

New business caters to wine connoisseurs

By DIANE HUBEL
FARMINGTON—Downtown Farmington has never been known as an epicurean paradise.
Now, however, Farmington area residents with a yen for the finer things in life have at least one place they can go to meet their demands—at least they do if their demand happens to be for fine wine.
The Vintner, Farmington's only wine specialty shop, carries approximately 1,500 different types of wines from 34 different countries.
PHILIPPE POTHOFF, who owns the Vintner along with his father, Robert, hopes to eventually build the stock up to include 2,000 different types of wines.
Every week they get in approximately five or six new wines, either because customers order them or because the Pothoffs want to try them out in the store.
One brand the shop does not sell is

Gallo. The Pothoffs are participating in the grape boycott which affects Gallo products, they said.
Wine in the store varies from 89 cents to \$65 a bottle.
More care is put into the production of the more expensive wines, and they are produced on a more limited basis, Pothoff said.
"You can tell the difference right away between the expensive wines and the cheaper wines," he said. "It is just a question of whether or not that difference is worth the extra money to the individual."
ONE CUSTOMER, he found, not only was willing to pay the extra difference, but apparently thought nothing of it.
"I had these two guys come in here and buy a \$35 bottle of wine," he said. "They paid for it, left the store, opened it up and began drinking it before they even got in the car."
"Now that is weird."

Although they do keep wine charts which list the vintage years for the different brands, in the store, Pothoff prefers to ignore them.
"WE HAVE them if someone wants to use them," he said, "but I think the whole system is insane. The determination is based on the opinion of one guy or just a few people, and their opinion may not agree with the opinion of the guy drinking the wine. Just buy the kind you like, and drink it the way you like."
"We have one brand in here that is so popular we carry 16 different kinds. It's very popular, but personally I can't stand it. I can't even stand the smell of it. It is all a question of personal taste."
He said wine should be kept at a constant temperature while it is being stored.
If it gets too cold, the ingredients will break down and the sugar will crystallize, ruining the wine.

The bottles also should be stored so a little of the wine is always touching the cork. If any air gets into the bottle, it will ruin the wine. In the store many of the bottles are on display upside down, to keep the corks moist. Most of the others are tilted on the display stand so the wine always keeps the cork wet.
WINE, Pothoff claims, is a healthful drink.
"Louis Pasteur called it the healthiest food you can drink," he said. "They're using it in some hospitals now instead of tranquilizers, and many doctors prescribe it for their patients. Also the dry red wines are excellent for people on a diet, because they have so few calories."
He and his father went into the business, because they both love wines and found that the only satisfactory wine shop was on the east side. They started off slowly and gradually built their selection. They generally try to taste the wines before they buy them.
Pothoff estimates that he has tasted at least three-fourths of all the wines in the store.
They do offer advice to customers about which wine should be served with which menu. However, Pothoff said customers should never ask for

advice about wines in a store other than a wine store.
"THERE IS just so much to know, you really have to be careful. Even in a wine shop the sales people may not always know what they're talking about, but they usually know more than the average guy."
Like all businesses the Pothoffs have found that the wine business does have its ups and downs.
One of their biggest problems is cop-

ing with the rules and regulations established by the Michigan State Liquor Commission.
"That board is absolutely archaic," Pothoff said. "Most of them act as if we just left the prohibition era three weeks ago."
"Actually if I had my way, we would put a proposition on the next ballot to eliminate the commission. Every liquor store owner in the state would vote for that one."

Residents to appear

Park issue faces council

FARMINGTON HILLS—Residents in the Waldron Park area are expected to ask the Farmington Hills City Council Monday, to intensify the city's control over Waldron Park.
Residents, acting through their homeowners association, have asked for time at the Monday council meeting to explain their complaints about the park.
The council will be meeting at 8 p.m. in the municipal building.
The residents have three major complaints about the park. They think the 10 p.m. curfew is ineffective, they say young people using the park are harassing the residents, and they think the park has created a litter problem in the neighborhood.

Although the residents said they do not object to the park as such, they would like to see the city help them solve the problems.
ONE RESIDENT said the people in the neighborhood are afraid to seek publicity or call the police with complaints about the park because the people using the park retaliate by harassing their families.
One member of the association said windows have been broken in some of the homes, and added that a contractor building two homes across from the park has already lost around \$25,000 because of the vandals.
Although the police have been patrolling the area at night, the residents want the 10 p.m. curfew moved

up to an earlier time during winter.
The curfew, they said, is ineffective in the winter when the sun sets earlier than it does in the summer.
They have also charged that a majority of the picnic tables in the park have been destroyed.
MONDAY NIGHT the council will also consider whether to adopt the state building code.
It will be considered the Jaycees request for permission to set up its "Haunted house" during the last week in October, and will discuss a resolution urging parents to keep their children off the streets on devil's night.
The council will also consider adopting the city manager's new contract granting him a pay raise.

Farmington Observer & Eccentric
Published every Monday and Thursday by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48150. Second-class Postage paid at Livonia, Michigan 48151. Address all mail (subscriptions, change of address, Form 3579) to P.O. Box 2428, Livonia, Michigan 48151. Telephone 261-3300.
Co-Publishers
Henry M. Hogan, Jr. Philip H. Power
HOME DELIVERY SERVICE
Newsstand.....per copy, 15c
Carrier.....monthly, 90c

**WICKER WORLD**
Excitingly New
That describes exactly the feeling you'll get when you enter our Tel-Twelve Mall store. Completely re-decorated with new inventory and all the latest in Wicker. If the thought of something in Wicker or Rattan sparks even just a little enthusiasm, you'll be in for a treat at Wicker World. We also have a large selection of Crafts Supplies.
Don't forget to visit the Cocks Nook at the Tel-Twelve store.
28160 Telegraph Tel-Twelve Mall Southfield Michigan 48034-2015
1860 N. Telegraph 1818 S. Schoolcraft Rd. Dearborn Michigan 48124-2015

Commentary: the new direction of contemporary by Thomasville.

Those who know contemporary, look to Englander Triangle. For the look of natural superiority. For Thomasville's new "Commentary".
It has the kind of pure beauty that blends effortlessly with all eras. In the warm medium tones of pecan solids and veneers that complement today's earth colors so wonderfully. And in various sizes of dining, bedroom, and occasional pieces that adapt equally well to apartment or spacious home.
With its clean lines and sculptured framing, our talented team of designers consider "Commentary" a significant design achievement. And they'll be pleased to discuss its decorating possibilities with you, at no charge. Of course, with all your selections, there's the convenience of our extended payment plan, as well.
So come to Englander Triangle.
For new trends. Soon to be timeless.



\$295
\$549
\$385
\$255
\$265
\$419
\$119

Englander triangle
BIRMINGHAM / ROYAL OAK / NORTHLAND / EASTLAND / WESTLAND / ANN ARBOR (2333 South State Road, 1/2 mile North of Briarwood Shopping Center) / PALM BEACH (WORRELL'S)
OPEN 10 A.M. to 9 P.M. (BIRMINGHAM TUES. AND WED. UNTIL 5:30)