

# DINING

## Bangkok Express serves Thai with smiles

BY SANDRA DALKA-PRYBSY  
Special Writer

It's one of the customer's birthday at the Bangkok Express. Out comes the keyboard and Adirek Chandruang, who with his wife Lawan, owns this small Thai restaurant in Southfield. The diner is then treated to a very pleasant rendition of "Happy Birthday."

Singing to customers (birthdays not required), friendly greetings and inquiries and lots of smiles are included in the usual fine services offered in this establishment.

"I love people and always have," said Adirek, who is a former top entertainer in his native Thailand. He makes periodic trips back to his homeland to sing for charity events.

"Being able to be around people in one of the reasons that I enjoy the restaurant business so much," he said adding that it was Lawan's idea to open Bangkok Express two years ago. "She, too, is a people person, as well as a good cook."

Lawan has worked for other restaurants, as has Adirek, for a number of years. "I feel confident that we could do well in this business," she said.

**BANGKOK EXPRESS**  
29702 Southfield Road, Southfield (in the Southfield Plaza), (810) 557-0993.

Hours: Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sundays 3-8 p.m.

Atmosphere: Casual, mainly booths with a few large tables. Carry-outs available.  
Menu: Thai food. Vegetarian dishes available.  
Priced: Moderate. Entrees range from \$4.50 to \$9.95.  
Credit Cards: Visa, MasterCard, Diner's Club

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And the Chandruangs are succeeding. Bangkok Express has a large number of regular customers (both those who eat in and those who take out), as well as new admirers daily. They are drawn by the wide variety of good Thai food (customers request the degree of spice from mild to extra hot) at reasonable prices.

Most of the lunch dishes are in the \$4-\$5 range and include the soup of the day. The thick Hot and Sour soup is especially good. Dinners are also reasonable ranging from \$5.95-\$8.95. The

more expensive selections are dishes made of seafood, including Spicy Kona Fish, made with catfish and served with fresh hot pepper and eggplant in a spicy sauce, and seafood combinations, which contain shrimp, squid, mussels, scallops, and fish stir-fried with bamboo shoots, broccoli, carrots, mushrooms, pea pods, baby corn and napa in a light, spicy sauce.

One of my favorite entrees is Pad Thai, a stir-fried dish of rice noodles with bean sprouts, egg and green onion topped with

chopped peanuts. This dish can be made with chicken, beef, pork or shrimp, or added vegetables.

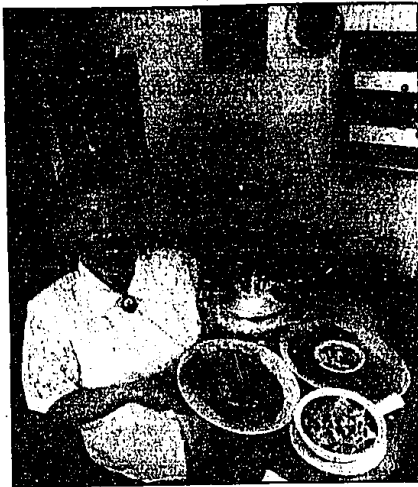
Satay Gai, grilled chicken on skewers served with peanut sauce and cucumber salad is also a popular dish. Spring rolls are filled with chicken, cabbage and other vegetables. They're made continuously throughout the day.

Try the curry puffs — egg dough wrappers filled with potatoes, onions, chicken and curry powder.

While the food is extremely tasty at Bangkok Express, most of it is also light and nutritious. In fact, Bangkok Express was recently named to the "Honor Roll of Healthful Restaurants" by the Oakland Heart Health Coalition.

"Our desire is to continue to offer customers the best Thai food in the area," said Lawan. "And, I plan to continue to serve the customers with that's what they want," said Adirek.

Send recommendations for restaurants to feature on the Dining page to: Keely Wagonik, Entertainment Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. To send a fax, call (313) 691-7299.



JERRY ZALYNSKY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

House specials: Lawan Chandruang in the dining room at Bangkok Express with some of the dishes that have made the restaurant so popular.

### RESTAURANT SPECIALS

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

**ON THE MENU!**  
Mt. B's Roadhouse  
Longest continuous bar in Oakland County  
6751 S. Dixie Highway, Clarkston.  
Open 7 days a week. Kitchen hours are 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 1:15 a.m. Friday & Saturday.  
Seats 280, full menu with daily specials. Add menu and great dessert selection. Ten big screen TVs, 14 27-inch TVs, four electronic dart boards, 1500 area for children of all ages. Extensive wine list, 40 different bottled beers, micro brews, live

entertainment 10 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Wednesday-Sunday.  
(810) 625-6886

East Side Mario's  
Gonic Festival through Jan. 21. Seven new genre-enhanced menu items will be offered, and Gino Winey's new Turning Leaf Food Now and Charonway will also be available. Gonic Festival entrees start at under \$8. East Side Mario's serves lunch and dinner seven-days-a-week from its Rochester Hills and Livonia locations.

Oceania Inn  
In the Meadow Brook Village Mall, corner of Warton & Adams, Rochester Hills, now serving Dan Sam, fresh seafood, including live lobster.  
(810) 378-8396

Stage & Co.  
Restaurant at 6873 Orchard Lake Road (between 14 and 15 Mile Roads) in West Bloomfield is now offering a late night menu in addition to its regular fare. Owner Steve Goldberg is encouraging patrons to enjoy a special pre-dinner exercise or work to enjoy specialty pre-dinner favorites including fish, chicken, sandwiches, soups, salads, desserts, coffees and more. Stage & Co. is open everyday except Monday.  
(810) 668-4422

Papazzis Ristorante  
Tableside cooking available 5-10 p.m. Saturdays at Papazzis Ristorante, 6023 Orchard Lake Road, 1/2 mile north of Maple on the east side of the street, in the Sugar Tree Shopping Plaza, West Bloomfield. James Moore, formerly the maître d' of the Fitz Carrion grill, puts romance back into dining as he cooks from a special menu and takes special requests for entrees, desserts and coffees.  
(810) 668-3993

manager Theo Oresky will be your culinary tour guide. Call for reservations.  
(616) 330-7337

**LIQUOR RESTAURANT CORPORATION**  
Seafood Feast Jan. 17 at Tristoria Buschetta, (810) 305-5210. Jan. 18 at Morita, (810) 642-1094, and Jan. 20 at Sebastian's (810) 642-6625. Call for details.  
(313) 462-4469

**WINTER GETAWAY**  
Gourmet dinner at Schoolcraft College, 15000 Haggerty Road (between Six and Seven Mile Roads) Livonia, featuring roast prime rib, dancing to the Johnny Trudell Orchestra, 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19. Cost \$37.50 per person. Call for reservations.  
(313) 462-4417

**SCHEHLER'S RESTAURANT & PUB**  
Brewmaster's Dinner, 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 20, 115 S. Eagle St., Marshall. Evening will feature six microbrew beers with full course gourmet meal. Cost \$35 per person, includes all beers, dinner, tax and gratuity. Call for reservations.  
(616) 701-0602

**College**

**DINNER BUFFET**  
Wagonik Center, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. International Dinner Buffet, two seatings, 8 and 9 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 17. Middle European; Jan. 24. Asian; Jan. 31. Italian. Cost is \$16.95. Reservations recommended.  
(313) 462-4469

**AMERICAN HARVEST RESTAURANT**  
Waterman Center, Schoolcraft College, opens for lunch Thursday, Jan. 11. Open noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. Call for reservations.  
(313) 462-4468

**Just opened**

**SWEET DREAMS COFFEE HOUSE**  
In the Bloomfield Plaza at Telegraph and Maple Roads, Bloomfield Hills. Hours are 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 7 a.m. to midnight, Friday-Saturday; 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday. Seats 90 patrons, offers wide variety of specialty coffees, non-coffee drinks, desserts, sandwiches, and breakfast treats prepared by co-owners Sam and Michel Deber.  
(810) 737-8900

## Modern Rock Cafe hosts benefit

Modern Rock Cafe in downtown Walled Lake is hosting a benefit dinner dance 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 30 for Barbara Thompson of Walled Lake who is suffering from life-threatening cancer while raising an eight-year-old daughter. The black-tie optional fund-raiser will include dinner from Heavenly Gourmet of Northville, champagne, wine, beer, and soft drinks, and dancing to the Dick Murphy Orchestra. Tickets

are \$50 per person. Call event organizer, Roger Marley, owner of the Walled Lake Hungry Howie's Pizzeria, (810) 624-6456 for tickets and information.

Thompson has accrued enormous hospital bills while being treated for breast cancer, and is undergoing severe radiation treatment for cancer which has developed in yet another part of her body.

Donations to help the family can also be sent to the B.M. Fund, c/o the Walled Lake Masonic Lodge, 374 West Walled Lake Drive, Walled Lake, MI 48390.

The Modern Rock Cafe is at 1270 N. Pontiac Trail (between South Commerce and Decker Road), (810) 624-0120.

**Mr. Z's STEAK HOUSE 537-5600**  
27321 Five Mile Rd. (Corner of Inker)

**January Special**  
Beat The Deep Freeze  
- Join The Fun -  
Entertainment Nightly  
Early Bird Dinners 4:30-6:00 pm  
Wednesday is Pasta Day  
All Pasta Dishes Are 1/2 Off

**COUPON**  
\$5.00 OFF ENTREE  
with purchase of dinner of equal or greater value  
DINNER ONLY - AFTER 3 p.m.  
Valid only on dine-in orders

DENNIS CHARLES & FLASHBACK - Thurs, Fri & Sat.  
PSYCHICS - Mon, Tue & Wed. • BILL KAHLER - Mon. • Wed. • KARAOKE - Wed.

**MITCH HOUSEY'S**  
Open 11 A.M. Businessmen's Lunches DINNERS from \$6.95

FASHION SHOW Thursday Starting at Noon

WORLD'S FINEST PRIME RIB with bone in! Includes horseradish, au jus, potato, green beans, and bread. \$10.95

NOW APPEARING...LIVE THE SHOWCASEMEN WEDNESDAY thru SATURDAY COCKTAIL HOUR MON. THRU FRI. 4-7 P.M. DAILY NOW BOOKING BANQUETS (small or large)

28500 Schoolcraft • Opposite Labrosse DRUG • LIVONIA  
425-5520

**Demetrio's**  
All ALMAANSOOP former head chef of Lella's, now head chef at Demetrio's

Breakfast \$2.69 Lunch \$3.49 Dinner \$4.99  
2 eggs, sausage, bacon, toast and home fries. The entree includes soup & homemade roll. The entree includes soup or salad, homemade roll & coffee.

Where you'll find good wholesome food at good prices!  
Hours: Mon-Sat 8am-10pm Sun 7am-9pm  
33200 Grand River, Farmington 810 476-3301

**GRAND OPENING - PEKING GARDEN 北京園**

15% OFF Carry Out Dinners  
10% OFF Dine In Dinners  
Luncheon Specials 7 days a week

Please present coupon expires 2/8/96  
Mon-Thurs 11-10:30 p.m. • Fri-Sat 11-11 p.m. • Sunday 12 noon - 10 p.m.  
**(810) 353-7890**  
Northwestern Hwy. just S. of Inker Rd., in Applegate Square, Southfield

**Buddy's PIZZA**

STOP BY after THE PLYMOUTH FESTIVAL

LIVONIA 23005 Plymouth Pk. (West of Farmington Rd.) (313) 261-3550

Other Buddy's Locations  
Farmington Center of Farmington (313) 688-8888  
Royal Oak 2800 E. Grand (313) 585-8888  
Bloomfield Hills 24368 Grand River (313) 557-1480

Bring this ad in for... \$2 Off Any Large Pizza or Large Antipasto or Large Greek Salad

**DON PEDROS**

24368 Grand River (at Middle W. of Telegraph) OPEN 7 DAYS 537-1480

**THE LUSH ROOMS!**

Thursday, March 7 at 8:00pm  
Southfield Civic Center Pavilion  
26000 Evergreen at Civic Center Dr. (10 1/2 Mile Rd.)

Cash bar & refreshments will be available  
Tickets: Section A-\$20/Seniors \$18 Section B-\$18/Seniors \$16

Tickets on sale at Southfield Centre for the Arts, 24350 Southfield Road Southfield, MI 48075 (810)424-9022 (810)424-9043

Coming In June The Glenn Miller Orchestra

**Kyoto JAPANESE STEAK HOUSE**

DINNER FOR TWO \$19.96

Hibachi Biriola or Chicken Dinner, your choice includes entree, shrimp appetizer, rice, salad, soup, vegetable, and tea. Offer good for dinner only now until 1-31-96 excluding Saturday night. Not valid with any other promotions. Tax & gratuity are not included.

FARMINGTON HILLS (Across from Novi Hilton) 348-7900  
TROY (West Big Beaver Road) 649-6340  
DEARBORN (At Fairlane Center) 593-3200