

Musicafe is coming to Hills

Nino Cutraro is bringing a new Metropolitan Musicafe restaurant to the Arboretum Office Park in Farmington Hills.

Cutraro's third metro Detroit restaurant will be in a new building to be erected this summer in the Arboretum Office Park on 12 Mile and 1-490. Cutraro said he looked at a number of locations in the area for the new venture, but none measured up to the Arboretum.

"I consider that stretch of 12 Mile Road the diamond corridor of Oakland County," he said. "It offers unlimited opportunities for the future."

The construction of the building is already under way, according to a

joint announcement by Cutraro and Peter Burton, an Arboretum Properties partner.

Cutraro, the Sicilian-born entrepreneur-owner of the Taboo nightclub in downtown Detroit's Warehouse District and the Metropolitan Musicafe in Royal Oak, hopes to launch his newest venture — Metropolitan Musicafe of Farmington Hills — before winter.

The Metropolitan Musicafe of Farmington Hills will follow Cutraro's Royal Oak restaurant in style and operation. The interior decor will be based on the rock 'n' roll memorabilia that has become Cutraro's trademark. Cutraro will offer recorded and live evening entertain-

ment featuring rock 'n' roll, jazz, top 40s hits and music from the '60s and '70s.

In addition to the musical menu, the restaurant will serve lunches and dinners seven days a week. Operating hours will be from 11 a.m. to 3 a.m.

The restaurant will be housed in a 8,900-square-foot building between and connected to Phase I and Phase III in the sprawling office complex. Cutraro said he plans to offer outdoor musical entertainment, including local live talent, in an exterior courtyard immediately adjacent to the Musicafe.

Based on his operations in Detroit (1985) and Royal Oak (1988), the 35-

year-old Cutraro projects that the Metropolitan Musicafe of Farmington Hills will gross up to \$1-million in its initial year of operation. It will have a staff of about 100, most of whom will be recruited from the area.

A native of Sicily, Cutraro followed his parents to the United States in 1975 at the age of 21. His first venture into the entertainment business was a lounge called La Notte, which he ran in his uncle's Fountain View Lane, a bowling establishment in Fraser. He struck out on his own in 1984 and selected downtown Detroit as the site for the Taboo club.



Arboretum Properties' Peter Burton (left) and metro Detroit restaurateur Nino Cutraro make the joint announcement of the lease signing for the new Metropolitan Musicafe of Farmington Hills.

Boys Republic to tighten campus security

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Griffin dispelled neighborhood rumors the Boys Republic will become a maximum security facility housing young people charged with serious crimes.

Boys Republic is renovating an area to provide a reception and assessment center for incoming boys. It is beefing up security on the 40-acre grounds. Griffin said the changes should not frighten residents, but make the community feel safer because it will lessen the possibility of boys walking away from the

facility, on Nine Mile between Middlebelt and Inkster.

"This will be more secure for the community," Griffin said. "We've met with the mayor and city manager already. Everything's going fine."

A REPORT on the new assessment program states the boys will have "no access to the community... and are always under direct staff supervision."

"Both the building utilization and the program structure enhance the supervision of the boys and help

solve the past truancy problems," the report says.

Both Farmington school officials — who have staff at the facility — and Farmington Hills city officials say they are satisfied with the proposed changes.

Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said he had heard similar rumors to those related by neighbors, but, after checking on the situation, is comfortable, from a public safety standpoint, with what Boys Republic officials are planning.

"We had a meeting with their people about a month ago," he said. "They're really not changing any of their procedures, or the type of offenders they have there."

"I, as police chief, have no prob-

lem. It's always a concern, but it's nothing we can't handle."

MARY LOU Ankele, an assistant superintendent for Farmington Public Schools who oversees the education program at Boys Republic, said she was told security was being increased. She said the district had no concerns about the impact of changes on the education program.

"Along with the security issue, they're going to open an assessment and inception center," Ankele said. "We've been told they will have the same type of client as in the past."

Since September, the boys have been educated on the facility's grounds. The school program was previously in the Chawwassee Center/

School, now the Farmington Community School at Shilwassee and Tuck. A full-time Boys Republic administrator works at the school facility to aid Farmington Public Schools employees in handling discipline problems.

ACCORDING TO a site plan presented to Farmington Hills in early March, plans include security fences ranging from seven to 18 feet, security gates, and extensive repairs and renovations to living quarters at the facility.

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