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## LOCAL NEWS

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**Monday, May 08, 2006**

### Caroussel Invites Wedding Planners Businesses show their 'taste'

**By Jennifer Edwards**  
Staff Writer



KEVIN AND VENEICE BAMES of a Catered Event proved they have excellent cooking and decorating skills at their Taste of Spring event last Friday. (Photo by Jennifer Edwards).



The Caroussel Works Historic Events Center and A Catered Event

invited local business people and clients to A Taste Of Spring, an open house showcasing the cooking skills of their new, exclusive caterers.

A Catered Event, owned by Kevin and Venice Bames, is also known for their box lunches, which includes their signature sugar cookie, and for catering business lunches and other events.

I was fortunate to be able to accept the invitation on behalf of the employees of the West Sherburne Tribune.

"Kevin is tremendously talented with decorating and with food," said our hostess, Caroussel Works' Diane Jacobsen. "This is really A Catered Events introduction to the community and an opportunity for people to meet

Big Lake, MN



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LARRY AND LYNN GANTNER of Squibnocket Photography have enjoyed discovering each others talents and doing what they love, photographing weddings. (Picture by Jennifer Edwards).

our other preferred vendors.”

Guests sampled three different styles of food suitable for weddings or banquets. The first was an informal picnic, with coleslaw, corn bread, kettle chips, a robust pasta salad, baked beans, ribs and shredded barbecued pork, salad and fruit, beautifully arranged on a table stacked with picnic baskets.

A more formal banquet table offered a mixed leaf salad with strawberry vinaigrette dressing, home made bread

rolls and butter, a fish dish, rolled chicken breasts stuffed with wild rice dressing in a cream sauce, baby carrots and a choice of garlic mashed potatoes or buttered red-skinned potatoes tossed with herbs.

A third table offered hors d’oeuvres, including smoked salmon, barbecued shrimp, jerked pork ribs, filo pastry stuffed with shrimp, cold cuts, cheese and fruit, and a braided loaf of homemade bread with a big bowl of spinach dip. The food was served with complimentary samples of red and white wine, fruit punch and coffee.

“We wanted our guests to get a real taste of what we have to offer,” Kevin said. “We are delighted so many people came.”

Guests sat at elegant tables arranged by Festivities of Buffalo, and sipped wine, punch or coffee, and sampled wedding cake made by Polly Anderson of Cakes by Polly.

“I have been decorating cakes for over 50 years now,” Anderson said. “I started when my kids were little. I worked at Maus foods decorating cakes for 21 years, then I went to work at Jubilee. Now I am retired and work out of my home.”

Polly, who raised 10 children, decorated cakes for their special events and for her 24 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

“Every bride has different ideas about their cake,” Polly told me. “They don’t want it to be just like somebody else’s.”

Anderson can be reached at her Becker home for more information by calling 262-6299.

Big Lake Township residents Lynn and Larry Gantner decided to follow their dream. Two and a half years ago, they opened Squibnocket Photography, after their children grew up and left home.

“We will go anywhere. We do a lot of location shooting,” Larry said. “We decided to do what we had always wanted to do. We have always loved shooting weddings. We have been doing this since the ’70s.”

Larry gives Lynn credit for the creative aspects of laying out the albums.

“She comes up with all the creative ideas,” he said. “This is a very fun time in our lives. We have really learned to appreciate each others talents. Doing this

together has been a real joy.”

The Gantners can be reached at (763) 263-0882 or on the internet at [www.squibnocketphotography.com](http://www.squibnocketphotography.com).

Jennifer Jacobsen is a bead lady representative for Wild Cherry Beads. She offers beading classes and has a mini bead store.

“We do a lot of home parties where guests can select their own beads and findings to make their own jewelry. I’m hoping to offer this to brides for their wedding party,” Jacobsen said.

Prices for the jewelry depend on the stones and materials selected. Wild Cherry Beads can be reached by calling (763) 263-0174 or (763) 257-5686.

Other vendors participating included Big Lake Floral and Gift, Rejuvenate Salon, Dragonfly Home Decor and Platinum Entertainment.

There are other vendors in Big Lake who can provide everything to make an occasion successful. We have plenty to choose from.

Coborn’s offers catering and cake decorating. Their floral department can handle weddings and funerals. There are also other photographers like Chris Lommel photography and disc-jockeys like Dean-O-Mite Entertainment. Janice’s, Creative Shears and other hair salons offer massage along with hair styling and make up, wedding party rates and gifts.

“We do welcome other vendors,” Jacobsen said. “It is only our caterers who are exclusive. I think this has been a very good move for us. They do such a great job with the food and the tables look wonderful. That is so important in the hospitality industry.”



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