

Muer opens another site

Construction bids are being taken and renovation is expected to begin next week on what will become Bloomfield Charley's, a Chuck Muer tavern-restaurnt patterned after Northville Charley's.

Location will be the torn-down ravaged site of the former Ponderosa Steak House on Maple just east of Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield.

According to William Kruse of the restaurant division of the C.A. Muer Corp., construction will start Monday, Aug. 20, with renovation costs estimated at \$150,000-\$200,000. Complete renovation of the existing building is planned. He said with only the shell to remain.

Opening is scheduled for Oct. 25. "We're changing the Ponderosa look entirely," said Kruse. "We'll add landscaping and a glass-enclosed front porch with complete repainting and a new decor."

He said entrance to Bloomfield Charley's will be from the west side of the building rather than from Maple to accommodate entry into the bar area or dining room.

"The colors will be vibrant," Kruse added, "casual and comfortable."

He said the decor will feature a multiplicity of colors, wood flooring, a canopy ceiling in one area, wooden booths and colorful tablecloths.

The restaurant is expected to seat 300. Kruse said 80 persons will be hired for the operation with training of the management staff already under way at the Northville location. He said kitchen help and waitresses will also be trained at Northville.

Kruse complimented West Bloomfield Planner Frank Reynolds on being "very cooperative" and instrumental in getting township approval for the operation.

Kruse said Muer had received confirmation of a request to transfer a Class C liquor license from the former Charley's Crab on Pine Lake Road to the new location.

Charley's Crab was destroyed by fire.



Comin' through

A gaint bottom-loader earth mover levels off the clay grade on the potential I-275 southbound lane north of the Eight Mile interchange in Farmington Hills as construction crews ready the dirt base for paving which state highway officials say should be completed by next year.

OCC programs generate increasing student appeal

In 1964 a newly organized Oakland County Community College moved onto the grounds of an abandoned Army installation in Auburn Hills and established the Auburn Hills campus.

Utilizing the cement block barracks and prefabricated buildings of the old Nike missile base Auburn Hills enrolled 1,300 students in 1965. Today, through unprecedented growth the total student population has increased to more than 5,500.

Construction of modern classrooms and

new landscaping has erased most of the military atmosphere of the campus. New buildings, house laboratories, libraries and numerous training centers, creating an environment more conducive to education.

The governing body at Auburn Hills, one of OCC's four main campuses, believes that modern facilities and services are not enough and has reached out to meet the needs of its students and surrounding communities.

Located at the junction of four Oakland County communities, Avon Township, Bloomfield Township, Ferndale and Tonawanda Hills referred to as the "academy" campus, OCC students has established numerous programs tailored to various needs.

IN THE PAST, instructional programs have been provided at the Oakland County Jail, Oakland County Association of Agencies, the Postwar Office of Economic Opportunity and for Little Caesar's Enterprises.

Programs in adult education are offered dealing with almost any subject—ranging from transcendental meditation to furniture refinishing. Approximately 25 different non-credit courses are available at the main campus or the extension sites.

All programs conducted by the college, Auburn Hills is especially proud of and has had the greatest success with their vocational technical training classes.

Auburn Hills has the largest six-technic program of the four campuses and getting a job is its main emphasis, said Dr. Keith Shurt, dean of administrative services. Veterans make up the largest percentage of students involved in this program.

Although Auburn Hills enrolls only a third of the college's total number of students, it provides nearly 100 per cent of the technical training. Ninety-five per cent of the students enrolled in apprentice programs—carpenters, dry-making, pipe fitting and drafting or other related courses—attend at Auburn Hills, where as one per cent are from the Orchard Ridge campus.

Students attending apprentice programs are employed in their field relating to the additional training they are receiving from the college.

LAW ENFORCEMENT has the largest enrollment of any job-related class. It is the most popular area of study at the school. Auburn Hills has 29 different law classes.

We cannot provide enough law enforcement classes to satisfy the students. There're always the first classes filled, Dr. Shurt said.

Through different educational services, Auburn Hills has established itself as a teaching facility for business and the community.

The campus, besides serving the community, achieves its greater success by providing area students with a quality two-year degree program or useful background for continued education at a four-year institution.

Student faculty and the reactions from other schools reflects the benefits of two years at Auburn Hills.

Walsh College will only accept students in their third year of school, many of them coming from OCC. Oakland University and other four-year schools like to draw students from two-year colleges that was they get the cream, said Shurt, commenting on student recruiting at four-year schools.

DURING A BAD fiscal year, first-year students sometimes suffer from the uncertainties of unpredictable budgets at a four-year college. If funds are tight, a university may require a professor to teach basic freshman composition when his forte is the works of Chaucer. The composition class is secondary to his main objective.

The faculty's primary interest at Auburn Hills is in aiding students during their first two years of college, Shurt said. Teachers are recruited at Auburn Hills specifically to teach composition.

Dr. Shurt has taught at a four-year school in the past and believes that better teaching is found during the first two years of a community college. Auburn Hills students agree.

David Mosier, a Rochester High School graduate in his second year at Auburn Hills, feels that the campus is the most demanding of the four at OCC.

I feel the faculty here is excellent. You can interact with the instructors on a more personal basis and problems are easily resolved in the classroom, Mosier said. Class size at Auburn Hills is always under 25 students. In contrast, rooms at Oakland University can hold over 300 students.

Task force eyes facts

(Continued from Page 1A)

the board that the district form the task force. The school board unanimously approved his request and the committee members selected to study the problem.

Professor Hecker from MSU was asked to assist the group with as much to find possible long range responses to declining enrollments.

HECKER HAS worked with several other state school districts and is a member of the Michigan State Board of Education committee on declining enrollments.

Other members of the committee include four district personnel: one FEA member and five community members. They are Walter Jablonka of Forest Elementary, Robert Brown of Flower Junior High, Jerry Potter of Farmington Senior, Marj Jo Timham a Farmington Education Association representative, Richard Wallace, Lisa Young, John Washburn, Leon Eggen and Mary Lazaratou.

The blue ribbon task force's next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 14 at 8 p.m. in the Shakerware Administration Building. Concerned residents are encouraged to attend.

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