

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1993

## FARMINGTON/FARMINGTON HILLS NEIGHBORHOODS

### Meeting planned

Bob Plummer of the Farmington Community Library will speak on the library's future at a meeting of the Council of Homeowner Associations at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 9, at the Hills Branch Library, on 12 Mile Road between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads.

Officers will be elected for the coming year. For information about the Council of Homeowner Associations, call Bob Bruckner at 477-5898.

### Subdivision songsters

The Kimberly subdivision, located between 11 Mile and 12 Mile roads, west of Middlebelt Road, will sponsor a karaoke — sort of a sing-along with individual performances encouraged — beginning at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 20.

"You're encouraged to get up and perform a song and dance if you have the talent," said a Kimberly resident.

There will be a charge of \$5 per person and participants should bring their own bottles. For more information — including the location of the event — call Tricia Stieber, whose number can be found in the subdivision directory.

### Send sub items

The Farmington Observer is looking for news items or newsletters from Farmington-area homeowner associations, subdivisions or neighborhood groups.

We will publish notices of upcoming events — like the meeting and karaoke mentioned above — or annual picnics, dinners, parks cleanups and other gatherings. We will also run groups' safety warnings, fund-raising efforts and more.

The news will be grouped, as space permits, into this column, which will appear monthly.

Please mail newsletters or releases to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, dropped them off at the newspaper office, or fax them to 477-9722.

If there is a timely event, please give us at least a week's notice.

Think of this space as your community bulletin board.

■ A restaurant in Detroit's Rivertown section is a real family affair for Mark Vincent. The alternative-style eatery features unusual ale, entertainment and atmosphere.

By BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

Mark Vincent thought he would brew up something to help market his Rivertown restaurant, but may have created a Transylvanian monster that's scaring up a new following.

The brew is Transylvania Ale, the restaurant is the Franklin Street Brewing Co., and Vincent, along with his sister Ginny and wife Jennifer, are finding a clientele for their alternative entertainment restaurant and bar in Detroit's Rivertown area.

"We had traveled around in Europe and liked the idea of a 'brew-pub,' the Farmington Hills resident said. "State law does not allow that kind of operation. But I said, let's build it (restaurant) around that theme."

And the restaurant is distinctly alternative. From its black and yellow interior, unusual lighting above its leather-padded pool tables, visual accents that remind one of the works of Salvador Dali, and a mural featuring a waiter who resembles a young Frank Sinatra with larger-than-life canine teeth; to its live entertainment that features alternative rock bands and dinner packages for Detroit theatergoers, "BC" has its own style.

"We all have Rumanian roots," said Vincent. "My wife actually came up with the name for the ale."

Dressed in the restaurant's distinctive logo of a dark, shadowy figure

## Ale and hearty

### Local couple operates dining alternative



SHARON LEMUEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Alternative setting: Mark and Jennifer Vincent relax in their restaurant and bar, Franklin Street Brewing Company in the Rivertown section of Detroit.

against a blue background illuminated by a full moon, the label reads "frightfully full-bodied, hauntingly mellow ale." And although Vincent could use his extensive acting background to charm all comers, he freely admits that the ale, and three other brews, were not only an attempt to complement the restaurant's entrees with a fresh, full-bodied brew, but also another way to market his two-year-old restaurant.

"That's what we had planned," he

said. "But it has been really popular, so we decided to bottle the ale."

Now available in 30 area outlets, including the Merchant of Vino, Transylvania Ale was inspired by a Czechoslovakian ale called Pilsner Urquell, and is brewed according to a special recipe through the Frankmuth Brewing Co.

"Some of the menu ties in with the beer," he said. "We serve a lot of fresh seafood and pasta. And when people taste fresh, full-bodied beer, they'll

always take it over ordinary bottled beer."

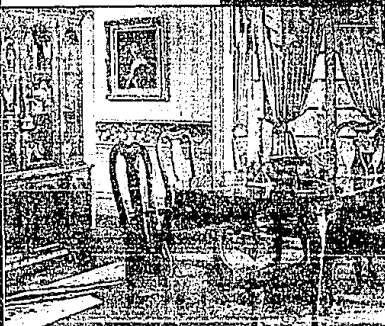
"You're only as good as your last meal," he said. "So we try to keep it interesting."

BC's menu is seasonal, and features weekly game specials, including the somewhat exotic, such as a pasta with alligator sausage. Its entertainment is, by design, alternative rock.

See ALE, 16A

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