

WEDDINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS



Mirza-Atkinson

Mr. and Mrs. James W. Atkinson of Farmington Hills are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, James A. Atkinson to Ms. Nahrein Mirza. Ms. Mirza is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sargon Mirza of Ferndale.

The groom is a graduate of Detroit Catholic Central High School, and Madonna University. He is currently pursuing an MBA at Wayne State University.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Ferndale High School. She has a master's degree in counseling from Wayne State University. A July 2003 wedding is planned.



Bird-Bitoff

Dr. James and Linda Bird of Troy announce the engagement of their daughter, Brittany, to Alex Bitoff, son of Dr. Lou and Bonnie Bitoff of Farmington Hills.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Birmingham Groves High School and the University of Michigan. She is currently attending the University of Florida.

Her fiancé is a graduate of North Farmington High School and Madonna University. He is a captain for US Airways Express. A May, 2003 wedding is planned.



Raffle-Tsitinis

Robert and Cathy Raffle of Farmington Hills announce the marriage of their daughter, Elizabeth A. Raffle of Farmington Hills, to George Tsitinis of Boston, Mass.

The groom is the son of George and Kassandra Tsitinis of Thessaloniki, Greece.

The wedding was on Feb. 23 at St. John's Chapel in Plymouth. A reception followed at St. John's Golf and Conference Center.

The bride received an undergraduate degree from Michigan State University, and a master's degree in counseling from Wayne State University. She is employed as an admissions advisor at Baker College in Clinton Township.

The groom earned a bachelor of arts degree in computer science from Boston University. He is employed as a software developer at Compuware Corporation. The couple spent their honeymoon in Jamaica, and live in Royal Oak.

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mega-bunnies, which go for \$79.55. "I've sold two of this guy," she said, pointing to mega-bunny's little brother, who weighs in at a hefty 4-5 pounds and costs \$58.55.

A dark chocolate lover, Karen Craig of Northville has been a Kennitz customer for 20 years. She usually spends \$50-\$60 on Easter candy. "And every year it's a little bit more. I always buy a bunny or duck for everybody's baskets, and I buy the eggs. They make the best chocolate here."

George Kunz of Novi and his wife, Amy, are first-time customers. He is a chocolate lover of the first degree. "Oooh, loo, loo, loo," he said, trying to articulate his love of chocolate. If the glass counters were higher, George's nose would be pressed against them.

"These are from my childhood," he said, pointing to the row of plump, decorated eggs on the counter that come in maple nut, cream, coconut, fruit and nut, and chocolate. "They don't make them in every shop anymore."

The Kunzats left the store with a large maple cream milk-chocolate egg and a smaller chocolate one. They plan to share the eggs, which George said were "TV snacks."

Joanne Gorman, who has lived in Plymouth for 37 years and has been a Kennitz customer almost that long, is buying bunnies for her six grandchildren, who were born with dark and milk chocolate taste buds. "It turns out no one likes the white chocolate," she said.

Also, Kennitz does have a few white chocolate fans. Sharon Rucinski of Plymouth is one of them. "Oh, I love the white, but my family is all milk. That's nice because no one eats mine."

The store's big rush will come on Thursday and Friday, said Smith. She's prepared. In preparation for Easter, her staff has made 22 batches of milk chocolate and two-and-a-half batches each of dark and white. "Hmmm, think that isn't much chocolate? Well, think again. One batch of chocolate, made in those huge

professional-size vats, takes one day to make. That's a lot of bunnies and chicks.

"And then you fit the chocolate pops in between," said Smith. Kennitz should install a revolving door, especially during the week before Easter. Most customers, like Joanne Gorman, leave with a shopping bag full of chocolate. "I feel just like Peter Rabbit," she said.

Kennitz Fine Candies is located at 896 West Ann Arbor Trail, off Main Street, in Plymouth. Contact them at (734) 453-0480.



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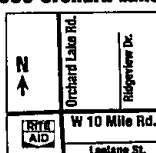
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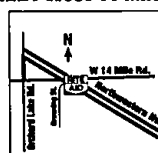
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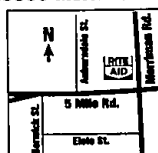
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