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Hometown Bank's A Taste of Fond du Lac features record number of participants for 2005 event

Hometown Bank's A Taste of Fond du Lac is just around the corner, and a record number of Fond du Lac-area establishments are ready to fill the Fond du Lac County Expo Center with great food, great people and great fun!

Six more participants have been added to the list to round out the menu at the celebrated annual event. Casa Mexico, Applebee's, Quizno's Subs, the Moraine Park Technical College Culinary Arts program, Cibo at the Ramada Plaza and Schmitty's Oar House will be showcasing their best for the Fond du Lac community.

Casa Mexico will be back at with some of the best Mexican food in town. Casa Mexico has been in Fond du Lac at 239 W. Scott St. for about six and a half years, and has participated in Hometown Bank's A Taste of Fond du Lac for six.

"We love it," said Esteban Rocha, the owner and manager of Casa Mexico. "We see a lot of new faces, and we make more friends every year."

Casa Mexico will be serving both Hard and Soft Tacos, as well as Chips and Salsa and Mucho Macho Shrimp. ¡Muy Bueno!

Taste-goers will be eatin' good in the neighborhood at Hometown Bank's A Taste of Fond du Lac when they visit the Applebee's booth. The Fond du Lac Applebee's, at 841 W. Johnson, has been in town since October of 1996 and this is their seventh Taste.

"We really love doing it," said Sharleen Hahn, Applebee's Assistant Manager. "And the staff totally loves it too!" Applebee's will be serving their Southern-style N'Awlins Skillet and one of their most popular desserts, the savory Dulce de Leche cheesecake.

Taste-goers who are sick of the cold weather can stop by the Quiznos Subs booth to get warm and toasty. Quiznos, at 335 Winnebago Dr., makes their subs fresh to order on their own bread and then toasts them.

"We want to show Fond du Lac the great taste of Quiznos," said Shawn Longley, the owner/manager of Quiznos. They will be bringing three of their best-selling and most flavorful subs to Hometown Bank's A Taste of Fond du Lac: the Turkey Ranch & Swiss Sub, the Classic Italian Sub and the Classic Club with Bacon Sub.

The Moraine Park Technical College Culinary Arts department will be bringing two delectable desserts for Taste-goers. The Culinary Arts program at MPTC offers students

hands-on, practical experience in all aspects of food preparation and production, including Hometown Bank's A Taste of Fond du Lac. Taste-goers shouldn't miss their rich Cream Puffs and fresh Chocolate-Covered Strawberries.

Mama Mia! Taste-goers can also enjoy wonderful Italian food at Hometown Bank's A Taste of Fond du Lac. *Cibo* at the Ramada Plaza, 1 N. Main St., is open for all three meals and specializes in Italian food. *Cibo* also offers seafood, steaks and poultry; as well as a weekday lunch buffet, Friday night fish fry, Saturday night Prime Rib Specials and Champagne Sunday Brunch.

"I have been involved with Taste for around 5 years," said Joan Becker, the Director of Sales at the Ramada Plaza and Co-Chair of this year's event. "It is a great event for us! It gives us a chance to let the public know what is new on our menu and get our name out to over 5000 people. Plus it's a lot of fun!"

This year, the *Cibo* booth will feature Spaghetti and Meat Sauce and Italian Broccoli Soup, as well as Starbuck's Coffee to top it all off.

Schmitt's Oar House, N7044 Winnebago Dr., will be bringing their unique flavor to Hometown Bank's A Taste of Fond du Lac for the first time this year. Schmitt's is a bar and grill in its fifth year in Fond du Lac that offers a full menu, bar and entertainment. They also have a second separate bar for parties, weddings, dinners and more.

Schmitt's Oar House will be showcasing their brand-new gourmet pizza at Hometown Bank's A Taste of Fond du Lac, along with their specialty Cuban Sandwich and several flavors of Smoothies.

Twenty-eight participants will be eager to serve their best to everyone at the Fond du Lac County Fairgrounds Expo Center, 17th St. and Martin Ave. on Monday, Feb. 28 between 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. There will also be an extensive silent auction that includes Brewer's tickets, family getaways, savings bonds, restaurant gift certificates, golf packages and much more.

Hometown Bank's A Taste of Fond du Lac is coming up fast, so be sure to buy your tickets soon. Tickets will cost \$2 at the door or \$1.50 in advance, and children under 5 are free. Advance tickets can be purchased at Wegner's Office Supply, the Association of Commerce, the Fond du Lac Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, Jo Jo's BBQ & Grill and any Hometown Bank location. As always, food tickets will cost only 50 cents apiece.

Hometown Bank's A Taste of Fond du Lac is sponsored by Hometown Bank, Charter Communications, Hopper's Silk Screening and All Star Trophy, Michelob Amber Bock, WFRV CBS 5, Pepsi Americas, News-Talk AM 1450 KFIZ, K107.1 FM and the Reporter.

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