

# Neighborhood haunt known for good food, service

BY KEELY WYGONIK  
STAFF WRITER



Orange and black crepe paper streamers dangle from the ceiling decorated with make-believe, creepy spider webs at Farwell & Friends in Westland. This neighborhood haunt really gets into the spirit of holidays.

"They're planning Halloween parties 9 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 29-31. There will be a kiddie party 3-6 p.m. Sunday Oct. 31. Kids eat for 99 cents, and have their choice of hamburger, spaghetti, grilled cheese or chicken strips.

"We decorate for every holiday. You should see it at Christmas-time," said owner Bill Farwell. "It's like a fairyland. People come from as far away as Ohio."

Farwell & Friends is a fun place where waitresses greet newcomers and regulars with the same — "Hi, how ya doin'?" You instantly

feel at ease in this restaurant which over the years has evolved from a neighborhood pub to a restaurant.

"The picture window facing Middlebelt is brand-new, they just installed it. "It helps give us more of a restaurant look instead of a bar/tavern look," said Farwell of Livonia who got started in this business the old-fashioned way — washing dishes at the age of 15 at Huck's Bavarian Village in Redford Township.

Farwell eventually became manager at Huck's and credits the late Emil Huck Jr. with training him in "every aspect of the business."

Opened in November of 1970, Farwell & Friends, like Huck's, has earned a reputation for good food that's reasonably priced.

"I come here twice a week, and I've never had a bad meal," said Leo Burton of Redford. "It's excellently managed, they always greet you and it's very friendly."

You're treated like family at Farwell & Friends, and so are the help, which helps explain why there's such a low turnover at the restaurant. "Three of the employ-

**FARWELL & FRIENDS**  
8051 Middlebelt, Westland  
421-6950, Fax 421-1962  
Hours: Lunch served 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday, dinner served 4-11 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 4 p.m. to midnight, Fridays and Saturdays, 2-11 p.m. Sundays.  
Reservations: Recommended for parties of six or more, and on weekends.  
Credit cards: Most major credit cards accepted.

ees worked with Farwell at Huck's, Chef Alan Wasinski of Redford, a graduate of Schoolcraft College in Livonia, has worked at the restaurant for eight years.

"We try to make a place where everyone likes to come to work," said Farwell. "We believe in promoting from within." An example is former manager Vince Spica who Farwell made a partner. Spica spends most of his time at JB Bamboozles, a tavern Farwell recently opened at 14323 Michigan Avenue in Dearborn.

Getting back to the food. They've changed the menu to satisfy customer requests for more chicken and fish. "We probably

have as many things off the menu as on the menu," said Farwell explaining that there are lots of daily specials like lemon chicken and turkey stir-fry. "We go out of our way for customers. We're here to make people happy."

Farwell & Friends is known for their steaks which are cut at the restaurant. The 20 ounce New York Strip for \$12.50 is very popular. So is the prime rib — 16 ounce, \$11.95 or 24 ounce, \$15.95.

Seafood offerings include lobster tail, on Thursdays it's on special for \$16.95, shrimp, whitefish, scallops, perch and chips, and swordfish.

The Pineapple Chicken Stir-Fry, \$9.50 is served in a pineapple dish. For lighter appetites there are sandwiches and the salads including Maurice, \$5.50, Grilled Chicken, \$9.50 and Chicken Caesar Salad, \$7.95.

Finish your meal with a piece of homemade cheese cake or mud-pie.

There are more salads and sandwiches on the luncheon menu, and some Mexican favorites like Tostitos and Burrito Supreme. Heartier items include pork chop, Shrimp Fettucini Parmesan and Chicken Stir-Fry.

French Onion Soup and chili are offered daily with two homemade soups of the day.

Lost and Found plays Top 40, Swing, and whatever customers request 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and Wednesdays beginning in November.

Look for Memorable Meals on the second and fourth Thursday of the month in Entertainment. To recommend a restaurant to be featured in Memorable Meals, call Keely Wygonik, Taste/Entertainment Editor, 953-2105 or fax 591-7279.

## WHAT'S COOKING

**Send items to be considered for publication in What's Cooking to: Keely Wygonik, Taste/Entertainment editor, The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Our Fax number is 591-7279.**

West Ten Mile Road, Southfield, will feature a dinner and entertainment package. "Fungus Follies" features songs and skits from the 1930s to today. Patrons can choose an appetizer, salad, main course and dessert from the special follies menu and enjoy the show. Cost is \$48 per person. Call 559-4230 for reservations.

**JAZZ BRUNCH**  
Schoolcraft will present its Autumn Jazz Brunch, noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 17 in the Waterman Campus Center, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia. Tickets \$25 per person. Call 462-4417 weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for reservations.

**MATT BRADY'S**  
Brunch served Sundays, 10 a.m. to noon at Matt Brady's Tavern in the Holiday Inn at 38123 West Ten Mile, Farmington Hills. Special Sweetest Day packages are being offered by the hotel. Call 477-4000 for information about Sweetest Day, or 478-7780 for Matt Brady's.

**FUNGUS FOLLIES**  
Every Saturday through Nov. 27 the lower level of the Golden Mushroom Restaurant, 18100

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