# iging waterfront gets a fresh lease on life

By Jeanne Whittaker staff writer

FAT FIRST.

Theodore J. Moss Jr., a native New Yorker, wasn't sure that he really wanted to call Detroit home when he came here a decade ago to construct subdivisions in Oakland County. Instead, he communed between New York and Detroit while conducting business.

Now Moss is a Bloomfield Hills resident, he swears that the reclamation of the Detroit riverfront is the most exciting project anyone could possibly be part of.

Moss is a possible to

Moss is president of River Place Properties, Inc., the huge, \$200 million Stroh family-backed transformation of the old Parke Davis Company head-quarters and surrounding industrial properties into a sophisticated office, residential and retail community on the Detroit River.

He smiles when he recalls that just a decade ago, at the height of the recession, he was facing foreclosure on loans he had made to develop subdivisions in Southfield.

Southfield.

That transaction with New York's Mellon Bank, he says, resulted in Mellon hiring him to open its first real estate office here and subsequently becoming involved with River Place.
Within 12 months of the Stroh family

asking for a construction loan to renovate the property's south building into its brewery headquarters, the River Place people, made up of a number of Stroh family members, returned to discuss their plan. As Mellon's manonthe-spat Moss was soon appointed to the project Moss was soon appointed to

the-spot Moss was soon exponent the project.

RIVER PLACE is a complex of nine red brick buildings, the first built in 1973, situated on a 30-acre tract bordering the Detroit River, that is being renovated and restored under the direction of award-winning architect. Being renovated and restored under the direction of award-winning architects the restoration of Carnegie Hall. Says Moss, Peter Stroh wasn't too excited about acquiring the entire 30 acres with the purchase. But when told by Warner Lambert, owners of the property, that he couldn't buy the one building the brewery wanted for its headquarters without taking the entire package, Stroh acquiesced, then began thinking about what he would do with the rest of the acrenge.

The result, says Moss, is River Place, which he believes will be the catalyst for the restoration and redevelopment of the entire waterfront from the Ambassador Bridge to Belle Iside Bridge.

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of the building scheduled for occupance in the next year. By late spring or early summer, he says, he expects that the lower tevel will house a variety of specialty and gourmet restaurants, possibly some boutiques and shops devoted to upscale merchandisc.

moved with annualing smoothness thus far, Moss says there have been problems caused by the very nature of the plan itself.

Polshek's preservationist designs and the problem has properly and the problem has properly and the problem has problem, he says, is that passers by haven't had access to the interiors to see the wonders that Polshek has wrought. They think, he says, that they are still obbuilding, the problem has properly the problem, he says, that they are still obbuilding, the problem has properly the problem has properly the problem, he says, that they are still or the public a panoramic view upward from the floor of twin-tower atria. The building is already half filled with Strob Frewery personnel, with the remainder provide adequate access and egress

and to see that they are compatible with what the Stroh family is trying to achieve.

And, he adds, to bring suburban De-troiters downtown to the riverfront to see the marvelous thing that is happens nowhere on the organizational ring.

Another of his challenges, he says, is helping the public understand that River Place is not a brewery enterprise,

## Son joins father for candle-light services at Peace

On Christmas Eve, Prince of Peace Clutheran Church, on the control of 12 Mille and New Market roads, east of Farmington Road, will conduct two Farmington Road, will conduct two candle light Services, at 7:30 and 11 pr. 12 m. 12

## around Farmington

ONE WOMAN SHOWS
 Monday, Dec. 23: Bette Noreen exhibits her work in a one-woman show in Farmington Hills Branch Library and Gladis McMillen has a one-woman show in Farmington Branch Library. Both remain through Dec. 31.

• GED PREPARATION

Monday, Dec. 23: Registrations are taken now for persons wishing to prepare to take their CED (General Education Diploma) test from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Ten Mile Community School, 32789 10 Mile. Classes begin the week of Jan. 27: For Information, call the school, 474-5233.

POTTERY SALE
 Monday, Dec. 23: Winter sale of pottery created by Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Association (BBAA) students

### Inn staff spreads cheer

The staff of Farmington Hills Holi-day Inn will be spreading Christmas cheer via a visit to children who live in Our Lady of Providence Home, at Five Mile and Beck Road in Northville this week Their gift is a glant gift-filled stocking that will be delivered by Santa Claus and distributed by his helpers to the 96 handicapped who live in the

and faculty from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the BBAA building, 1516 S. Cranbrook Road, Birmingham.

● PALS

Monday, Dec. 23: Appointments are being taken for the screening of potentially bright 4-year-olds eligible for PALS, an enrichment program that begins Jan. 10 in Fairwew Early Child-hood Center. Appointments are made by calling the school, 626-8335.

NEW YEAR'S EVE OVERNIGHT
 Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 31 to
Jan. 1: New Year's Eve overnight party
for 5-13-year-olds in Mercy Center, 11
Mile east of Middlebelt, Fee is \$20; \$17
for each additional child in the family.
Registrations taken by calling the center, 476-8010.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY
 Tuesday, Dec. 31: New Year's Eve
dinner dance sponsored by GrovesWalker American Leaglon, from 7 p.m.
to 2 a.m. in the post home, 31775 Grand
River. Tickels are \$45 per couple. Reservations made by calling the post,
478-9174 after 2 p.m.

#### ADVENTURE GAMES

Thursday, Jan. 2: Persons interested in role-playing adventure games are invited to join the gamers 6-9 p.m. the first and third Thursdays of every mouth in Farmington Branch Library, 25500 Liberty, Beginners are welcomed. No charge.



New toys needed

After Christmas Special



MIAMI POOL & TREE CO. CONTROL OF STREET OF STREET

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER
FROM 4:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M.
Entrees: ROAST PRIME RID OF BEEF RD JUA. \$17:00

ize Broiled FileT MIGNON Stoak smothered with mushrooms. and ALASKAN KING CRAB LEGS, with too Drawn Bulled. \$17.00 \$20.00

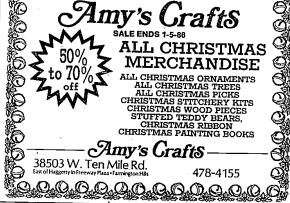




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fusic and merry-making dining and dancing — we'll ove it all at Lyonia-West Holiday inn on New Year's ve — at a special package price that'il make you ant to celebrate!

if to celebrater

Dinner for Two, featuring Prime Rib, Lobster Tall, and Shirimp & King Crab Cockfall Plus spinech salad and, for dessent Flaming Apples.

Compilmentary champagne with allinet plus a bottle per couple at Midnight party Levis and a full basket.

Ender aliment by KALEIDOSCOPE, 9pm-2am. Deluxe overnight accommodations for two.

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