

ON THE
MARQUEE

Big band

George Bashara's Big Band plays popular music 7:30-9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 27, at Civic Center Park in Livonia, next to city hall at Five Mile and Farmington Road. Spirit of America Band performs marches and pops, 7:30-9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 3.

Johnny Trudell

Johnny Trudell Orchestra with "Fat Bob" Taylor and the "Grosse Pointe Music Makers" with Ben Grycan perform 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 27, in Shain Park, downtown Birmingham.

'The Hollow'

Troy Players will be holding auditions for Agatha Christie's thriller "The Hollow," 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 2 and Thursday, Sept. 3. Registration begins at 7 p.m. with auditions beginning 7:30 p.m. The auditions will be at the Troy Community Center, 520 W. Big Beaver Road. Parts are available for six females, and six males with ages ranging from 20 to 60. No accents necessary. For information, call 879-1285.

'Blithe Spirit'

Schoolcraft College is holding auditions 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8, and Wednesday, Sept. 9, for its fall production of Noel Coward's comedy "Blithe Spirit." Auditions are open to the public and will be in the Liberal Arts Theatre of the main campus, 18600 Haggerty Road, between Six and Seven Mile roads in Livonia. For information, call 462-4400, Ext. 5270.

Greek night

Garden City Hospital is hosting a Greek Night to benefit their obstetrics department, 6:30 p.m. to midnight, Friday, Sept. 11, at the Helene Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road in Westland. Over five hours of entertainment, dining, and dancing with a Greek theme. The menu will be a family style Greek dinner, and a five-piece orchestra will play Greek and American music for dancing. Tickets are \$100 per person, \$50 is tax deductible. Call 458-4330 or 421-1181 for tickets.

Dinner theater

The Holiday Inn in Troy, and Rodger McElven Productions, present the Neil Simon comedy, "Prisoner of Second Avenue," 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through Sept. 25. Dinner served 7:30 p.m., show 8 p.m. Dinner and show is \$22.50 per person and includes tax and tip. The Holiday Inn is at 2537 Rochester Court, at I-75 and Rochester Road. For reservations and information, call 689-7500 or 790-3851.

Ribs are a specialty at family eatery

BY KEELY WYGNON
STAFF WRITER



Chewy barbecue ribs, the kind you get your hands messy eating are a specialty at family-owned Alexander The Great restaurant in Westland.

"We sell up to 2,000 pounds of ribs a week," said Tom Tomowski who owns the restaurant with his wife, Pauline. The ribs are trimmed of fat, cleaned, seasoned and cooked on an open fire rotisserie. Then they're sauced with the family's special homestyle barbecue sauce, and put under a broiler until cooked through.

The tangy sauce is offered for sale for \$3 in the restaurant. Besides ribs, it also tastes good on home fries. "We're here everyday, 1 work days, my husband works nights," said Pauline. "We believe in consistency, quality, and cleanliness. If a customer comes in 10 times, they should get 10 good meals," said Tom. Their children, Zena 16, and Zak 13, help out at the restaurant.

Alexander The Great which is celebrating its 15th anniversary in September, is one of a vanishing breed of family-owned and operated restaurants. The Tomowskis are active in the community, and belong to the Westland Chamber of Commerce.

Their restaurant is comfortable and suitable for special family dinners, but casual enough to wear jeans to. There are booths which offer privacy and a place to unwind after a busy day.



ART EMANUEL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tasty ribs:
Tom and Pauline Tomowski cook ribs over an open fire rotisserie at Alexander The Great restaurant in Westland.

Alexander The Great
34733 W. Warren
Westland, (313) 328-6410
Hours: Lunch, Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Dinner, Monday through Saturday, 4-11 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 10 p.m.
Menu: Their specialty is barbecue ribs and chicken. Also offer broasted chicken, variety of sandwiches, some seafood, spaghetti, mostaccioli, veal parmigiana, steak, salads,

homemade soup.
Highlights: Gift certificate — two complete dinners, two movie tickets to Showcase Cinemas which includes the Quo Vadis Theatre for \$23.95. Children's menu, booster seats and high chairs.
Prices: Lunch entrees and sandwiches range from \$3.25 to \$7.25. Dinner entrees \$5.25 to \$13.45.
Credit cards: Visa, MasterCard and American Express.

There's a little bit of everything for everybody on the menu. The kiddie menu features spaghetti, fish and chips, hamburger & fries, grilled cheese, barbecue ribs and fried chicken.

The lunch menu features more sandwiches, and entrees like beef kabob and orange roughy. Dinner features barbecue ribs and chicken, available in combinations like barbecue ribs and chicken, or barbecue chicken and shrimp. Items on the dinner menu like ribs, are also available at lunch.

Curtain call for George Burns Theatre Oct. 2

The curtain will rise on the George Burns Theatre for the Performing Arts in Livonia bringing Broadway to the suburbs with a star-studded season beginning Friday, Oct. 2.

Michigan's newest entertainment center will welcome the best of Broadway following special opening performances from the 1,400-seat theatre's namesake George Burns and his guest star, singer-actress Florence Henderson, Oct. 2-4.

Tickets for the 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 2, and Saturday, Oct. 3, concerts are \$100, \$75 and \$50; 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4, tickets are \$75, \$60 and \$40.

The 1992 premiere season features

four shows with the talents of Julie Harris, Roberta Maxwell, Anthony Quinn and the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Webber's hit musical "Aspects of Love" brings a cast of 40 and 20-piece orchestra to the George Burns Theatre Oct. 9-25. Webber, known worldwide for his productions of "Evita" and "The Phantom of the Opera," will captivate more audiences with his newest musical masterpiece.

Another show, a Broadway production to be presented in November, will be announced.

Michigan-born, five-time Tony Award winner Julie Harris will star in

Peter Shaffer's comedy "Lettice & Lovage" Jan. 18-25.

Playwright Shaffer won Tony Awards for "Equus" and "Amadeus" and an Oscar for best screenplay for "Amadeus."

The play about the outrageous, free-spirited British tour guide Lettice Douffet, portrayed by Harris, won London's Drama Award for best comedy of the year plus nominations for Best Play and Best Director for Broadway's Tony Award, Robert Maxwell co-stars.

A new play, "Many Faces of Man," starring Anthony Quinn will open in April 1993 with dates to be announced.

For tickets to the George Burns concert, call 1-800-589-8000 or TicketMas-

ter, 645-6666. For group tickets, call 1-800-589-8000.

Subscription tickets for a series of four shows, not including the George Burns concert, are \$220, \$180, \$140 per person for 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday matinees and 7:30 p.m. performances on Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Subscription tickets for shows 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday are \$240, \$200, and \$160. Individual tickets will go on sale three weeks prior to the event.

The George Burns Theatre for the Performing Arts is at Plymouth and Farmington roads, one mile south of I-96 and two miles east of I-275 in Livonia.

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