



ENJOYING A SIP of wine after completion of another successful wine tasting class at Schoolcraft College are instructor Torikild Neilson, general manager of Michigan Wineries Inc., James VanVuren, instructor in culinary arts, and Robert Breithaupt, director of culinary arts. The five-week course concluded with an elaborate dinner served with four wines in the Round Table Club in Plymouth. (Observer photo)

Local Highway Project Bids To Be Taken Soon

The State Highway Commission will take bids March 28 on an estimated \$14.2 million of highway construction and maintenance projects affecting local drivers.

The largest project, estimated at \$6.9 million, is for reconstruction and relocation of 2.5 miles of I-94 west of Rawsonville Rd. eastward to Borgman Rd. in Wayne County.

The 2.5 mile relocated section will be made six lanes of divided highway. The project also calls for construction of an interchange with Rawsonville Rd. at the Wayne-Washtenaw county line.

Next largest project is estimated at \$6.8 million calling for relocation of railroad facilities associated with construction of I-94 in Detroit. The work will include construction of a railroad bridge pedestrian underpass, relocation of railroad buildings and construction of a railroad service road in the C & O Railway Oak Yard just west of the Southfield Freeway in Detroit.

An estimated \$70,000 will be spent in repairs to approaches of bridges including bridges carrying I-94 westbound over Northwestern Highway, I-75 over M-150, I-75 over Livernois, both southbound and northbound I-94 over I-94, I-94 over Grand Trunk

Western and Penn Central railroads and Russel St., northbound Conner Ave. over I-94 and Eight Mile over I-75. Repairs should be completed in June.

Paving and construction of turn lanes and cross-over lanes on 3.7 miles of Northwestern Highway from its intersection with I-696 in Southfield northwest to Orchard Lake Rd. and northwest of Wood Creek Farms in Farmington is estimated at \$270,000. Completion is set for July.

Another estimated \$30,000 is earmarked for landscaping 2.2 miles of Ford Rd. from the Southfield Freeway to Oakman Blvd. in Dearborn with completion scheduled in June.

By KATHY MORAN

"A loaf of bread, a jug of wine, and thou beside me singing in the summer..."

The virtues of wine and its enhancement of life's pleasures were popular subjects in the 12th century when Persian poet Omar Khayyam wrote this familiar verse.

Today wine is growing in popularity as it did then—not in poetry but in college classes.

Whether for pure enjoyment, to learn the etiquette or to learn how to serve wine with meals, people are jamming Schoolcraft College's wine tasting class each time it is offered.

"Wine is a most popular subject," says Torikild Neilson, instructor for the non-credit course.

The Danish-born Neilson sparkles as much as his wines when talking on his favorite subject, and his personality captures his young and old students as much as the wine does.

It's a fun class to teach, he says, because attendance is no problem—students show up in full force each of the five nights.

In his heavy Danish accent, Neilson says his students find out which wines suit their tastes, learn how to read the labels and buy wine.

One student said she doesn't feel "dumb" or intimidated now when she walks into a wine shop with countless different types of wine.

"The only thing it takes for you to actually pass this course," he told his class of 40, "is for you to go out and get a corkscrow."

"People who say they don't like wine usually say that because they've had a wine that wasn't in their palate," he said.

And Neilson is just the person to acquaint newcomers

with the vast varieties of wine.

As general manager of Michigan Wineries Inc., he makes it his business to know all wines in addition to the company's Cask wines.

A resident of Farmington, Neilson is also regional director of Les Amis du Vin (Friends of Wine), an organization which gathers regularly to sample wines and learn under the guidance of national and international connoisseurs.

Besides, wine is his hobby—not just his occupation, Neilson said.

His course features four nights of wine tasting and climaxes with a six-course meal with four different wines.

Six wines are sampled at each session and usually each session is devoted to one country. Italian, French, German and American wines are tasted.

"It's not my purpose to promote any special wines, just to get people to know more about it," Neilson said. "The most important thing is to venture into it, not hesitate to try different wines."

But to fully appreciate the wine, Neilson says it's important to also enjoy its color and "bouquet" or aroma.

Wine glasses always have a stem—to prevent clouding the glass with fingerprints—and are filled just halfway to capture the aroma.

First, observe the color, Neilson recommends, usually by holding the glass against a white tablecloth. In most cases, the better quality wines have deeper and richer color.

Gently swirl the glass on the table getting air in the wine and then smell its aroma.

To taste the wine, sip it, drawing air in at the same time and "chew" it, he says. Swish the wine around in your mouth, chew it and don't be bashful about making noise.

"That's the difference be-

tween drinking and tasting the wine," Neilson said. "Your whole head fills with the wonderful sensation of flavor and taste."

Between sampling different wines, the students "clear their palates" by tasting cheeses, fruits and breads prepared by the culinary arts students.

There are three types of wines: fortified wines, such as vermouth; table wines with 12

per cent or less alcohol content; and sparkling wines, including champagne.

"There are wines for every occasion," Neilson said.

The reasons why people take his class are varied, but the conclusions are the same—they loved it.

"I've learned so much," said Sandy Fink of Dearborn Heights. "I traveled this summer in France and tasted

so many wines and decided to find out more about it."

"I didn't know anything about wine," Linda Parks said. "I found out what I like rather than going into a store blind."

"After four years of college and five years of grad school at night, I've finally taken a class I've enjoyed," Dick Zimmerman of Livonia told Neilson.

County Group Gives 2 Jobs To FitzPatrick

The chairman of the Wayne County Board of Commissioners, Robert E. FitzPatrick, has been chosen to serve on two committees established to recommend policies for the National Association of Counties (NACo) in Washington.

FitzPatrick, now serving his third consecutive term as chairman of the Wayne board, has been appointed to the NACo health steering committee, and the committee on the future. Both appointments are for one year.

The Committee on the future will focus on the involvement of counties in regional authorities such as councils of governments.

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