

JAVA

BY MARYELLEN FILLO

A Red-Hot Mover, Shaker and Flipper

Michael Grunberg has proved a master at creating sizzle, with the red-hot developer's latest plans to turn the former Bank of America building at 777 Main St. into chic condominiums.

And when it comes to heat, he's not too shabby around the barbecue grill, either — yet another talent he showcased Tuesday at a fundraising kickoff event for the Trust House Family Learning Center.

"I'm good at this," said the slightly sweaty Grunberg as he fussed over a huge grill. He added charcoal briquettes and lighter fluid to get just the right fire going before adjusting the grill and getting down to business with

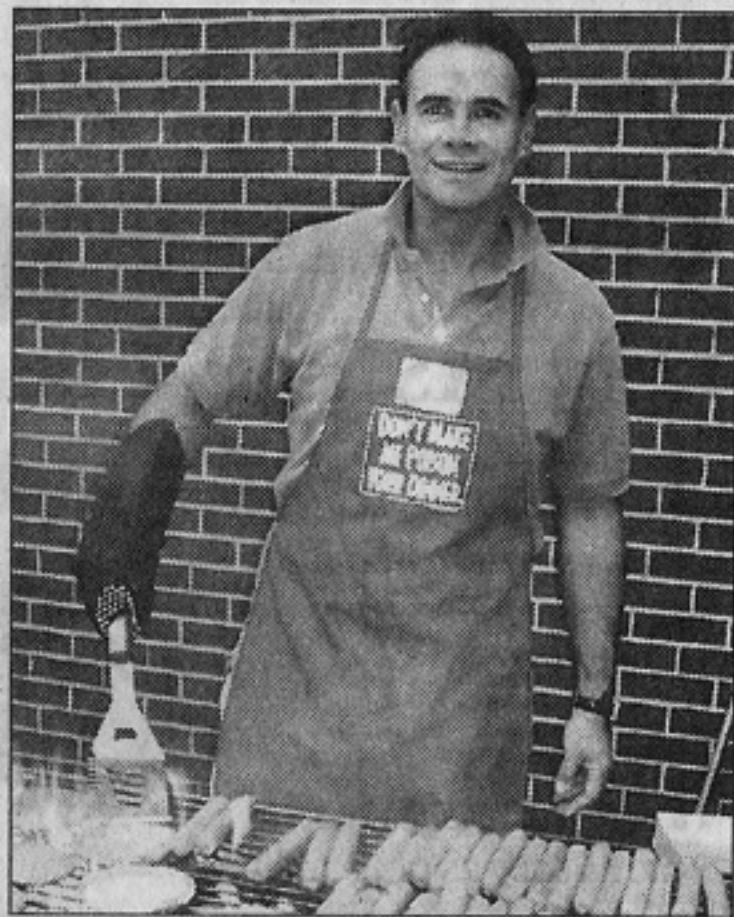
dozens of uncooked hamburgers and hot dogs.

"My specialty is cheeseburgers, medium rare, he said as he entertained Java by using his cooking mitt as a puppet. "Most people don't like them that way, but when I make them and they try it, they usually change their minds."

The center is in the midst of a \$275,000 fundraising drive, according to executive director **Judith Green**. Donations will pay to transform a building owned by the Church of the Good Shepherd, on the same Wyllis Street grounds as the Trust House, into a multipurpose venue for children and adults who attend Learning Center programs.

The barbecue, coordinated by students in the Trust House's catering program, attracted a wide range of officials and supporters, including **Paul Winters**, who heads the Hartford-based National Theater for the Deaf.

"I'm here to offer some moral support," said Winters, as he toured the proposed new center,



MARYELLEN FILLO / THE HARTFORD COURANT

HARTFORD DEVELOPER Michael Grunberg, above, shows off his sizzling grill moves at the Trust House Family Learning Center fundraising barbecue. Paul Winters, executive director of the National Theater for the Deaf, at left, gets a welcome hug from Judith Green, Trust House executive director.

which will include dedicated rooms for child care, adult education, second-language classes and support services.

