

LET'S GO! DINING

Send items to be considered for publication to: Keely Wygonik, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or by fax (313)591-7279.

Festive events

CAFE CORTINA
Owner Rita Toron presents "Cena del Mediterraneo dinner," 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 28 at the restaurant, 30715 West 10 Mile, Farmington Hills. Coast along the Italian Riviera and enjoy seafood from Napoli, Sorrento and Amalfi. Chef Vincenzo Bassonetti who hails from this region will share many of his favorite seafood dishes. Music by Pino Marrelli. The cost is \$55 per person (not including tax or gratuity).

(810) 474-3033
ALEXANDER THE GREAT
Ribs for two \$12.95 at the restaurant, 34733 Warren, Westland. Movie and dinner packages available.
(313) 326-5410

THE ROSEWOOD TEAHOUSE
Celebrate Queen Victoria's Birthday, May 25-27, 118 W. Third Street, Rochester. Special menu in honor of the queen, door prizes, party favors.
(810) 652-3558

THE MODEL FEAST
Thursday, May 25, Morels, A Michigan Bistro (810) 642-1094, (Bingham Farms): 7 p.m. Friday & Saturday, May 26-27, Sebastian's Grill (810) 840-6625, (Troy). Cost, \$39.95 per person, wine package offered at additional cost.

FRAN O'BRIEN'S MARYLAND CRABHOUSE
Soft Shell Crabs now in season, trucked in every Monday and Thursday from the docks of the Chesapeake Bay to the restaurant at 621 South Opdyke Road, Auburn Hills. Maryland Blue crabs are coming soon.
(810) 332-7744

FISHGONE'S RHYTHM KITCHEN CAFE
Crawfish season continues to June at the restaurant in GrossePointe. A mountain of fresh crawfish is prepared at the restaurant during the season using secret recipes and special ingredients.

Menu changes

Student-run restaurants
CAFE MARQUETTE
Adult, Quinary Arts Students, William D.

Joe Muer changes restaurant name

What's in a name? Quite a bit, says restaurateur Joe Muer.

So on May 22, Joe's Bar & Grill officially became Joe Muer's Grill.

Joe Muer's Grill is at 30855 Southfield Road, south of 13 Mile Road.

When Muer opened the Southfield restaurant one year ago, he envisioned an all-American bistro with a traditional "bar and grill" menu.

What he hadn't counted on was the anticipation and expectation of customers that Joe's Bar & Grill would offer the same fresh fish and seafood made famous by the original Joe Muer's Restaurant in Detroit.

"I really thought people would be happy with a simple, all-American menu," said Muer in a press release. "It was never my intention to duplicate the Detroit location. It would be impossible to replicate its style and presence."

Responding to customers' requests, Muer has changed the menu to include many of the entree selections that are customary at the Detroit restaurant.

Preparation is identical to the downtown location save for some minor changes in style and presentation.

Gone are the non-Muer entrees like pork tenderloin and tuna marinated in hoisin and soy sauce.

The seafood dominated menu, now printed daily, offers skinless saute' perch, whitefish, live Maine lobster and clam chowder.

Muer says the new menu more accurately reflects the menu selections.

As one customer put it, "I know what to expect when I see the name Muer."

"What customers have come to expect is not in keeping with a bar and grill in the traditional sense," said partner Chick Taylor. "The name change was necessary for a variety of other reasons, not the least of which was the confusion it caused."

Taylor says the restaurant is striving for consistency in "quality food preparation and service," a characteristic he acknowledges was lacking when the restaurant first opened.

"All businesses suffer growing pains, and we were no different than any other," he said.

Cafe dishes up Middle Eastern dishes

BY SUHAN DEMAGGIO
STAFF WRITER

Tax accountant Nina Young of Canton, took a break from her busy schedule to have lunch for the second time in a week at Elie's Cafe & Fresh Juice Bar in Birmingham. She came across town to prepare taxes for the local townships.

"Elie's serves the best health food I've ever eaten," she said with a wide grin. "I'm on a diet and they get an A-plus for helping me forget that fact! I eat here whenever I'm in Birmingham."

Young was ready to rattle off a list of her favorite entrees, but decided there were too many to enumerate.

"Just try the string beans in tomato sauce with rice," she said. "And if you like rice pudding, Elie's tops all."

Another lunch diner Tom Barnes of Troy recommended the Aspen Burger.

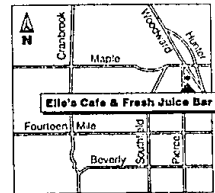
"I'm a vegetarian," he said. "And there's a lot of meat-free dishes to choose from here. The 'burger' is made from squash, eggplant, tomato, parsley and potato then charbroiled and served on a big bun with onion. It comes with soup for \$5.95."

Elie's Cafe & Fresh Juice Bar is celebrating its second year at 263 Pierce Street serving Middle Eastern, (specifically Lebanese) specialties. Husband and wife Elie and Tracy Mondalek of Troy, own and operate the eatery. Elie serves as chef, bringing years of experience from other restaurants to his first dining room.

"We've been trying to get a liquor license which we believe would really boost business," Tracy explained. "But for now, customers must be content with Elie's Energizing Elixirs or a fresh fruit or vegetable juice. People all over the country are celebrating Middle Eastern fare these days because it is so natural, fresh and low in fats."



A place of their own: Elie and Tracy Mondalek pose in their Birmingham cafe where they prepare and serve middle-eastern specialties for lunch and dinner.



Elie's Cafe & Fresh Juice Bar
263 Pierce Street, Birmingham
Phone: (810) 647-2420
Atmosphere: Casual. Busy at lunch.
Hours: Lunch and dinner served 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Sunday. May close some Sundays for private parties and banquets.
Menu: Middle-Eastern dishes. Daily specials. Fresh vegetable and fruit juices.
Prices: Moderate. Specialty drinks \$2.95.

can also order apple, carrot or orange juice — straight.

The restaurant likes to cater small affairs and acquires a temporary license to service alcohol at private parties and showers. When the weather warms, sidewalk dining will be added so customers can enjoy the bustling city scape out the front door.

"We hope to do a little remodeling to add a retail counter for food products to go," Tracy said. "But right now we're still building our customer base and working toward becoming the best that we can be."

Elie's Cafe is an immaculate restaurant with an attentive and knowledgeable waitstaff. Both tables and booths are available to diners as well as counter seating at the juice bar.

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