

Meet the meatball all-stars

WEST WARWICK—The residents of West Warwick Manor elderly housing on Roberts Street enjoyed another Housing Authority-sponsored cooking competition on Wednesday.

Residents gathered in their spacious community room to rate the tastiness of the latest offering — meatballs!

Previous competitions included the popular and well-attended Chili Challenge and a Baked Bean Cookoff. Each event demonstrated there is more than one way to cook an item.

The latest challenge — a Meatball Throwdown — had six residents compete for the Tenant's Choice Award. Residents prepared traditional Italian-style meatballs, Swedish meatballs, sweat 'n sour meatballs and other combinations.

The tastings were conducted "blind," meaning the residents didn't know who prepared the round meaty delights. Housing authority staff members served residents. Serving bowls were numbered so participants could vote for their favorite type of

meatball.

A large container of pasta was also available for the residents to enjoy with their meatballs.

When the votes were counted some familiar faces accepted their awards — gifts cards of \$25 and \$20.

Deborah Bridgmon, who is also the development's Tenant Association Vice President won first place with her traditional style Italian meatballs. Ms. Bridgmon also participated in the Chili

See **MEATBALL**, page A3

Winners of the Meatball Throwdown, Jack Bridgmon, WWHA Resident Services Manager Kelly Connelly, Hank Mayer and Deb Bridgmon, pose for a photo.



Meatball

Continued from page A1

Challenge. Tied for second place were Hank Mayer, the winner of the recent baked bean competition, and Jack Bridgmon, a winner of the Chili Challenge.

"I enjoy cooking and he praised the housing authority for conducting such events," Mayer said.

The Housing Authority promotes these events to encourage residents to keep active and to encourage tenant

interaction.

"I love these events because it gets the residents out of their apartments and competing over food," said Stephen J. O'Rourke, the housing authority's executive director. "They also contribute to my girth."

The WWHA was founded in 1962 and manages 250 units of public housing and over 200 units of Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers. WWHA is home to approximately 275 elderly and disabled residents.