten Marcus, Jessica Katz, Phil Carlisle and Matt Balla were joined by Rotarians Bev Ellis and Harold Wolkind.

by their individual schools. Two finalists are nominated from each of the three Farmington High Schools to be considered by the Farmington Foundation Board of Trustees. The Trustees interview each candidate and award scholarship and runner-up awards based on academic accomplishments, extra curricular activities within the school, community service, and the interview itself.

The Rotary's selection criteria makes the award uniquely its own, Wolkind said.

"Grades aren't the only thing," Wolkind said. "A student may do well academically but if he or she only stays home and studies and

doesn't do any community service, for example, that doesn't depict the Rotary's high emphasis on service, he said.

"The selection process is ours," Wolkind said. "If I could give scholarships to all of them I would. Everyone can't be a winner but you can still be a winner in life."

Wolkind bills the scholarship as "one of the most prestigious scholarships in the area." The students must be well rounded in all areas of life in order to even qualify for nomination as a finalist by their school.

"We're interested in that kind of giving," Wolkind said. "We need people who are willing to give back."

The Rotary uses fund-raisers to help fund the scholarships. One popular fund-raiser is the "Passport Raffle."

Passport memberships are available at \$120 each and are open to anyone interested; Rotary membership isn't required.

Four prizes are raffled each month by random drawing. The first is a trip for two or \$800. The second prize is \$100, third is \$75 and fourth is \$50. Trips are subject to availability and must be taken within three months of the drawing.

Remaining trips for the year, which began in April, are to Toronto, Montreal, two trips to Cancun, Acapulco, Orlando, Tampa, Las Vegas and Myrtle Beach.

Presenting the scholarships June 3 were Wolkind, and President Elect Jeanne Trumphy of the Farmington Rotary Club.

Ellis' widow, Bev, Farmington Public Schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield, guidance counselors from the three high schools and the parents, siblings and other relatives of all the recipients attended the luncheon at the Hung Hua Restaurant. After the awards were given, each recipient told the club members and those attending about their future intentions and career goals.

The Farmington Rotary Foundation will accept any endowed donations toward these scholarships in the future from any interested individuals or organizations.

For more information, call Wolkind, (248) 626-3955, or Trumphy, (248) 477-5680.

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