

Farmington man opens cafe in Garden City

BY LEANNE ROGERS
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There's a new look and a new name at the Garden City Cafe on Middlebelt north of Ford. "I was talking to friends and customers who said I should change the name. Someone proposed Garden City Cafe," said owner Tony Grabanica, who lives in Farmington with his wife Pat and two children. "That's how we ended up with that name."

Although Grabanica purchased the former Seafood Bay Restaurant four years ago, he didn't start running the restaurant, then called Vic's Diner, until August.

"I was looking for a restaurant to buy and found this one. After I bought it, I had a Coney Island restaurant for 14 months in Pontiac," said Grabanica. "Traditionally, all my life I'm running restaurants since I was 14 years old."

Originally from Kosovo, Grabanica said his family had also been in the restaurant business. He came to New York City 17 years ago and has been living in

Michigan for five years. "I came to Michigan for a big deal that didn't go through. I had lived in the New York City suburbs — the Bronx, Queens and Astoria. This was a better environment," said Grabanica. Along with the name change, the restaurant's facade has been redone with brick replacing awnings.

"After we tore down the old sign, the city stopped the job over some rules and regulations," Grabanica said. "The brick exterior is the same architecture of the downtown Garden City. We're still in the process of improvement."

Less visible to customers are other improvements such as a new heating and cooling equipment and upgrades of equipment in the kitchen.

"We are now open 24 hours a day. The menu is similar to before but we have more variety," said Grabanica. "Breakfast is the biggest seller throughout the day."

Grabanica still cooks at the restaurant as does his wife Pat,

who makes all the daily specials with an emphasis on Polish food such as kielbasa, stuffed cabbage and stuffed peppers.

"Pat deserves all the credit for the quality of the food," said Grabanica. "We've had a good response to the changes. My goal has always been to run a restaurant with a friendly environment — being close with customers so they feel like they are at home."

The restaurant is now open 24 hours a day and Grabanica said he plans to add outdoor seating next year.

Garden City Hospital offers flu vaccines

Due to the availability of additional vaccine supplies, Garden City Hospital will offering flu shots during December.

All of the shots will be administered at the Harrison Center on Harrison at Middlebelt in Garden City. They will be a \$7 charge and Medi-

care billing will be available for senior citizens.

Appointments are required and can be made by calling (734) 458-4330.

Appointments are available: 7 to 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 17; 7 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 18; and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20.

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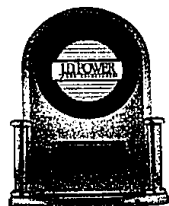
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