



Pour woman: Kathy Glowacki pours a cold one at Bamboozles on Eight Mile east of Farmington Road, which formerly operated as Clancy's Bar and Grill.

## Bar 'bamboozled' back to life

*Eight Mile haunt thrives under new ownership*

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Bamboozles owners viewed the chance of taking over a familiar — but tired — Farmington Hills establishment as akin to a fumble on the opponent's 10-yard line: They pounced on it.

Their restaurant bar on the northside of Eight Mile, between Farmington and Orchard Lake, previously prospered under the moniker of Clancy's Bar and Grill. After the owner died, though, business dwindled to the point where the operation was in receivership.

Bill Farwell and Vince Spica, who have 50 years of restaurant experience between them, stepped in six months ago and renamed the place Bamboozles after its two other drinking

establishments in Warren and Dearborn.

"We used to drive by and see the place. We said this would be a good spot to have a business," said Spica, who is a Livonia Bentley High graduate. "When it became open, we jumped on it."

Since taking the reins, Bamboozles has been rejuvenated into bustling place at lunch and dinner time. The bar has the best of both worlds to draw from: A thriving industrial and small business district on a major boulevard as well as vibrant neighborhoods.

During lunch hour, men in sport coats and ties mix with blue collar workers. Couples fill the place in the evening.

"You need something at night because of the businesses closes around 5 and 6 o'clock," Farwell said.

Farwell perhaps knows his clientele better than most: He lives only a few blocks away in Livonia. He also operates Farwell and Friends Restaurant and Lounge on Middlebelt in Westland.

Such proximity provides an insight for customer's tastes. For instance, the owners thought they'd go for a pub feel but found patrons were yearning for

steaks, seafood and other major restaurant fare.

Farwell tapped one of his chefs and some wait staff at his Westland restaurant to join him at Bamboozles.

Meanwhile, Spica proceeded with interior and exterior improvements, which included replacing the furniture and roof and repaving the place's ample parking lot.

"Bill is more the back of the house guy; I'm more of a front of the house guy," Spica said.

The only homage to Clancy's is the weathered Irish tri-color flag flying out front. Yet the interior with its wood paneling and ambient lighting maintains a cozy, lived-in atmosphere associated with Emerald Isle pub.

With a big screen television that drops down, Bamboozles can metamorphose from a restaurant into a sport bar for a football or hockey game. For tipplers, Bamboozles offers 33 imported and domestic beers.

As for diners, there's daily specials and home cooked meals. A new menu will be debuting within a couple of weeks, Farwell said.

As for their goal to return the place to its past glory, "we're over the hump," Farwell said.

## Hills man charged in attack on nephew

BY MATT JACHIMAN  
STAFF WRITER

A 51-year-old man was charged this week with attempted murder in what police say was an apparently unprovoked crowbar attack on his nephew in Livonia Sunday evening.

The 25-year-old victim told police he was able to get away from his uncle, but not before being struck several times at his house on Mallory. He suffered wounds to his face and fingers, according to a Livonia Police Department report, and was treated at St. Mary Hospital.

The suspect, William James Murray of Farmington Hills, was arraigned Monday before 16th District Court Magistrate Dennis Epler on one count of assault with intent to commit murder.

He stood mute, and Epler entered a not-guilty plea for him. If convicted, Murray faces a sentence of up to life in prison.

Murray was being held in the Wayne County Jail on a \$500,000 cash or surety bond earlier this week. He is scheduled for a Tuesday preliminary hearing in district court.

The incident began as the victim sat in a second-floor office, police said. He felt something strike his head, he told police,

and looked up to see his uncle with what he thought was a hammer.

The man continued to strike him, he said, but he was able to break free and run downstairs, outside and to a neighbor's house. He had been hit in the head five times, he told police.

His mother told police she was watching television on the first floor and heard commotion, but didn't know what was happening until her son ran out.

Murray was arrested minutes later at the corner of Mallory and Levan after police stopped the Mercury Cougar he was driving. He had blood on his tennis shoes and blue jeans, police said. Police found a gray-and-black crowbar, just over 11 inches long, in the car. Beige tape on one end appeared to have blood on it, police said.

In a written statement, Murray said he was mad because his nephew wouldn't give him a videotape. He said he was sorry for the assault and wouldn't do it again.

The victim was taken by ambulance to the hospital, where he was treated in the emergency room and released. He was to have surgery at Harper Hospital earlier this week for a broken pinkie finger.

## Thieves target Ford Probes in rash of car air bag heists

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Automobile air bag thieves believe they have a better idea, judging by a rash of thefts from Ford Probes in Farmington Hills.

Since Jan. 29, air bags have been stolen after six Ford Probes were broken into. Thieves burglarized vehicles parked at Gateway and Strawberry Lane apartments and Farmington Square condominiums Sunday night.

Police urge people to park in well-lit areas or in garage to deter thefts.

"Air bag theft has been a major problem in the metro area; it's not just Farmington Hills, it's everywhere," said Tim Swanson, Farmington Hills

police sergeant.

Thieves sell the air bags to unscrupulous parts suppliers who, in turn, unload them to repair facilities, which bill insurance companies for replacement. The average air bag runs \$750, Swanson said.

Bandits didn't limit their take to air bags Sunday night. A cellular phone and dome light were also stolen after entry was made through a locked door on a 1996 Ford Probe parked at Strawberry Lane Apartments. A 1994 Probe was also broken into and its air bag stolen at the complex.

A wallet and gold chain, as well as an air bag, were stolen from a 1994 Ford Probe parked at Farmington Square Condos on 12 Mile between Feb. 1-2.

## Class tackles fishy topic of setting up aquariums

Don't put your fish by your stereo.

No, that's not a new country western song. It's sage advice from Joe Derek, instructor of the Schoolcraft College course The Successful Home Aquarium.

Derek, who serves as a naturalist for the city of Farmington Hills, said most people set up an aquarium because watching fish is a peaceful, tranquil activity in this busy, bustling world.

"I find myself just looking at my 12 fish," said Derek, the city naturalist for Farmington Hills. "You often see aquariums in psychologists' or doctors' offices."

Water conducts sound and putting an aquarium near stereo or television speakers, in a room where children are noisy or boisterous, or near a banging door will result in mighty unhappy fish.

"To have a successful aquarium, you must have some education," Derek said. "I began offering these classes because I would see people get fish, and sell off their equipment a few weeks later because something had gone wrong."

"If you learn the right way to do it, keeping an aquarium is much easier than people think." The aquarium class will be offered at 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 28. Derek will discuss types of fish, aquarium size, food, breeding, live plants and salt water. The fee is \$32.

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