

From Cooking to Eating, 'Taste' Is Palatable, or At Least 'Neat'

The 2013 Taste of Auburn Hills enjoyed a taste of success at its new venue – the Oakland Community College Student Center.

In the past, the event was held at the Chrysler Museum, said Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Denise Asker. But, she learned the museum was not available for this year's Taste, so they booked OCC's student center.

"The venue was a hit with the people who attended," Asker said. "Some people didn't know what to expect. You hear 'student center' and you don't know what you're going to get. But it was a great venue and students from OCC's interior design program helped with the decorations and the place looked neat."

Asker said that there were 22 restaurants represented at this year's Taste of Auburn Hills and while she does not have an exact attendance figure, she is "comfortable with saying that at least 400 people attended the event."

Food Network chef Michelle Bommarito's cooking demonstrations were "the hit of the evening," Asker said.

"She put on a different cooking demonstration every half-hour," Asker said. "And people really enjoyed watching her prepare food. Her whole focus was showing people how they could prepare healthy dishes using the tools and food they might have at home. Those who watched the demonstrations greatly appreciated what she did."

Chrysler was the major sponsor of the event, Asker said. They had six different vehicles on display – one from each of the company's brands.

"From what I heard from the people who attended, the Fiat was the big hit of the evening," Asker said. "The venue also al-



From left, Todd Lancaster, Lisa Jerdon, Nanette Casida and Chris DeVos enjoy the food at Taste of Auburn Hills.

lowed us to offer the 22 restaurants who set up displays a chance to show off their food, and that's the whole reason for the event. The restaurant people I talked with were pleased." And the food they served was a hit

with attendees.

"Overall, this year's Taste was a great success," Asker said. "We're definitely going to hold another Taste next year, but it's a little early to be asking where it's going to take place."

Oakland U Honors Alumni

The Oakland University Alumni Association (OUAA) will honor alumni who have achieved success in business, community services, leadership and volunteerism at the 19th annual Alumni Awards Banquet on Friday, Oct. 25.

The banquet will begin at 6 p.m. in the Oakland Center Banquet Rooms, with a dinner and program to follow at 7 p.m. Alumna Lauren Podell, a Local 4 news reporter and anchor, will serve as the mistress of ceremonies and music will be provided by OU music students.

Tickets are \$100 per person. A table of 10 may be sponsored for \$1,000.

Financial adviser Bernard Kent, JD, CPA, PFS and a 1971 College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) graduate, will receive the Distinguished Alumni Service Award. This is the highest alumni honor awarded and it recognizes peerless volunteer leadership in service to OU or its

alumni association.

Other honorees include Joseph Helper and Michael Kenney, who are receiving the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award; Judith Hoppin, who is receiving the Alumni Community Service Award and Alexis Anne DeCapua Collins, who is receiving the Outstanding Young Alumni award. Contact Christina Simon, the Assistant Director of Executive Events, at 248-370-4917 or casimon2@oakland.edu for more information.

In Auburn Hills at Halloween, You Can Talk to a Pumpkin, Watch Magicians

It's October, and that means Halloween – a holiday the city of Auburn Hills likes to celebrate.

On Thursday, Oct. 24, the city's parks and recreation department is hosting its annual "Halloween Trail." The event is aimed at younger kids, said Parks and Rec director Brian Marzolf, but it's such a tradition that older Auburn Hills youths like to walk the trail for old time's sake.

"The Halloween Trail will be open from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 24," Marzolf said. "Families get to walk the trail, which is located at Civic Center Park and visit the candy stations we set up along the path. Once they walk the trail they can visit the Community Center, where we'll have a couple of magic shows going on."

Marzolf said that guarding the entrance to the community center will be, as usual, the Talking Pumpkin, another city tradition. Those wishing can stop and speak with the pumpkin.

Marzolf said there's a rumor that the pumpkin is manned by someone from the city and speaks through a microphone, but he declined to name who that person might be.

"I want to say that there's no cost to walking the Halloween Trail," Marzolf said. "There will be several stations where kids can get candy. It's not designed to be too scary for small children. It's a lot of fun and people enjoy coming out for it."

On Saturday, Oct. 26, the Hal-

loween fun continues with a "Spooktacular," Marzolf said. A number of events are scheduled to take place downtown.

"I have to give a lot of credit to the downtown merchants and the Auburn Hills Chamber of Commerce," Marzolf said. "They put together some fun events for the kids."

Trick-or-treating will begin downtown from noon to 1:30 p.m., Marzolf said. The kids get to visit candy stations set up by the merchants and show off their costumes.

"Last year, the Spooktacular was attended by about 1,000 people," Marzolf said. "I expect that there will be even more this year. It's the eighth annual Spooktacular and we're super-excited about it."

The event will be centered around the new DEN, which recently opened as part of the city's downtown TIFA district. Also, a couple of magic shows will be held at the newly-opened University Center as well, Marzolf said.

The Auburn Hills Public Library is sponsoring its own "Halloween Hullabaloo" on Oct. 26 at 3400 East Seyburn Drive from 2 to 4 p.m. Kids are invited to attend in costume and participate in Halloween-themed activities.

Marzolf said that many people volunteer their time to make these events possible.

When asked about all the magic shows, Marzolf said, it's Halloween, the perfect time to bring some magic into children's lives.



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