

Artistic flair

New eatery brushes up on Van Gogh

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
loconnor@oe.com

Vincent VanGogh was a troubled genius whose mere brush strokes made colors burst with life.

A soon-to-be opened Farmington Hills eatery pays more than faint praise to the famous Dutch painter.

VanGogh Restaurant is tentatively set to open Nov. 23 at the former Dennison's location in the Orchard 12 Plaza.

Patterned after the highly popular Mongolian style eateries — where patrons select their meats and vegetables and then watch them cooked on an open grill — this place does the deed with artistic flair.

"You're the chef du jour," said Bill Gitre, Van Gogh partner owner. "You're the creator of the meal."

Instead of the usual plastic trays, customers will carry paint palettes, seeking the primary colors — the meats — and the highlights — the sauces — while

the grill becomes their canvas.

Meats will include beef, poultry and fish while there are 28-30 varieties of vegetables.

A multitude of sauces go from standard soy and Worcester to exotic house blends, which will enable patrons to script their meal from Asian, European to Tex Mex. Lunch is expected to run \$7-\$9 while dinner is all you can eat at \$12.99.

Gitre and his partners, Duane and Thomas Gmerek, own Roosevelt's in the same center on Orchard Lake and 12 Mile. Like their bar and restaurant which has a "Teddy" era wood paneled saloon atmosphere, theme was imperative with this new venture.

They brainstormed. The process of selecting and designing a meal required an artist's creativity, they figured.

VanGogh's name came up, but they thought people would assume theirs was an Italian eatery. They settled on VanGogh.

"We researched VanGogh

extensively," Gitre said. "He was a very fluid painter and very fun and colorful."

"We thought it would be a great match, not only with the concept, but with the design of the place."

Patrons will be greeted by a 6-foot by 8-foot self portrait of the painter. His "A Starry Night" piece is incorporated above the grill in brown and copper tones while his sunflowers are featured as upside down umbrella light covers.

The floor is beset with paint splatters to enhance the authenticity of an artist's studio.

A designer is still busy trying to recapture VanGogh's "Cafe Terrace at Night" in mural form on the north wall. Katherine Larson of Ann Arbor-based Diva Designs calls the task "a bit daunting."

"VanGogh was a very serious person. He was driven and he was neurotic," Larson said. "He was what you'd call today as being manic depressive."

"But he also had a fun side. We wanted to express his fun side."

Larson also painted the self-portrait as well as his "Fields of Iris," which will be featured on one of the walls. The beauty of VanGogh's work is his masterful use of colors, Larson said.

"There's a glow to it. It looks as if light is coming from it," she said.

In the Cafe Terrace piece, VanGogh used blues, greens and other hues — except the expected brown — to depict the cobblestone floor.

Larson fashioned the interior with jewel-tone colors, providing different lights and shades to contrast the variety of meals created in one setting.

"I haven't gone crazy yet. That's good sign," Larson said. "There's no urge to cut off my ear."



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREHLER

Palette: Artist Katherine Larson works on a mural at Van Gogh's.

You're invited to participate

The public is invited to attend "Family Forum: What Do We Tell the Children?" at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18, at the Farmington First United Methodist Church, 33112 Grand River.

The forum will feature two speakers, Judy White, assistant superintendent for instructional services at Farmington Public Schools, and Dr. William Rowell of the Psychological Institute of Michigan. They will talk about the impact that today's images — through the media — of violence have on children, said Ken Korte, a member of the church's Council of Ministers.

Following the talks, Korte will open up the program to the public to discuss what parents tell their children when they listen to news stories about the Clinton scandal, death, guns, promiscuity, adultery and abuse, for example.

"I'm not coming at this from a right-wing approach," Korte said. "I come from a straightforward approach."

Earlier this year, the church hosted a similar forum on violence with children and in schools.

If you plan to attend the forum, let the church know for attendance, 474-6573.

We do
all the
hard work
around
your
house.
Really.



It's new. It's easy. It's online. And it's worry-free, guaranteed.

We're On Hand, your personal home-management service delivered securely via the Internet. And we're a company of people dedicated to providing you and your family with worry-free living.

On Hand is a whole new way to maintain your home.

Wave good-bye to weekends filled with time-consuming job lists and errands. Just assemble your to-do list, and we'll complete it promptly and professionally. We guarantee it — unconditionally. And it costs you nothing to join On Hand. We'll even bill all your services to one credit card when we're through.

Special offer

Order one of our helpful services and enjoy one hour of ServiceTech handyman help free — that's a \$40 value! Our ServiceTechs do everything from fix-up inside and outside your home to clearing, cleaning, paint touch-up, and more. No job is too small!

Let us erase your to-do list today. Sound good?
Call Lisa Caleca at 248-735-8881.

Ready for winter?

Here are just some of the ways we can help:

- ServiceTech handyman services
- Sidewalk ice control

- Holiday lighting and decorating
- Snow removal service
- Irrigation system winterizing
- Window cleaning (indoor/outdoor)

- Carpet cleaning
- Chimney cleaning
- Furnace tune-up and duct cleaning
- Winter garage cleaning

On Hand Network

You've got a lot of free time coming your way.

www.onhandnetwork.com

Farmington Observer

(USPS 187-540)

Published every Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric! Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009-0910. Periodical postage paid at Farmington, MI 48009-0910. Postmaster: Send address changes to Observer & Eccentric! Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009-0910. Telephone 248-1100.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Carrier Delivery	Mail Delivery
One year: \$47.40	One year: \$55.00
One year (St. Clair): \$36.00	One year (St. Clair): \$44.00
Newsstand: per copy 75¢	One year (Out of State): \$55.00
	Newsstand: \$20.00

All advertising published in the Farmington Observer is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card, copies of which are available from the advertising department, 33111 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48033 (248) 477-0010. The Farmington Observer reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer & Eccentric! Newspapers have no authority to send the newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order.

READER SERVICE

HOW TO REACH US

- Newsroom: 248-477-5430
- Newsroom fax: 248-477-9722
- Nightline/Sports: 734-953-2141
- Reader Comment Line: 734-953-2042
- Classified Advertising: 734-591-0900
- Display Advertising: 734-591-2300
- Home Delivery: 248-901-4716
- Cable TV Weekly: 734-953-2190

HOMELINE: 734-953-2020

- Open houses and new developments in your area.
- Free real estate seminar information.
- Current mortgage rates.

✓ CLASSIFIED AFTER HOURS: 734-591-0900

- Place classified ads at your convenience.

◊ CIRCULATION AFTER HOURS

Oakland County: 248-901-4716

- Request subscriptions at your convenience.

◊ O&E ON-LINE: 248-644-1100

- You can access On-Line with just about any communications software—PC or Macintosh. On-Line users can:

- Send and receive unlimited email.
- Access all features of the Internet—Telnet, Gopher, WWW and more.
- Read electronic editions of the the Observer & Eccentric! newspapers.
- Chat with users across town or across the country.

If you need help signing on to our service, just call the O & E On-Line Hotline: 734-953-2266

🖨️ PHOTO REPRINTS: 734-591-0500

- Order reprints of pictures that have been taken by our staff photographers:
- Provide the publication date, page number, and description of the picture, which must have been published within the past 6 months.
- \$20 for the first print, \$7.50 for each additional print paid in advance (check or credit card).

The Farmington Observer

SECURITY SYSTEMS
CPC
COUNCIL OF PROPERTY

MPA
MORTGAGE

SN
SUN