

Chef Russell grills at Longacre Friday

BY JONI HUBBED
STAFF WRITER

Friday evenings have become a special time at the Longacre House on Farmington Road in Farmington Hills.

The "Chef's Cookout Series" has Chef Russell Chessin grilling food for guests who pay just \$16.95 for a meal complete with appetizer, salad, vegetable, potato and entrees like T-bone steak and grilled salmon. Director Denise Thwayen came up with the idea, which she believes should appeal to a large audience.

"We tried to work on a price that was palatable," she said. "Part of the thrust was to expose the community to our food, to how wonderful it is, and while they're here, to enjoy the pleasures of the house."

Two cookouts have already been held and two remain.



Chef Russell prepares food for his Friday night Chef's Cookouts so that each dish has its own distinct flavor.

Friday, Sept. 13 and Saturday, Oct. 11, from 6 p.m.-10 p.m.

Guests sit around tables in the spacious living room or on the terrace and screened porch if the weather's nice. Chef Russell grills in the open air and enjoys the mix of people who attend.

"The first one we were outside, and it was wonderful," he said. "People were asking questions about grilling or about the menu and upcoming menus." A North Farmington High School graduate and West Bloomfield native, Chessin has been cooking for more than 20 years, starting at Langan's

Little Cesar's in Farmington Hills at 14 Mile and Northwestern. In 1977, he took on an apprenticeship at the Golden Mushroom under Certified Master Chef Miles Chelka.

Among the places he's worked are Jacques in Bingham Farms, Pernig Lakeshore, Archibald's in Birmingham and the Birmingham Athletic Club. Chessin is also involved in training new chefs. In addition to helping area high schools test their culinary arts students, he teaches at Brethaupt Career and Technical Center and an adult education class in cake decorating through Detroit Public Schools.

Chessin says the key to grilling food is not to burn it. But his claim to fame is ensuring every food has its own unique flavor.

"I think that really holds us distinct," he said. "If possible, everything is made from scratch."

He also doesn't use salt or MSG in the dishes he serves. "There's salt on the table," he said.

Reservations for the Chef's Cookout are recommended, although walk-ins are welcome. For information, call (248) 477-8404.

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North cheerleaders seek help for Citrus Bowl trip

Raider Pride rules at North Farmington High School, with the success of the cheer team at Universal Cheerleaders Association camp this past summer - success that will allow a junior varsity team trip to the Citrus Bowl in Orlando, Fla. But in order for the girls to make the trip, they've got to raise \$10,000.

According to coach Alyssa Joslin, all NFHS cheer teams did well at camp.

The freshmen won a "Superior Trophy," the junior varsity team, 1st place Dance; and the varsity team, 2nd place cheer, overall leadership award. Also, three girls won individual all-star awards.

Junior varsity parents are helping with the effort, soliciting donations from area businesses. Travel arrangements are

not included as part of a "performance package," which covers lodging, some meals and transportation in Orlando.

Each team participating will have its own air-conditioned bus to the for transportation.

The cost of that alone is \$780 per person, for a "quad" room.

From Dec. 28-Jan. 2, the girls will be involved in all-day rehearsals; however, they will get the chance to visit Walt Disney World during their stay.

Reservations and applications, with a \$150 deposit, must be submitted in mid-September. "It's really a crunch thing," said parent Steven Moss.

Moss said funds raised will be split among the families to help defray costs.

To donate, call him at (248) 489-8977 or Michael Nedelman at (248) 855-8888.

Elks host Soccer Shoot

The Farmington Elks will hold a Soccer Shoot for kids up to age 13, noon-2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21 at the Elks Lodge in Farmington Hills.

Different age divisions will compete against each other with winners advancing to the state

contest on Oct. 12 in Big Rapids.

No advance registration is required. Registration will be the day of the event. The Lodge is located at 30898 10 Mile Road, one block east of Orchard Lake. Call (248) 442-1232 for more information.

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