

## Owners have prior violations

BY TRACY BERNHARDT  
STAFF WRITER

While it's exciting to get a new niche restaurant in town, the owners have been plagued with health department violations at their other Oakland County restaurant.

The owners of Hong Hua Fine Chinese Dining also own the Jumbo Buffet in Troy, which has had health department violations for years.

Patrons have complained of cockroaches and food poisoning, according to the Oakland County Health Department's file on the buffet.

"We've had some complaints," said Environmental Health Supervisor Bill Carlson, leading through the hefty file.

But he encourages restaurant owners to give the new Hong Hua which will open on Orchard Lake Road a chance.

"With our new article four rules, there's an added level of confidence to consumers," he said.

That's the food service code that went into effect on Nov. 15, 1999. Prior to receiving a permit to operate a new food service business in Oakland County, each business applicant must have at least one

employee per site who has successfully completed a Food Service Manager Certification Program.

The program includes topics such as employee health, personal hygiene, food-borne diseases and food poisonings and safe food handling practices.

"If this business is licensed and operating, you can ensure the health department has found the place to be safe and acceptable," Carlson said. "It's certain to have a certified food service employee, who in turn will train the other employees."

To open, the restaurant must present the health department with a review for compliance with the state food code. The owners will get a letter back, including recommended changes to their plan. The owners must call the health department three to four days before they open.

"Then we'll do an inspection and everything must comply according to the plan," Carlson said.

If they comply, they can open. If they don't comply, they cannot. After they open, the health department returns within 60 days to inspect again.

## Eatery from page A1

His Jumbo Buffet has been slapped with several health violations from the Oakland County Health Department.

"We've had some complaints," said Environmental Health Supervisor Bill Carlson, leading through a hefty file. "And people have long memories. When people hear about problems, they don't forget."

But he encourages restaurant-goers to give Hong Hua a chance. "With our new article-four rules, there's an added level of confidence to consumers," he said.

What he's referring to is the food service code that went into effect on Nov. 15. Prior to receiving a permit to operate a new food service business in Oakland County, restaurants must employ at least one person per site who has completed a Food Service Manager certification program.

The program includes topics such as personal hygiene, food poisonings and safe food handling practices.

"If this business is licensed and operating, you can be assured the health department has found the place to be safe and acceptable," Carlson said. "It's certain to have a certified food service employee, who in turn will train the other employees."

Yu promised the new restaurant won't have problems. "We will keep it really clean here," he said. "It's a different

class of people we'll be serving here."

The \$11 Jumbo Buffet attracts hundreds of people a day. In February, a customer complained about a cockroach crawling across the buffet table. When the health department checked it out a few days later, inspectors couldn't find any roaches.

"We have pest control out every two weeks," Yu said. "I don't foresee the same kind of problems here. If people would like to, they can come into the kitchen and I'll show them how clean it is."

Farmington Hills City Manager Steve Brock didn't appear concerned about Jumbo Buffet's violations.

"They've got to adhere to the county's health codes," he said. "We want to give them every opportunity to be responsible. We'll rely on the county to handle that."

With about 7,000 square feet, Hong Hua has a rich, cherry-wood bar, seating for 150 with an array of booths and tables and a separate dining room for private parties. Dinners will cost from \$12-\$15.

Yu isn't certain when he'll get his liquor license. To start, hours will be 11 a.m. to midnight. "If we do good here," Yu said, "we'll definitely open new locations. That's my ultimate goal."

Plenty of wealthy and hungry people are what drew Yu to the area. "Our market analysis showed



STAFF PHOTO BY BRADLEY LEBER

**Fixing:** Bill Knapp's is being renovated to make way for Hong Hua Fine Chinese Dining.

this to be a very, very good area," he said. "Our real estate broker told us this was very good location, too, with busy Orchard Lake Road."

The location wasn't so hot for Bill Knapp's or the Old Orchard Theatre next door, which also closed. Yu's not concerned that his business will suffer the same fate.

"We're not Bill Knapp's," he said.

The family restaurant, known for catering to older patrons was there for 22 years, but toward

the end of its lease, business slowed. A restaurant spokesman said it closed because of saturation in the area, not because of its location.

The city of Farmington Hills welcomes the new business. "It's exciting to see that building turned into such a showpiece," said city Economic Development Specialist Christine Long. "An upscale Chinese restaurant will provide us with something different. Personally, I can't wait for it to open."

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2	Boosevelt Elementary School 2066 Cow Lane Road	3
3	Early Elementary School 5475 W. Maple Road	3
3	Boosevelt Elementary School 2066 Cow Lane Road	4
4	Orchard Lake Middle School 6000 Orchard Lake Road	

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For more information and an application call (248) 758-5555



## OBITUARIES

### RUTH E. BOLDA

Services for Ruth Evelyn Bolda, 82, of West Bloomfield were held May 2 at Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Calvin Reinken officiating. Burial took place at Glen Eden Memorial Park in Livonia.

Mrs. Bolda was born March 20, 1918, and died April 29 at Manor Care in West Bloomfield. She worked for Sanders Candy Makers and was a member of Calvary Lutheran Church in Lincoln Park.

She is survived by husband,

Harry children, Marjorie Austin and Bill (JoAnne) Lucas; stepchildren, Nancy (Jim) Reinhart, Gary (Sue) Bolda, Mary (Ed) Quentin and Michele Bolda; 12 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her first husband, Leroy Lucas.

### JOHN E. DEMBECKI JR.

Services for John Robert Dembecki Jr., 81, of Farmington Hills were held May 1 at Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. James Wright officiating.

Mr. Dembecki was born June 6, 1918, in Detroit and died April 28. He is survived by wife, Alexandra; son, John Alexander; and daughter Marsha (John Rennie) Steele.

### GERALD E. STURGIS

Services for Gerald Eugene Sturgis, 62, of Farmington Hills, will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, May 5 at Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills with the Rev. Benjamin Bohnsack officiating.

Mr. Sturgis was born Aug. 24,

1937 in Jackson, Mich. and died May 2 at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills. He is survived by wife, Sharon; sons, Craig (Sarah) and Shawn (Christine); brother, Richard (Peg) Latham; grandson, Brendan; mother-in-law, Florence Hobyak; and sister-in-law Elaine (Bruce) Latham.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Michael and Rose Asarian Cancer Center c/o Providence Hospital.

Arrangements made by Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.

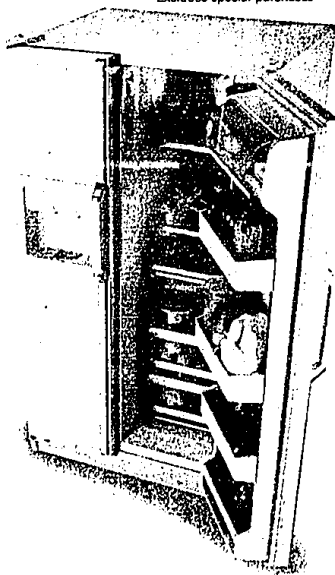
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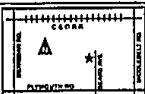
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