

# Marolla's, Romano's come out ahead in pizza debate

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

As the votes mounted, it became clear that the race for the honor of being named the best pizza purveyor in Farmington and Farmington Hills was going to be closer than two pepperonis huddling on a square of cheese pizza.

But on the last day of voting, when two young men brought in a stack of index cards scrawled with the name of their favorite pizza place, the Farmington Observer staff knew they had a winner.

Marolla's Pizzeria, 2407 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington, came out on top with 48 votes. Next in line is the city's sentimental favorite, Romano's Pizzeria, Grand River near Nine Mile, Farmington which prompted 12 letters from readers.

One time mentions went to Drake-shire Lanes on Grand River, Little Caesar's Pizza Treat, 23631 Farmington Road. Two readers cast their votes for Pizza Hut, 31200 Ten Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Farmington's top pizza maker gath-

ered votes by making available to his customers index cards for them to write their name and expound on their favorite pizza.

"I didn't think I'd win," said Mike Marolla, 28, owner of the pizzeria. "I thought Romano's would win. They've been here for years."

FROM INSIDE an unpretentious little shop near the corner of Ten Mile and Orchard Lake Road, Marolla turns out his pizzas and stuffed pizzas with the help of two full-time employees, Jim Heideberg and Jim MacEachern.

His method of operation depends on everyone doing all the jobs around the shop.

"Everybody does everything — from making the pizzas to delivering them," he said from behind his dark beard.

Marolla opened his shop about two years ago after resigning from Detroit's Emergency Medical Service.

A family friend, Bill DeBartola, owner of Sicilia Restaurant in Detroit, taught him to make pizza and run a restaurant while Marolla was working for EMS.

DeBartola also taught him to make stuffed pizza, an item invented at the Sicilia, according to Marolla.

Occasionally, a customer will ask for an oddball combination.

TWO OF MAROLLA'S customers enjoy pizza with cheese and tuna fish. "I only keep it on hand for them," he explained.

Anchovies are another item that would rate low on a popularity scale with Marolla's customers.

Whether they like anchovies or prefer cheese and mushrooms, customers drive from Southfield, Romulus and Novi to buy his pizza, according to Marolla.

"But they usually have big orders. Usually people will come in from the neighborhood and to Fifteen or Sixteen Mile Road," he said.

His explanation for his popularity sounds simple.

"I just buy the best. I just buy the freshest produce. I don't use dehydrated foods."

"I use my own recipe," he added.

Customers who voted in the Farmington Observer Pizza Lovers Contest

seemed to agree with him.

"It's quick as a wink and better than a woman," wrote Bill Whitney, who likes double cheese, mushrooms, green peppers, pepperoni and bacon on his pie.

"It's the best crust and sauce I've found," wrote Carolyn Adams.

"I LOVE THE cheese," said Margaret Weydemeyer. She likes any pizza as long as anchovies are kept off of it.

If Marolla's fans were vehement in their loyalty to their favorite pizza place, Romano's customers rivaled them.

In addition to writing into the contest, Romano's fans wrote love letters to their pizza place, even a poem penned by "I Want A Pizza" Parker.

"When we want a pizza

We say Romano's please

They make 'em extra yummy

With lots of extra cheese

They're even very friendly

When they're kinda mad

They stay open Monday

Just to make us glad."

While Romano's customers did send fewer letters to the Observer's Pizza Contest, they made up in erudition what they lacked in numbers.

Frank DeBenedictis' heart obviously

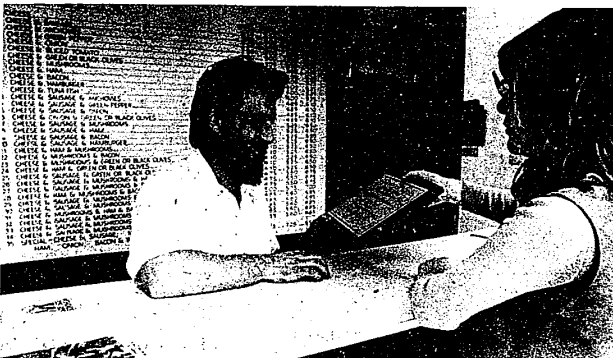
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Joe and Pat Manneno accept their best pizza maker award from Farmington Observer reporter Louise Okrutsky. The owners of Romano's Pizzeria captured second place in the contest.



Lena Russo rolls spaghetti in the back room of Romano's pizzeria. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)



Mike Marolla was the surprised winner of the first prize in the Farmington Observer Pizza Lovers Contest. Here he accepts his award from Observer staffer Louise Okrutsky.

## THE INSIDE \* ANGLE

### IT WAS ALMOST A FAMILY

AFFAIR when Cindy Addison was sworn in as a lawyer, last Friday. A clerk for Judge Margaret Schaeffer in 47th District Court for two years, Mrs. Addison was moved to Judge James Thorburn's Oakland County Circuit Courtroom. When she was sworn in by Judge Thorburn, her husband Phillip, also a lawyer, moved she be admitted to the bar and Judge Schaeffer seconded the motion. Judge Schaeffer had a sentimental reason for being there. Mrs. Addison was her first court clerk.

ANOTHER INSTALLATION occurred down at the A. T. & G. Co., Inc., of Farmington Hills. Ben V. Bonner, executive vice-president was chosen president of the National Sew Machine Products Association at the trade group's 46th annual business meeting, recently. Bonner is a member of the Detroit Gun Club, Detroit Yacht Club, Recess Club, Detroit Athletic Club, Oakland Hills Country Club and the Farmington Elks.

WEIGHT WATCHERS also picked a new officer for its Central Michigan, Eastern Michigan, Windsor, Mexico, Greater Cincinnati, northern Kentucky and southeastern Indiana staff. Aubrey Wolf has an awful lot of new territory to cover according to the Weight Watcher's announcement. A staff of 700 help him cover all that territory.

Wolf, 48, was born and raised in Detroit. He lives in Southfield with wife Iris and their three children, Hal, Arnold and Deborah.

ALTHOUGH HALLOWEEN robbed it of some of the limelight (lanternlight?) Henry Ford Hospital is still observing Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Week until Nov. 3. The heartfelt week honors the CPR method, a first aid procedure in the event of cardiac arrest. It's a combination of resuscitation and external heart massage used to help force the heart pump blood and supply oxygen to the brain.

### WATCH OUT SMALL

BUSINESSMEN. The district director of the U.S. Small Business Administration for the State of Michigan is urging small business owners and managers to be on guard against con artists who are staking or implying they are employees of the SBA, or SBA representatives and approved loan packagers.

SBA doesn't license or approve loan application packaging consultants. Con artists have charged businessmen thousands of dollars to prepare, submit and get approval of SBA loans. Then, the businessmen are told the SBA turned down the loan and their application fee is non-refundable. SBA insists that the public doesn't need that kind of help to apply for a SBA loan.

Businessmen who are approached by someone with an offer of assistance for a fee should report the incident to R. L. Harsman, district director, U.S. Small Business Administration, 515 McNamara Federal Building, 477 Michigan Ave., Detroit, 48226.

### MONEY MATTERS OF A

DIFFERENT NATURE will be the subject of a Millionaires Party presented by the Farmington Area Jaycees from 7:30 p.m. - midnight on Nov. 11 in the Farmington Community Center, 24706 Farmington Road.

For \$4 in advance or \$6 at the door, party goers will receive \$1 million in play chips. Beer and wine will be available. Door prizes will be awarded. For information call 477-3989. For all those who feel lucky, remember, there is a limit of \$500 per person on winnings. Angles is intrigued by the whole idea. It once wanted to be a riverboat gambler but discovered it became sea sick on the Bob-Lo boat.

THE BUSINESS WORLD may be a jungle but the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department will give lessons on surviving there. Mother Nature's wilderness. Starting Nov. 1 and continuing weekly until a weekend outing on Dec. 2-3, the class will meet from 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. at the Farmington Hills City Hall, 3155 Eleven Mile. There is a fee of \$49. The minimum age for registration is 14.

Coping with adverse weather conditions, equipment failure, fire building, shelter construction and the proper use of natural resources will be discussed. Outdoorsmen can call 474-6115 and ask the Parks and Rec Department for further information.

### A TIP OF THE ANGLES TOPPER

to Sheri Gilbert of Farmington Hills. The Madonna College student has been nominated to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Ms. Gilbert, a senior in Madonna's English program was selected on the basis of academic achievement, service to the community and leadership.

Whatever happened to the simple little jersey dress with all the moves?

Anjac knows.

It seems it was lost in the shuffle of pants-this and pants-that. But Anjac has saved it from extinction and given it distinction with this superbly simple cow-neck classic. Gathered for momentum, all the way down the front. And cinched with a wide suede sash. A blend of polyester and wool provides the moves; in mauve. Misses' sizes, \$74. The Woodward Shops.

hudson's

