

DINING

Buddy's works hard to be good, consistently

By KEELY WYGNIK
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It's hard to believe you could make a good thing better, but they have at Buddy's, which is synonymous in metro Detroit with good pizza.

"We haven't changed things that much, we've added," said company president Robert Jacobs of West Bloomfield. "The dough formula is the same. What we've done more than anything is added taste."

Celebrating 63 years of service this year, Buddy's opened on 1936 on the corner of Six Mile and Conant in Detroit. In 1946, the owners decided to add a deep-dish, Sicilian-style pizza to the menu.

Over the years, Buddy's has introduced pizza fans to new varieties. Fifteen years ago the Hawaiian pizza — cheese, ham, pineapple, sweet and sour sauce — didn't sell well. Now, it's on the menu.

"Ten years ago no one would have ordered broccoli on a pizza," said Wes Pikula of Bloomfield Township, vice president of operations. Vegetarian pizza is much more in vogue now.

Sandwiches and pasta were added to the restaurant menu, along with ribs which are offered as a special. "We're very concerned about quality," said Pikula. "We try to be consistent, and test items before we add them to our menu."

"The customer makes the final decision," said Jacobs.

Hands down, everyone's favorite Buddy's pizza is topped with pepperoni, mushrooms, ham, onions and green pepper.

For starters, choose from a veggie sampler of button mushrooms, sliced zucchini chips or

Buddy's
Menu: Appetizers, soup, fresh salads, pizza, burgers, sandwiches, homemade pasta.
For parties: Dine-in or take-out party menu available. Take-out party planning menu features soups, choice of homemade pasta sauce, party salad and pasta trays.

Cost: Salads, available in individual, medium and family size portions, \$3.49 to \$8.99; sandwiches \$3.99 to \$5.79; pizza \$5.99 to \$14.99; pasta \$6.49 to \$7.99.
Gift certificates: Available for purchase
Credit cards: All majors accepted

Metro Detroit Restaurant Locations

■ **Dearborn** — 22148 Michigan Ave., west of Southfield freeway, (313) 562-5900. Open: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday; 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday; noon to 10 p.m. Sunday.

■ **Detroit** — 17125 Conant, corner of East McNichols, (313) 892-9001. Open: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to 11 a.m. Friday-Saturday; noon to 9 p.m. Sunday.

■ **Farmington Hills** — 31646 Northwestern Highway, west of Middlebelt, (248) 855-4600. Carry-out hours: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday; noon to 11 p.m. Saturday; noon to 10 p.m. Sunday. Dining room open: 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday; noon to 11 p.m. Saturday; noon to 10 p.m. Sunday.

■ **Livonia** — 33605 Plymouth Road, between Farmington and Stark roads, (734) 261-3550. Open: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to midnight Friday; noon to 10 p.m. Sunday.

■ **Warren** — 8100 Old 13 Mile Road, corner of Van Dyke, (810) 574-9200. Open: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday; noon to 11 p.m. Saturday; noon to 10 p.m. Sunday.

■ **Auburn Hills** — 2612 N. Squirrel Road at Walton Blvd., (248) 276-9040. Open: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday; noon to 11 p.m. Saturday; noon to 10 p.m. Sunday.

Take-Out Locations

■ **Bloomfield** — 3637 Maple Road, at 15 Mile and Lahser roads, (248) 645-0300. Open: 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday-Saturday; noon to 9 p.m. Sunday.

■ **Royal Oak** — 32218 N. Woodward Ave., six blocks north of 13 Mile Road, (248) 549-8000. Open: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Friday; noon to 9 p.m. Saturday; 3-9 p.m. Sunday.

cauliflower florets, minestrone or cream of broccoli soup.
Fresh salads include Buddy's popular antipasto and Greek, garden and Caesar salads.

If you're not hungry for pizza, choose from one of the many sandwich choices including burg-

ers, meatball, honey-dijon chicken, or a tuna, turkey or veggie pizza.

Buddy's award-winning pizza comes in two sizes — four squares or eight — with your choice of toppings.

For something different, try



Pizza is their specialty: Matthew Heckert, kitchen manager (left), Wes Pikula, vice president operations, Robert Jacobs, president, and Patty Fox, manager, present two of the specialty pizzas you'll find on the menu at the Buddy's Restaurant Pizzeria in Livonia.

one of the specialty pizzas such as Gourmet Vegetarian topped with cheese, cauliflower, mushrooms, broccoli, carrots and tomatoes; BBQ Chicken Pizza, cheese, barbecue sauce, chicken, red onions and cilantro, or Hawaiian, cheese, pineapple, sweet and sour sauce.

Homemade pasta is another delicious way to satisfy your appetite, choose from spaghetti,

Baked Vegetable Manicotti, Ultimate Macaroni & Cheese, mostaccioli, ravioli, baked lasagna or baked spinach lasagna. Baked Chicken Parmesan, served on top of spaghetti, is also on the menu. Be sure to ask about the daily specials.

Besides serving good food, Buddy's makes it a priority to give back to the communities it serves.

For the past 22 years, Buddy's has also been a supporter of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit. Jacobs has served on the board of the Hunger Action Coalition and Michigan Committee for World Food Day.

Buddy's secret to success is really no secret at all — they offer consistently good products, and stay in touch with customer tastes.

WHAT'S COOKING

Send items for consideration in *What's Cooking* to Keely Wygnik, Entertainment Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. To fax, (734) 591-7279 or e-mail kwygnik@oe.hometown.com.

What's Cooking includes listings of new restaurants, special dinners, menu changes, restaurant anniversaries and renovations.

■ **Cooking and dining at The Lark**, 6430 Farmington Road, north of Maple Road, West Bloomfield, with Chef Marcus Haight, coffee served 10:45 a.m., class begins 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 18 or Sept. 25. Cost is \$75 per person, class size limited to 16. Call Marcus or Susan Haight, (248) 334-2197 to reserve your spot.

Menu features Italian veal

dumpling with lemons and sage sauce, salad of Michigan tomatoes, red onions with Buffalo Mozzarella, tarragon dressing, three-berry granite, fire-grilled marinated lamb chops with Balsamic vinegar sauce, Flageolet beans, whole roasted pineapple with rum, buttermilk cake, Guernsey vanilla ice cream, coffee or tea.

■ **Schoolcraft College** — Sample dishes from more than 60 metro Detroit restaurants and food distributors 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26 during Culinary Extravaganza, in the Waterman Center on the Schoolcraft College campus, 18600 Haggerty Road, between Six and Seven Mile roads, west of I-275. Tickets are \$40 per person or \$75 for two. Call (734) 462-4417. Event proceeds help pay for scholarships for Schoolcraft College students. During the

event, Master Sommelier Madeleine Triffon of Unique Restaurant Corp. will present a wine seminar, matching wines to the foods from selected restaurants. A live auction will feature packages designed to pamper and delight lucky bidders. Packages include a gourmet dinner for eight in your home, prepared by a Schoolcraft chef, and weekend getaway to Pelee Island with wine tour and tasting, dinner and hotel for four.

■ **The Lark**, 6430 Farmington Road, north of Maple Road, West Bloomfield, (248) 661-4466, Franco-Chinese dinner 7 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, Sept. 27-28. Cost \$55 per person, not including other beverages such as

wine, tax or gratuity. A wine bouquet will be available at moderate cost. Last date for cancellation is Saturday, Sept. 18.

Menu includes spring roll, lobster consommé with lobster wontons, hard-cooked quail egg and julienne of spinach, salt-baked soft-shell crab with fried leeks, ginger-sauternes sauce, Mandarin orange granite, The French Consul's Cantonese roast duck, beggar's noodles, sauté of snow peas, water chestnuts, asparagus with carrots with julienne ham, ginger creme brulee, Chinese lemon tart, Oolong tea, almond cookies.

■ **Wine Tasting event** — Presented by R&L Associates of Walled Lake with Bogey's Bar

& Grille, 142 E. Walled Lake Dr., 7-10 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 30. Wines from 8 different regions with appetizers to match. Semi-formal attire. Tickets \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Call (248) 669-1441 or (248) 926-1820. Proceeds benefit the University of Michigan Medical Center Trauma Burn Center.

■ **Fusion** — 34555 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, between Farmington and Drake Roads (248) 489-8852, Spanish wine tasting, 6:30-9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 30, cost \$45 per person. Along with co-sponsors WDET and The Unique Restau-

rant Corporation, Merchant's Fine Wine shops will present a comprehensive tasting of Spanish wines and cherries. Chefs at Fusion will create an endless supply of authentic Mediterranean foods to pair with the wines. Space is limited. Phone Merchant's Fine Wine Royal Oak (248) 546-7770 for tickets.

■ **Two Cheers** — 27165 Sheraton Drive, Novi (248) 348-5555, 7 p.m. Tuesday, September 21, the cost is \$32 per person excluding beverage, tax and gratuity. Discover the best in macrobiotic cuisine during a five-course dinner prepared by Executive Chef Greg Upahur.

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