

All welcomed:  
Copper Creek  
Restaurant  
and Golf  
Course in  
Farmington  
Hills is not a  
private club  
but one open  
to the public.  
The eatery is  
open year-  
round and  
offers  
entertainment,  
including jazz.

STAFF PHOTO BY  
DEAN MCGILL



## Restaurant seeks links to the public



BY VIVIAN DEGAN  
STAFF WRITER

Patrons don't need to whisper a password, know a special knock for the door or present a laminated membership card. Copper Creek Restaurant and Golf Course in Farmington Hills is not a private club.

"One of the difficulties we have here is that we are perceived as a private club," said John Rugani, Copper Creek restaurant general manager.

It may look like a private club tucked next to DNR wetlands in the protected quiet, and set in front of the Copper Creek subdivision, but the 9-hole course is public, and the restaurant is not just for golfers.

The restaurant bears all the hallmarks associated with elegant fine dining typically found at private clubs, though.

The dining room is decorated in contemporary eggshell marble, accented with rich forest green and unusual imported woods, and captures a soft elegance. And with Copper

Creek's crisp service, classic menu, and a dining room full of business-types during lunch, one might guess the dress code is uppity.

Guess again.

The dress code, akin to most finer restaurants these days, is '90s casual, which translates as optional coat-and-tie.

Rugani, formerly of the Fox and Hounds restaurant and of the Muer Corporation, says it this way, "Even on Saturday night, dress code is becoming more relaxed. Colored-shirts for gentlemen are required, which can include golf shirts."

"Yes, you will also see sports coats, suits-and-ties, and evening dresses because people are always celebrating a special occasion, but in general, people today are looking for a fine dinner in a nice atmosphere without all the fuss," Rugani said.

Summer brings another invitation to Rugani's full-menu, lunch or dinner on the patio overlooking the ninth green.

The menu lists slow-roasted prime rib on Friday "Big Saut," he said. "They wear red choices for steak, seafood, chicken and veal

every night. House favorites include Twin Filets Del Mar, two four-ounce filets topped with shrimp and crab draped with Bearnaise Sauce, Planked Atlantic Salmon, and Broiled Whitefish. Dessert offerings include homemade chocolate mousse, cheesecakes and carrot cake.

While the bottom line for any restaurant is the food, and Copper Creek delivers the goods, there are three more incentives to sample Copper Creek atmosphere.

Entertainment: The piano bar features Tom Altenburg Wednesday through Saturday evenings, and Marvin Kahn, alto clarinetist, leads an acoustic jazz trio on Tuesday nights.

The ladies room: Eclectic marble and oriental at eye level, but look up to planets in space.

The golf course: Open for the eighth season, the course, pro-shop and lower level grill remain open for the season.

Copper Creek restaurant, open year-round for the second year, is on north 12 Mile Rd. between Halsted and Haggerty. For reservations call (248) 489-1777.

## Oak Park man charged in Hills armed robbery

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

An Oak Park man charged with holding up a Farmington Hills office worker at gunpoint during her lunch hour is a suspect in similar armed robberies in the area, Farmington Hills police said.

Casselle Leroy Nettles, 26, was arraigned on one count of armed robbery before 47th District Court Judge Fred Harris Thursday. A not-guilty plea was entered in his behalf. He's being held in Oakland County Jail in lieu of \$15,000 corporate surety bond. A preliminary exam is set for 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 3, before Judge Harris. Conviction could bring a felony sentence of up to 15 years in prison.

Oak Park police said they arrested Nettles for fleeing and eluding after they tried to stop the vehicle he was in for allegedly changing lanes without signaling. Farmington Hills police had the man under surveillance after a detective linked him to the lunch-hour robbery through a vehicle description and a partial plate number, said Farmington Hills commander Chuck Nebus. "The detective (Matt Koehn) took a partial plate and vehicle description from two different robberies and he played with the computer until he received a combination of numbers that matched the vehicle," said Nebus.

Nettles was charged in Farmington Hills after the lunch-hour hold-up victim identified him. In that incident on Aug. 4, an office worker was robbed while eating lunch inside her car in a parking lot on Northwestern Highway and Middlebelt Road. The robber pointed a silver semiautomatic pistol at her head through the rolled-down car window and demanded her purse. After getting the woman's purse, which contained \$20 to \$30, the gunman walked away, Nebus said.

■ 'The detective (Matt Koehn) took a partial plate and vehicle description from two different robberies and he played with the computer until he received a combination of numbers that matched the vehicle.'

Chuck Nebus  
—Hills police commander

Nettles remains a suspect in another Farmington Hills parking lot hold-up Aug. 2 but no charges have been filed yet in that case. A couple — a man, 84, and his wife, 83 — were robbed of \$130 cash outside the Hallmark card store at Middlebelt and 11 Mile. "We have presented the information to the prosecutor and he could still be charged in that case," Nebus said.

A break in the case came from a similar robbery in Bloomfield Township Aug. 5. Two women, including one from Farmington Hills, were robbed at gunpoint in a parking lot on Telegraph near Square Lake roads.

Police were able to get a description of the vehicle the robber used to flee in. Bloomfield Township police are seeking warrants in that case. From a partial plate and vehicle description, Farmington Hills police were led to an Oak Park address.

Nettles, driving a 1993 Grand Prix, was later arrested for fleeing and eluding after allegedly leading Oak Park police on a chase on westbound Nine Mile and the Southfield Service Drive. Oak Park police discontinued the chase, but Hills undercover officers later found the vehicle parked at a Detroit address.

Detroit police arrested Nettles outside a party store on Livernois and Puritan, Nebus said.

## West Bloomfield, Hills plan meeting to discuss roadways

BY GREG KOWALSKI  
STAFF WRITER

With nearly \$200 million in development being planned for the intersection of Orchard Lake, Northwestern Highway and 14 Mile, officials of West Bloomfield and Farmington Hills said they need to talk.

"Because we share the same boundaries, it's a real good idea to communicate with one another," said West Bloomfield Supervisor Jeddy Hood.

"This is a good opportunity for that," said Farmington Hills City Manager Dan Hobbs.

The meeting is planned for 5:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 6 in West Bloomfield Town Hall. Although discussion will not be limited to the Orchard Lake-14 Mile development proposals, they will stand high on the agenda.

A 53-acre parcel on the northwest corner of Orchard Lake and 14 Mile in West Bloomfield is set to be developed into houses and businesses. And the area between Orchard Lake and Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills will be the site of a major redevelopment including a Super Kmart store.

Both projects are expected to cause a large increase in traffic at the intersection shared by the two communities.

Hood said the meeting will be informal but will give the township board and city council a chance to share their "philosophies on development."

"We see this as an opportunity to see that what will happen will be first class," Hobbs said. "This is not a meeting to decide the development but to talk about how the two jurisdictions will work. This is a substantive issue. We need to be committed to doing it right."

West Bloomfield and Farmington Hills in the past have been at odds over road development affecting both communities.

Several years ago West Bloomfield and Farmington Hills officials had a public hearing to discuss roads.

"The majority of people who participated were from Farmington Hills," West Bloomfield trustee Raymond Holland said. And they favored a project to widen Maple, which is West Bloomfield, but

resisted a proposal to widen 14 Mile, which borders both communities but is under the jurisdiction of Farmington Hills.

That has been somewhat of a sore point among West Bloomfield officials.

"In time we will widen Maple," Holland said. But that won't alleviate all the traffic problems because a traffic jam on Maple will spill over onto 14 Mile, he said.

Holland also was not too keen on proposals to widen just the intersections along 14 Mile. "But that's not," he said. "They widened Maple at Farmington and it makes it easy to turn right but as soon as you get past the intersection you get back to two lanes."

However, Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi was not too receptive about widening 14 Mile.

"If any road is to be widened, it would be 15 Mile (Maple)," Vagnozzi said. Much of 14 Mile is bordered by residential areas, he said.

At the upcoming meeting, however, Vagnozzi said the focus will be on traffic problems at Orchard Lake and 14 Mile.

"We're looking to see if anything can be done to alleviate the traffic problems," Vagnozzi said.

Both communities view the intersection as a "gateway."

"I also would like to see a joint effort to approach the Legislature to do something about our roads," Vagnozzi said.

Beyond that, Vagnozzi said he hopes the two communities will continue to hold joint meetings, possibly on an annual basis.

"Hopefully this is the beginning of more unity," Vagnozzi said.

West Bloomfield trustee Deborah Macon said she thought the joint meeting was a good idea.

"It's an opportunity for us to look at how we will relate to one another," Macon said.

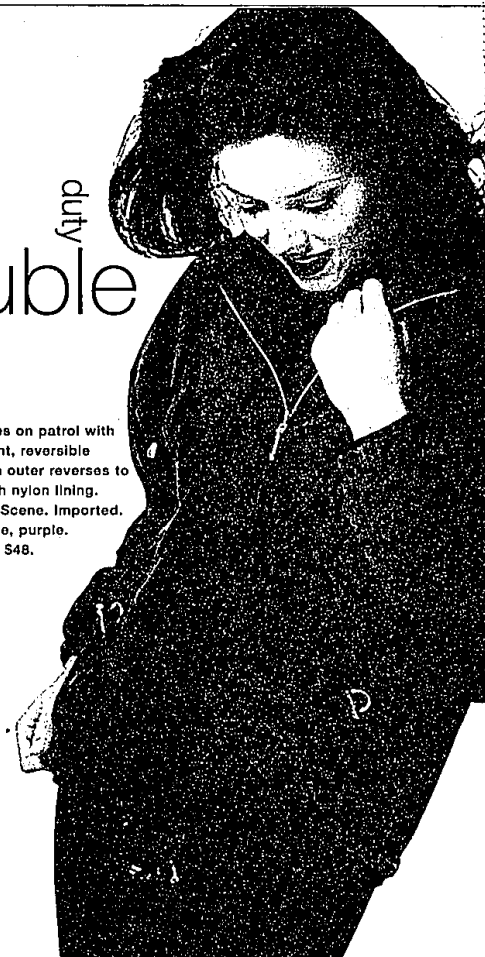
"Intergovernmental cooperation is very high on my priority list," Macon said.

Working with the League of Women Voters, Macon has had much experience dealing with area communities, she said.

"For me this is a natural," she said.

duty  
double

Versatility goes on patrol with this lightweight, reversible jacket. Cotton outer reverses to dyed-to-match nylon lining. From Current Scene. Imported. Teal, chocolate, purple. Sizes S, M, L, S48. Accessories.



**Jacobson's**  
Birmingham (248) 644-6900  
Livonia (313) 691-7696  
Rochester (248) 651-6000

### RECREATION NEWS

Each week the Recreation Division of the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services presents a synopsis of upcoming activities. For further information regarding programs, contact the recreation office at 473-9570.

#### RECREATION EQUIPMENT RENTALS

An assortment of recreation equipment is ready for your picnic, party or special event. Equipment is available until September. A separate \$20 deposit is required. Equipment

available for rental are picnic packs, volleyball sets, tug-of-war rope, parachute, baseball set and dunk tank. Reservations must be made in advance by calling 473-9570.

#### OPEN GYM OFFERINGS

The William Costick Activities Center gym is open, with locker rooms and showers available. Please bring correct change and locks for lockers. Days and hours are:

■ Thursday - Adult Basketball — 7-9 p.m.

■ Sunday - Adult Basketball — 9-11 a.m.; Adult Volleyball — 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; and Teen Basketball — 1-3 p.m.

The fee for two-hour session residents is \$2 for 17 and under, and \$3 for 18 and over. Fee is \$2 more for non-residents.

#### OPEN SKATE

The Farmington Hills Ice Arena offers open skating year-round. Fee is \$3 for Farmington Hills residents and \$5 for non-residents. Skate rental is \$2 per person. For specific days and hours call 473-9800.