

Liquor license boost for cafe

BY WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Now while you look over the menu at the Cafe Oliverio on Middlebelt, you can have a cocktail.

The Farmington Hills City Council granted a request to change the restaurant's liquor license to allow it to serve liquor as well as beer and wine.

Restaurant co-owners Tom Timmons and Arthur Oliverio had thought a tavern license would be adequate, but found that when they changed the restaurant's theme and made it more specialized, customers wanted more drink options.

"Many of our customers are businessmen who have clients to entertain," Timmons said. "And our Christmas bookings suffered when people found out there was only beer and wine."

Timmons and Oliverio found that the previous owners (the Peacock Restaurant) had tried to obtain a Class C license. But concerns about customers drink-

ing and then driving at a location across from Mercy High School had raised concerns in 1992. That application was rejected.

The new owners met with Mercy Principal Sister Regina Marie Doelker, who in turn met with the Mercy board.

"Our concern was for the safety of our students," Doelker said. "They had agreed to serve from the kitchen, not from a bar along with other safeguards. And they also promised to make sure if it (restaurant) goes to someone else, they would take care of us."

Doelker met with Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer and talked with state Liquor Control Commission officials and reported to the Mercy board that approved the license change.

"I would never have assumed hard alcohol would affect the business," said Oliverio. "We're really here out of necessity."

Hills City Attorney John Donohue said although the agreement between Mercy and the



STAFF PHOTO BY BRADON LAURETZ

Good business: Arthur Oliverio is happy with the decision by the Farmington Hills City Council to change the liquor license for the Oliverio Cafe.

restaurant about how alcohol would be sold has no legal authority, Mercy's approval of the change was necessary,

because the state requires it of any school or church property within 500 feet. "It's not a condition the city

could enforce," Donohue said. Doelker said the school wants to see the business succeed. "We don't want to make it

more difficult for them," she said. "I really trust that they are going to do what they've said."

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BUSINESS MILESTONES

This column highlights promotions, transfers, hirings and other key personnel moves with Farmington-area connections. Send a brief biographical summary, including the towns of residency and employment and a black-and-white photo, if desired, to: Business Editor, Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335. The Observer's fax number is 1-810-477-9722.

MEICHU BAU KELLY and SYLVIA AMAKER of Farmington Hills were recognized for their outstanding guest service at Hudson's through its Service Star program.

Service stars are chosen by store management and recognize team members who are respected by their peers and consistently demonstrate excellent customer service behavior and attitude.

Comprehensive Obstetrics and Gynecology, an affiliate of Botsford General Hospital, announces the addition of obstetrician/gynecologist **DEIRDRE WICKHAM, D.O.**, to their practice.

She is a member of the American Osteopathic Association, Michigan Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, and the Oakland County Osteopathic Association.

DANIEL SANDBERG of Farmington Hills, has been named vice president - International operations, general counsel and secretary of Hayes Wheels International, Inc., assuming responsibility for all of the company's international joint ventures in which it does not have a majority holding or management control.

In addition, Sandberg will coordinate marketing and development of sales to the company's joint ventures and its North American operations from automobile manufacturers headquartered outside the United States.

BILL CAMPBELL of Farmington Hills has joined the commercial brokerage division of Tricerio Tosto Colliers International, Michigan's leading full-service commercial/industrial real estate firm, as a sales associate.

SUDHA RUDRARAJU, of Farmington Hills has joined the Pediatrics staff at Henry Ford Medical Center in Allen Park.

GRACE & WILD Digital Studios was called on by Advertising Agency J. Walter Thompson to edit a two-part video program shown at the Beijing Auto Show. JWT client Ford Motor Company commissioned the video, after the automaker was invited to give a presentation to the Ministry of Machinery and Industry, a government agency in China.

Grace & Wild also provided post production services for similar Ford presentations shown at the Shanghai Auto Show and the Tokyo Auto Show.