

# Woman pans calls for pizza

By Amy Rosa  
staff writer

The calls started three weeks ago. Not just during the day, mind you, but late at night too. And, oh, on the weekends, it's been just unbearable.

Sometimes they say "Do you deliver?" and sometimes they just hang up. "I'm getting calls at 11 at night asking 'Do I cater?' — I mean this has got to stop," said the 50-year-old West Bloomfield homemaker whose phone number erroneously appears on a local pizzeria coupon, prompting the unwanted calls.

The woman, along with her husband, asked that her name not be used.

She said their phone number showed up by mistake on Romano's Pizzeria and Catering coupons, replacing the actual number of the franchise's Farmington Hills location at 31134 Haggerty Road. The two telephone numbers differ by only one digit.

"I DON'T MIND phone calls, but I don't like hang-ups," the wife said explaining that happens when she doesn't deliver the caller's expected greeting "Romano's." She also said she and her husband weren't getting much for their trouble.

A manager for the pizzeria known only as Kathy, admitted the blunder, and said that as soon as the mistake was discovered management stopped sending the coupons through the mail. "This is so silly, really. I mean it's just been blown way out of proportion."

"She (the wife) has given some of the employees a hard time, and it's not their fault. It's not our fault either — it's the printer's fault," the manager added, who said she didn't know who the printer was.

Calls to both of the pizzeria's owners requesting more information were not returned Friday.

"I don't call one free small pizza restitution for what we've gone through, said the husband. "Oh, I forgot," his wife added. "They threw in a tossed salad too."

Both the husband and wife say the calls have dwindled lately, most likely because of the pizzeria's new coupon just printed — this time with the correct phone numbers. However, it couldn't be determined if or how many of the erroneous coupons had been circulated.

ENOUGH HAD GOTTEN around to give the couple "eight to 12" unwanted calls a day, they said. And because the first coupons do not expire until Dec. 31, the couple worry that their phone will be ringing off the hook well into the new year.

Admitting they didn't know exactly what sort of restitution to ask for, the husband said, "I don't know, maybe they could have given us a couple of more pizzas or something."

Neither husband or wife plan to patronize the restaurant again, they said.

"Accidents happen," said the manager. "It is a very similar number."

Romano's number, by the way, is 661-2400.

## 2 Hills companies working in Texas

Representatives from 30 Michigan firms including two from Farmington Hills will visit Texas Oct. 17-19 to try and increase Michigan's share of the federal government's multi-billion dollar Department of Defense budget.

The two-day seminar, hosted by the Dallas-Fort Worth Small Business Council will consist of a

"matchmaking" mission between 10 major defense contractors from Texas and manufacturing firms from Michigan specializing in aerospace technology and defense systems.

From Farmington Hills are Allen Automated Systems and Perceptron, Inc.



The North Farmington High Marching Band marches in the Homecoming parade Oct. 8.

THOMAS ARNETT/staff photographer

## Bands perform

High school musicians from the Farmington area performed at homecoming celebrations and political rallies in the last few weeks.

On Oct. 13, the Harrison band performed at a rally for Republican vice presidential candidate Dan Quayle at the Oakland Community College-Orchard Ridge Campus.

The Saturday before, Harrison and North Farmington band members performed at their football homecoming.

This past Saturday, musicians from Farmington High played at their school's football homecoming. Stories and pictures from the school's 100th homecoming celebration will be in this Thursday's Observer.



The Harrison High Marching Band performs at Quayle's rally Oct. 10 at Oakland Community College.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Carl Larson works on a Johnson vertical grand piano built in 1921. The mechanical work on this piano is nearly done. Larson will soon begin to refinish the cabinet.

## He restores vigor to tired pianos

By Susan Buck  
staff writer

Inside a garage built to park a Model A, Carl Larson repairs and restores the pianos of yesteryear.

It seems apropos that the man who lives in a Victorian-style house on Oakland Street in Farmington should, in turn, appreciate the past and want to recreate it by renovating pianos.

Larson's self-taught hobby provides a step back in time for people who want a piano with history and character.

Four pianos sit in Larson's garage waiting to be revitalized. "They're all 75 years old or older."

AMONG THEM is a piano manufactured in 1903 by the Paul G. Moblin Co. and a 1921 piano manufactured by the Henry G. Johnson Co.

Many piano manufacturers went out of business a long time ago. Larson obtains materials from Shaft Piano Supply in Chicago and dates pianos by looking up plate or serial numbers in the Pierce Piano Atlas.

"Interestingly enough, a lot of piano parts haven't changed in the last 150 years," he said. "The piano is a modern instrument that's only about 150 years old. It was preceded by the harpsichord and clavichord. The instrument that Mozart and Beethoven

## people

played on didn't look or sound like a modern piano."

Larson, who learned to play the piano by ear at age 7, earned a bachelor of music degree from Michigan State University in 1966. He taught music therapy at Northville State Hospital during the 1960s.

He is a salesman for the Evola Music store, in Lakeside Mall, Sterling Heights.

Fifteen years ago, Larson and his wife, Nancy, who is a speech therapist for Farmington Schools, moved to their 1848 home. The house is one of 18 Farmington sites listed in the National Register of Historic Homes.

The Larsons have two children, Carla, 17, and Carter, 14. Both attend North Farmington High School.

LARSON EXPANDED his musical interest a decade ago to include repairing and tuning, which he learned pretty much on his own.

"I learned it by doing it. I'm one of those people who learn by watching. There's no piano-tuning schools that are located real close."

Repairing old pianos often involves removing keys and replacing felt punchers and dampers and sanding the hammers.

One Grosse Pointe resident contacted Larson when he was looking for a piano built about the same time as his 1923 house, Larson said.

He has also rebuilt player pianos. "At one time, everybody in this country wanted a player piano. From 1910 to 1930, 3 million player pianos were manufactured. A good family activity, before there was radio and TV, was to sit around the piano in the parlor."

"Then the Depression came, and people stopped buying player pianos. They needed the money for food."

ON WARM evenings, neighbors on Larson's tree-lined street, near downtown Farmington, often hear Larson plucking the keys and playing a familiar tune.

During one starlit walk, Nancy Leonard, a Shiloh resident, saw Larson repairing a piano under a spotlight. The sound of the piano, which was on his driveway, resonated throughout the neighborhood.

"I stop by every night and see his progress," said Leonard, a Farmington Historical Commission member. "He composes music and can play anything on request."

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