

Zia's from page A1

The restaurant opened for business on Dec. 10. Several would-be customers came in during the lunch hour only to find that this is one restaurant not interested, for now, in the mid-day meal business.

"We really are geared for families and large groups to come for dinner," said Wright, who has been in the restaurant business for 25 years.

Zia's takes reservations and has tables for two and four. But it also caters to the walk-in trade and is designed for those celebrating wedding rehearsals and showers, family get-togethers, bar mitzvahs and holiday celebrations.

Wright said although there are already several fine Italian restaurants in town, Zia's will fit in, especially for families. The motto is "Where we make

you feel like family."

Chef Kevin Okuszka is serious about food, but the restaurant doesn't take itself too seriously.

The company still operates a successful D. Dennison's at the Laurel Park Mall as well as Real Seafood in Ann Arbor.

"Change is good," said Wright of the switch to an Italian restaurant.

For the uninitiated, southern Italian cuisine uses more tomato sauce and lighter sauces than the northern cuisine, which uses more cream-based sauces.

The restaurant's signature dish is Zia's Osso Bucco, a slow roasted veal shank for \$28.95. But the dish isn't made for the petite appetite and Wright says the usual practice is to spread out a few entrees, pasta dishes

and appetizers over a large group.

Appetizers and salads include pomodoro salad at \$7.95 and fried calamari at \$8.95. Pastas can be ordered in small portions, such as spaghetti marinara for \$8.95, linguine in clam sauce (red or white) for \$10.95. There is a complete menu, wine list and bar service as well.

The music is upbeat and so is the service, Wright said.

We like larger groups of 17-20 people," he said. "And we send everyone out the door with a *saccho*."

Saccho means sack (to take away what you don't finish). Zia is Italian for aunt.

"That's what we want you to feel like," Wright said, "like you're at your aunt's house."



STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LENTINI

Old world style: Corey Wright shows off the interior of Zia's, complete with the accordion that, so far, only one customer has picked up to play.

Tree from page A1

girl responded when people mention she'd lost her hair. No, she said; it was in a plastic bag in her dresser.

Erin visited her grandparents in July where she made one more trip across the street.

So, to look out their window and see the empty park where their granddaughter lived a part of her life so buoyantly would normally serve as a painful reminder. A sapling within view of their home offers solace and hope during what will be a difficult holiday period.

"We can't watch Erin grow," Teresa said, "but we can watch her tree grow and remember her every time we look at it."

A tree was planted in Erin's honor as part of the Farmington Beautification Commission's new tree remembrance program. Hers was the first ceremony to take place.

On Nov. 29, Erin's parents Jeanette and Kevin Briggs joined other family and city officials for the tree planting observance.

"This, our first Remembrance Tree, will always be special," commission chairwoman Rosemary Fitzpatrick said during the ceremony.

The dedication took place after Thanksgiving when all Erin's family could be together.

"(The ceremony) was the beginning of the healing process for us," said Teresa, who is a secretary at Longacre Elementary. "It's the start of something positive after going through a lot of negative things for the past year and a half."

Erin's brave fight against terminal illness continues to inspire others.

Longacre Elementary third graders are raising money to pay for a bronze plaque that will accompany the tree.

Kids are passing around decorated cans in classrooms seeking donations. Last school year, Longacre children raised more than \$1,700 to help defray costs for Erin's parents to stay at Ronald McDonald House near Duke University Hospital during the girl's bone marrow transplant. A Boy Scout pack at the school also decorated a Christmas tree with dollar bills and donated them to Erin.

"They've been wonderful," Teresa said. "There are days where there are hard times, but there's always a smile, a hug or a shoulder to lean on. "Without them, I don't know how we'd make it."

Parental rights policy set

By LARRY PALADINO
STAFF WRITER

Southfield's board of education is poised to adopt a policy on parental rights, after a few modifications are made to the wording presented at the December meeting.

The policy will clarify what parents and guardians may do in the schools, such as reviewing curriculum, textbooks and teaching materials, and visiting to observe instruction.

"It is the policy of the Southfield Board of Education to view parents/guardians as collaborators," the tentative policy says, in part.

"The district encourages and promotes the participation of parents in their child's education while ensuring a positive educational setting for all students. Parental involvement in the learning process includes expressed access to classroom information and activities."

Following study sessions, the board proposed a specific policy as to be in accordance with sections of the revised state school code and to follow goals in the district's mis-

sion statement.

A first reading of the two-page policy, written by the administration, with some wording by board secretary Ann Dillon, was introduced at the Dec. 10 meeting.

The board turned to trustee Bill Seikaly, an attorney, for his opinion of the wording.

"I like the parental rights proposal and I think it meets the statute," he said. "But I don't think it should be limited to parents. It should be a parent/citizen proposal." However, he said visitation priorities should go to parents.

Trustee Walter Johnson said perhaps the word "families" might be used instead of "parents," seeing as there often are extended families in which grandparents, older sisters and brothers, or even aunts and uncles essentially act as parents in some households.

Dillon suggested that information to clarify who would be covered by the policy could be included in a paragraph near the end of the document. The board will likely vote on a final version at its meeting Jan. 14.

Murder sentence meted out today; 2nd trial to come

There will be little suspense for convicted murderer Arthur Hollingsworth Cayce this morning when Judge Barry Howard sentences him.

Cayce, 24, was found guilty Dec. 6 of first-degree murder in the deaths of Melissa and Louise Bovair, who died in a fire at their Quail Hollow Street home Dec. 18-19, 1995.

"This sentencing is definitely going on Monday (at 10:30 a.m. in Oakland Circuit Court)," said Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Lisa Madzia. "Joe (Bovair) is lying in for that."

Joe Bovair, a career U.S. Air Force enlisted man, is the brother and son of the victims and is stationed in Tacoma, Wash.

Madzia said she expects to begin prosecuting the other defendant, George Tyrone Davis, 24, of Westland at the end of January. Davis is accused of helping Cayce in the murder, robbery and arson.

Cayce is also scheduled for trial in January on rape charges involving his former girlfriend who testified against him in the murder trial. Madzia will also prosecute that case, if it goes to trial.

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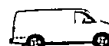
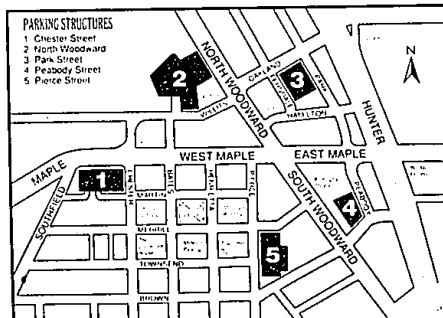
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