



First-ever Food & Wine Classic a stellar success

It was like a variety show on plates! Taking center stage were foods of all varieties— raw, seared, spiced, diced, simmered, baked, roasted, fried, and sauced. Sharing the spotlight was wine, tasteful in its varied distillations— red, white, pink, sparkling, grappa, brandied, and sake.

Together they performed beautifully as part of the First Annual Harbor Country Food and Wine Classic.

The weekend long feast before the bigger feast on Thanksgiving started on Friday evening Nov. 22 with wine maker dinners at the Terrace Cafe of the Harbor Grand Hotel featuring food of the Pacific Northwest by chef Lynn Mounce paired with wines from Stimson Lane. Jenny's Restaurant in Lakeside featured the creations of home-grown chef Sam Luna with wine from the Glunz Family Winery of Illinois. Cafe Tuscany featured the Italian cuisine of chef Shawn Ward along with the wine of Bel Lago from Michigan.

On Saturday, Nov. 23, area wineries Heart of the Vineyard, Tabor Hill and St. Julian offered wine tasting. Heart of the Vineyard also presented an overview of grappa distillation. Meanwhile, area chefs presented their talents. Rachel Collins of Collins Caviar offered a brief history of the American caviar industry, Chef Javier Cardenas of Casey's Bar and Grill led a group in the art of salsa making, chef Tim Sizer of Timothy's paired Asian cuisine with a sake presentation by Rick Cooper, and chef Judy Kite-Gosh of Retro Cafe demonstrated the art of cake decorating with natural ingredients.

The highlight of the weekend was the Sparkling Event held at the Harbor Grand Hotel on Saturday night featuring the food creations of 12 area chefs and an international taste of sparkling wines. Over 200 attended this prelude to Holiday munching.

As unique as Harbor Country has become, it has gone one step farther with the Golden Muffin Competition. Twelve bakers utilizing the commercial kitchens of area breakfast restaurants, inns, and cafes submitted a muffin entry for taste judging by the general public. The event was held at Vickers Theatre in Three Oaks on Sunday, Nov. 23 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Each baker prepared approximately three dozen of their finest muffin effort. There were 94 votes cast and when the powdered sugar cleared the lone standout was the Lemon Cream Cheese Crunch muffin prepared by Patty Toussaint at The Inn at Union Pier. For those in attendance, that was



(Above) Patty Panozzo presented a Holiday Brunch demonstration. (Left) Jacqui Schiewe, The Wine Sellers, is the founder of the Sparkling Event.



Wine maker Rick Moersch of Heart of the Vineyard explains grappa distillation while Greg Otto tastes and Chris McLellan listens.



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...a little something from the Chamber Choir

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire, yuletide carols being sung by a choir - Harbor Country makes a perfect holiday setting. As we enter this holiday season and look forward to 2003, we are reminded how lucky we are to live and work in this winter wonderland. In the spirit of this season, I pulled out my songbook and thought I would share one of my favorite holiday songs with the Harbor Country Area.

The 12 days of Christmas

On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me, one chamber working hard for my business needs.

On the second day of Christmas my true love gave to me, two parking lots in downtown NB and one chamber working hard for my business needs.

On the third day of Christmas my true love gave to me, three day weekends all winter long, two parking lots in downtown NB and one chamber working hard for my business needs.

On the fourth day of Christmas my true love gave to me, four day workweeks, three day weekends all winter long, two parking lots in downtown NB and one chamber working hard for my business needs.

On the fifth day of Christmas my true love gave to me five golden rings of record sales, four day workweeks, three day weekends all winter long, two parking lots in downtown NB and one chamber working hard for my business needs.

On the sixth day of Christmas my true love gave to me, six new businesses with year around jobs, five golden rings of record sales, four day workweeks, three

day weekends all winter long, two parking lots in downtown NB and one chamber working hard for my business needs.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me, seven concerts playing, six new businesses with year around jobs, five golden rings of record sales, four day workweeks, three day weekends all winter long, two parking lots in downtown NB and one chamber working hard for my business needs.

On the eighth day of Christmas my true love gave to me, eight communities working together, seven concerts playing, six new businesses with year around jobs, five golden rings of record sales, four day workweeks, three day weekends all winter long, two parking lots in downtown NB and one chamber working hard for my business needs.

On the ninth day of Christmas my true love gave to me, nine grants for beautification, eight communities working together, seven concerts playing, six new businesses with year around jobs, five golden rings of record sales, four day workweeks, three day weekends all winter long, two parking lots in downtown NB and one chamber working hard for my business needs.

On the tenth day of Christmas my true love gave to me, ten percent sales increases, nine grants for beautification, eight communities working together, seven concerts playing, six new businesses with year around jobs, five golden rings of record sales, four day workweeks, three day weekends all winter long, two parking lots in downtown NB and one chamber working hard for my business needs.

On the eleventh day of Christmas my

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Harbor Country® Connection

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FREE ADVERTISING, a Member Benefit

In case you've missed previous promotions, maybe the above headline will grab your attention. The Chamber is posting free bi-weekly Hot Deals to its web site as a benefit to its membership. Take advantage of this great opportunity to have your special offers, discounts or Hot Deals displayed on the World Wide Web. You don't even have to own a web site or have access to the Internet. Just submit the following information to the Chamber office by phone, 269-469-5409, fax 269-469-2257, or email sue@harborcountry.org :

Your Business Name

City Name

40 words (max) of text describing your special offer/Hot Deal

Phone

Email (if applicable)

Web Site Address (if applicable)

In the face of a slow economy and slow tourism season, the Chamber is actively marketing this special promotion, resulting in very high visitor traffic to the Hot Deals page. This is your opportunity to promote your business products or services at no cost to you, a benefit only available to in-area Chamber members in good standing. All postings run for two weeks and are purged or renewed on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. Continuing Hot Deals must be re-submitted by the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month. This is necessary to avoid stale content from accumulating on the web page.

If you have access to the web, you can find the current Hot Deals listings at:

www.harborcountry.org/hotdeals

Ad copy policies are listed at:

www.harborcountry.org/hotdealspolicy

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true love gave to me, eleven positive news articles of the Harbor Country area, ten percent sales increases, nine grants for beautification, eight communities working together, seven concerts playing, six new businesses with year around jobs, five golden rings of record sales, four day workweeks, three day weekends all winter long, two parking lots in downtown NB and one chamber working hard for my business needs.

On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love gave to me, twelve committees buzzing with new ideas, eleven positive news articles of the Harbor Country area, ten percent sales increases, nine grants for beautification, eight communities working together, seven concerts playing, six new businesses with year around jobs, five golden rings of record sales, four day workweeks, three day weekends all winter long, two parking lots in downtown NB and one chamber working hard for my business needs.

Happy holidays to each and every member of our Chamber of Commerce and Lodging Association.

Harbor Country Chamber presents a **Holiday Open House, December 17, 2002**, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This event is sponsored by The Don Jackson Group, PC, 23 North Thompson Street, New Buffalo. Come join us in celebrating the holidays. RSVP Harbor Country Chamber office at (269) 469-5409 or The Don Jackson Group, PC at (269) 469-9300.

new
members
november
2002

THE "F" STOPS HERE

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Sawyer, MI 49125

Owner: Richard Hellyer

269-426-3102



SENSATIONAL SPAS in Stevensville sponsored a mixer on Nov. 14 and cut the ribbon for their new showroom expansion doubling their retail floor space. Troy Weber, Janice and Brian Van Horn were the hosts to almost 50 chamber members. There was also a brief presentation about bringing high speed internet access to Chamber members. The next mixer will be sponsored by Chamber President Don Jackson in his office at 23 N. Thompson, NB, December 17, 4-8 p.m.

bits & pieces

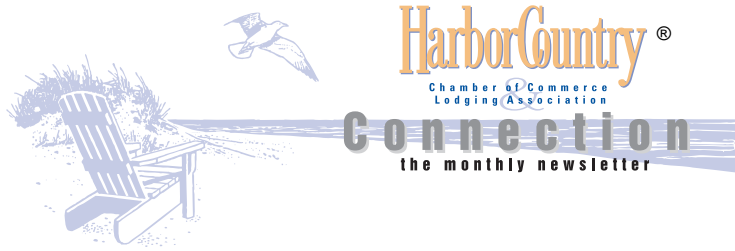
It's your chamber!

Many members have expressed an interest in becoming involved on Chamber committees. If you would like to attend a committee meeting, contact Sue or Patty at the chamber office (469-5409) for meeting dates, times and locations.

Committees include internet, communications, P.E.T., membership, community development, economic development, retail analysis, office management, Harbor Country guide.

Email addresses needed!

The chamber office has email addresses for less than 30% of the members. While it costs hundreds of dollars to mail information to the members, email can be sent at no cost in chamber dollars. Help us communicate with you. Contact Sue or Patty at info@harborcountry.org to add your email address to your membership records.



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number three in the blind tasting.

Toussaint, who works part time for Bill and Joyce Jann at The Inn at Union Pier, is also an information specialist at the Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce office. She is a 1982 graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, a grand prize pastry display winner (1983), and she is the wife of Derek and mother of Brandon, Shauni and Gabrielle.

“When I saw those chefs on the poster for the Food and Wine Classic it brought back many fond memories,” said Toussaint. “I was so jealous that they are all doing what I had trained to do many years ago. I just had to enter.” She added that she was taken aback at the announcement that her muffins had won considering the talent pool.

“There were so many fine chefs represented, I really didn’t think I had a chance,” she said. Participating muffin makers included Froehlich’s, Whistle Stop Deli, Antonia’s Tea Shop, Tall Oaks Inn, Retro Cafe and Kite’s Kitchen, Village Bake Shop, Bit of Swiss Bakery, Milda’s Corner Market,



Innkeeper Bill Jann of The Inn at Union Pier and winning entry baker Patty Toussaint display the Golden Muffin Traveling Trophy.

Blue Plate Cafe, Harbert Swedish Bakery, and Brewster’s Italian Cafe. Judges for the event revealed that all participants received votes. The contest, however, was winner-take-all with no runner-ups announced. The Inn at Union Pier will be able to display the traveling muffin trophy carved in marble and granite by Sawyer sculptor Fritz Olsen. At the end of the year they will

exchange the trophy for a plaque.

Also featured on Sunday was a presentation by Patty Panozzo on Holiday Brunch ideas at Panozzo’s Pantry in New Buffalo.

The organizing committee for the event included Robert Kemper, Harbor Grand Hotel; Judy Kite-Gosh, Retro Cafe and Kite’s Kitchen; Jacqui Schiewe, The Wine Seller, Union Pier; Roger Harvey, Harbor Country Menu Book; and writer Michael Hojnacki, Artistic Energy Group, Inc. The event was sponsored by the Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce, Harbor Country Lodging Association, Harbor Country Menu Book, and Lake Magazine.

There are already plans being made for next year’s event. Space was a limiting factor in the number of participating chefs this year. Though the obvious benefit of the event is an overview of fine cuisine and quality wine, the true mission is to promote Harbor Country as a destination and to garner significant media coverage to that end.