

Brunch returns to Piper's Alley

Art in the Park to be biggest

Starting Sunday, Piper's Alley Troy will be back in the brunch business.

The Sunday brunch, which had closed down for the summer, is back, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For Sunday football fans, Piper's Alley offers a Football Troy to the Silverdome and back for all Detroit Lions home games. The ticket includes the game, transportation and refreshments on the bus. The bus leaves about 11:45 a.m. for the 1 p.m. game.

Over lunch recently, Piper's Alley owner Michael Kuckelman talked about the new season of food and enter-



Ethel Simmons

tainment at his spot that has become a mainstay in the three and one-half years since it opened. Kuckelman, a 30-year resident of Birmingham, slipped Perrier and lime and recommended the day's menu feature of a tuna and noodle casserole. All the dishes, from soups to desserts, are made fresh at Piper's Alley, he said.

A LIGHT EATER, he suggested splitting a good-sized casserole of the tuna dish. Following a salad, it proved to be quite right for two, especially when you want to sample his dessert suggestion — a huge portion of banana walnut cake.

On with the days of the week — Piper's Alley gets Monday night football fans away from the television set by presenting Pieskin Jazz.

The Monday substitute for passive TV viewing gives the Piper's Alley crowd a pleasant earful of music by pianist Doug Brown, who writes his own songs.

Monday is also Ladies Night, with dinner specials and a special cocktail, priced at \$1.25, and wine, at 75 cents, for the women who attend.

Kuckelman calls the Piper's Alley food "an affordable menu."

He's also proud of the new chef, Jerry Cardone, formerly with Schraff's (now

Alfred's) and the Bistro (now closed), both in Troy, and most recently at Mitch's.

SPECIAL ENTREES are all under \$10, except for meats, Kuckelman said. Included are sweet and sour (shrimp, chicken dishes), scallops mornay, fresh broiled whitefish and pan-fried perch.

A full range of salads and sandwiches is available, with the specialty the Middle Eastern, of fresh ground beef and condiments in blankets of pita bread.

For the first time, Piper's Alley is taking reservations.

According to Kuckelman, this is partly an effort to attract the more sophisticated diner, who may not wish to dine out without being assured of a ready table.

"We want to reach the clientele who has not gone before to Piper's Alley," he said. The restaurant and lounge has become well-known as a singles gathering spot.

Kuckelman said that oftentimes the restaurant may look jammed for dining, when it really isn't, the hubbub being focused around the SRO cocktail bar just inside the entrance.

bering when you're looking for a place to stop late at night and especially on a Sunday.

The seating area has been expanded to 220. And a band area has been added, with jazz Saturdays and Sundays. The jazz-funk Charles Green Band is the house band playing two years at Piper's Alley, Saturday nights.

On Sept. 21, the Progressive Blues Band plays. The weekend of Sept. 28-29 will have a special attraction, Alexander Zonje, bringing his band from Windsor. Zonje is heard on flute and guitar.

A new sound system installed in late spring "has added good sound dimension," Kuckelman said.

Piper's Alley Troy has an inviting decor with colorful Tiffany-style glass, lots of greenery, dim lighting and a high ceiling with painted, exposed pipes and ducts.

KUCKELMAN WILL open another Piper's Alley in Warren, across from the GM Tech Center, in October. "I've got my first (outdoor) sign. It's a lot of fun. I can't get a sign out here," he said.

Piper's Alley Troy may be a little hard to find, for the uninitiated. The city of Troy won't permit anything other than a signature sign outdoors for the restaurant, located at 3270 W. Big Beaver near Coolidge, inside the Sheffield Office Park structure.

Common Ground's Art in the Park will return to downtown Birmingham's Shain Park on Sept. 27-28, with the largest and most diverse show in the event's six-year history.

This year's fair will exhibit the original works of 125 artists from Michigan, 11 other states and Canada. Displays will cover painting, ceramics, sculpture, jewelry, photography, weaving, batik, stained glass, soft sculpture and wooden toys.

Participating artists were hand-picked in May from among 500 applications. The selection was made by a jury of experts and was based on the professionalism and creativity of the individual artist's work.

Serving on this year's jury are: Marsha Miro, art writer from the Detroit Free Press; Aris Koutoulis, painter and instructor at Detroit's

Center for Creative Studies; and Robert Piepenburg, Ann Arbor sculptor. In addition to artists' exhibits, Art in the Park will also offer a sampling of the performing and gastronomic arts as well as participative arts and crafts for children.

Entertainment, located at the center of Shain Park throughout the two-day event, will feature mime, jazz, folk and pop music.

The children's art area will provide supervised art crafts for the young set, including face painting, finger painting and wood blocks.

An array of colorful food booths will offer an international menu: Middle Eastern lamb dishes, Mexican tacos, Italian sausage, plus hot dogs and lemondade, doughnuts and cider and fresh fruit and yogurt.

Blues artists play music

The power and poetry of the blues in its many shades will be played this weekend on the Detroit riverfront with the Fourth Annual Detroit Blues Festival.

Sponsored by the Detroit Blues Club, the Detroit Blues Festival features dozens of blues artists from Detroit and Chicago. Starting at noon Friday and continuing through Sunday night, blues singers and musicians such as Bobo Jenkins, the Detroit Blues Band, the Progressive Blues Band, Little Sonny, Washboard Willie, Kim Weston, Eddie Burns and Chicago Pete offer the blues at all three stages of the Hart Plaza.

The music is free and various ethnic foods will be sold in the underground restaurants.

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"REVENGE OF THE PINK PANTHER" (PG)
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