



Rotary supports museum

November 13, 2010

By KATIE SCHWENDEMAN (kschwendeman@reviewonline.com)

EAST LIVERPOOL - The East Liverpool Rotary Club is in support of the Museum of Ceramics' handicap accessibility project.

That support was made apparent Friday evening at the East Liverpool Motor Lodge, where the club held a musical benefit to raise funds for the museum's "Access? All right!" campaign.

Lois Beals, rotary president, said the club supports something different each year, and that this year the Museum of Ceramics was chosen because the Rotary wants to keep it "alive and busy."

Article Photos



Hermie Granati (front), and Harry Levickey, of Pittsburgh, are the "Dueling Pianos." The two-man band performed at the East Liverpool Motor Lodge Friday evening for a Museum of Ceramics benefit organized by the East Liverpool Rotary Club. (Photo by Katie Schwendeman)

Sarah Webster Vodrey, museum director and president of the Museum of Ceramics Foundation, said previously the museum has been exploring accessibility options for years but finally decided last year it was time to "just take a deep breath and move forward."

In June the museum accepted a \$10,000 donation from the Home Savings Charitable Foundation. The donation kicked the "Access? All right!" campaign into high gear, she said.

Beals had high hopes for Friday's benefit because last year's benefit for Haiti was extremely successful, she said.

She pointed out that the Rotary focuses on benefiting the community, and believes the museum to be an important aspect of East Liverpool.

The museum, located at 400 East Fifth St., touts itself as a national attraction. It is home to one of the nation's largest public displays of award-winning 19th century porcelain Lotus Ware, and is also on the National Register of Historic Places.

"We aren't just a local museum, but an international museum," Vodrey said.

Visitors to the museum represent several nationalities and 42 out of the 50 United States, she added.

She also said previously that lack of handicap accessibility has disappointed some visitors.

Accessibility plans call for installing an elevator, a wheelchair ramp, and an accessible restroom on the ground level.

Vodrey expressed her thanks to the Rotary Friday, and to several other community organizations that have shown support as well.

"We are all working together for the good of the community," she said.

Beals said helping the museum with its access campaign is one of the club's biggest projects so far.

"On behalf of the Museum of Ceramics Foundation, we are extremely grateful for the show of support," Vodrey said.

Tom Wycoff, Motor Lodge owner and fellow Rotarian, helped the Rotary book entertainment for the evening. Hermie and Harry's Dueling Pianos, of Pittsburgh, provided musical entertainment in the lounge.

"I'm pleased to offer entertainment of this quality. It is a high-energy performance, and they interact with the audience," Wycoff said. "We are lucky to offer this and at the same time help out a wonderful organization such as the Museum of Ceramics."

- See more at: <http://www.morningjournalnews.com/page/content.detail/id/528381/Rotary-supports-museum.html?nav=5019#sthash.8xJ04Bi4.dpuf>