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**For the second year in a row Backyard Grill & Bar is Hometown Bank's Taste of Fond du Lac People's Choice Award winner**

Fond du Lac—To find fantastic food, the people of Fond du Lac don't think that you have to go much farther than the backyard. The Backyard Grill & Bar, that is, which has been named the 2006 People's Choice Award winner at Hometown Bank's Taste of Fond du Lac.

Backyard Grill & Bar's "casual dining, serious food" slogan was taken seriously by the community members who attended the Taste and cast their votes for the Backyard Grill & Bar on Monday.

"It's very exciting and rewarding to win the People's Choice Award," said Colleen Trepanier, manager of Backyard Grill and Bar. "The award lets us know that people like what we are doing and what we have to offer. We have a great crew at the restaurant both on the service end and in the kitchen, which makes the business even more successful." She added, "We enjoy being in Hometown Bank's Taste of Fond du Lac. It's a lot of hard work but well worth it from the comments we hear from the public, and the amount of exposure and publicity we receive."

The restaurant located at 838 E. Johnson St. was their second year participating in Hometown Bank's Taste of Fond du Lac. They served Artichoke & Spinach Dip, and Hickory-Smoked Baby-Back Ribs. They took home the second-place award in the dinner entrée category for the ribs, and received their People's Choice Award on Friday.

"The participation from our guests in casting their ballots this year was outstanding," said Mary Ann Dilling, Executive Director of Fond du Lac Festivals, Inc., which organizes the annual event. "I think the public enjoys participating in this award." The award was created in 2003 to get the community more involved in the 19-year-old event.

Hometown Bank's Taste of Fond du Lac, an annual event, was held Monday at the Fond du Lac County Fairgrounds Expo Center and featured restaurants, a silent auction and local entertainment. It was sponsored by Hometown Bank, Charter Communications, Hopper's Silk Screening and All Star Trophy, Michelob Amber Bock, Pepsi Americas, WFVR CBS 5, News-Talk AM 1450 KFIZ, K107.1 FM and the Reporter.

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