

# DINING

## Library Pub serves good food, blues

### EATING OUT IN THE SUBURBS

The Library Sports Pub and Grills may be known for their two-for-one hamburgers or their Cajun dishes, but outside of the Detroit area their reputation is much different.

The restaurants in Westland and Novi have become the area's premiere blues clubs. Multiple Detroit Music Award-winners Mudpuppy, along with the Rev. Marc Falconberry and Nikki James and the Flamethrowers have played in front of the shelves of books that encircle the main dining areas.

The Library Pubs' reputation as grown. A few weeks back, owner Alan Barnett got a phone call from an award-winning blues band in Chicago asking how it could play the club.

When asked about the appeal of the pub, Barnett said it comes down to him and fellow owners brother Bob Barnett of West Bloomfield, and Norm Buchler of Northville.

"It's because of Al, Bob and Norm," said Barnett, a Walled Lake resident.

"Anybody can serve good food, which most people do, and give great service and supply a comfortable atmosphere, which they do. But at most places you go to get some kid or gold person going. How is your food. We are xxx corporation. Welcome to our restaurant," added Barnett adopting a robot-like voice.

"At the Library, Al, Bob and Norm really do care."

"Signs posted around the restaurants with snappy phrases or information about blood-alcohol levels and specials, are all signed 'Al, Bob and Norm' to make that personal connection with patrons.

"We're just local, normal guys. We're not a major corporation. We don't have to satisfy shareholders. We sell a good product at a reasonable cost. We like to say we're the most cost-effective place in town to get a beer or a mixed drink or a high-quality hamburger."

**Library Sports Pub and Grill**  
 Where: 35230 Central City Parkway, Westland, (734) 421-2250. The original location is 42400 Grand River Ave., Novi, (248) 349-8240.  
 Hours: The restaurants are open from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. seven days a week. The kitchens close at 1 a.m. everyday except for Sunday when they close at midnight.  
 Menu: Features American food including burgers, grilled chicken breasts, chicken artichoke pasta, herb-crusted baby back ribs, and smoked turkey and Swiss sandwiches, with a touch of Cajun influence (cajun chicken and linguini, cajun chicken breast, and cajun burger).  
 Cost: Ranges from \$7.95 to \$13.25 for entrees, \$4.95 to \$6.75 for sandwiches, and \$5.95 to \$6.45 for burgers and chicken sandwiches.  
 Credit Cards: Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Discover and Diners Club are accepted.  
 Reservations: Not accepted.  
 Banquets: There are no banquet facilities, however, the restaurants do their best accommodate any and all large parties as much as possible.

Alan Barnett began his food-service career as a utility player at upscale Beau Jacks restaurant in Birmingham working as a cook, waiter, bartender, dishwasher and even in construction. When Barnett left to go to college, his brother Bob took over.

From there, Alan went to Florida where he opened a restaurant.

"I worked in every aspect of it from the fine dining circuit to hotels to casual theme restaurants," Barnett said.

He returned to Michigan and his brother in 1990 to open a restaurant which he knew would be successful because of their good experience, good knowledge and good work ethic, Barnett said.

"Here we go by the five Ps - Proper planning prevents poor performance," he added.

After meeting Buchler, the three opened the Library Pub in Novi during the city's '60s Festival in 1994. They chose the word "library" Barnett said, for a variety of reasons.

"We appeal directly to the immediate market - the metro Novi area, which is mostly col-

lege educated. So I knew they would like that word library. Also, a woman wouldn't feel comfortable going into a place called Ted's Bar by herself. But with the Library Pub, a woman would not feel intimidated coming into a place like this," he explained.

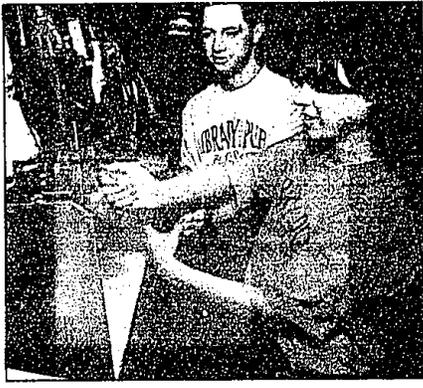
In January, they opened a second location in Westland "by demand of the market."

"We draw people from Westland and the east side. They kept-telling me, 'You gotta open one up here.' I found just the right spot. A lot of people from the Westland area wanted us to open a Library Pub down there because it's so far to travel up here," he said.

The Westland restaurant is formerly the home to a Greek and Mexican restaurants as well as a breakfast diner. Barnett said he feels his restaurant will be successful because of the atmosphere.

"All they really did was paint the walls and put some Greek decor up. That's it. After we got done with it, it looks nothing like it did before."

The Library Pubs' menu fea-



Variety of choices: Bartenders Jennifer Pidruzny and Scott Brigman serve up some brew at The Library Sports Pub and Grill in Westland. The restaurant offers 14 different beers on tap as well as live blues and rock music.

tures American dishes such as burgers, a grilled chicken breast, herb stuffed breast of chicken, Cobb salad, buffalo chicken fingers, and a French dip sandwich. There's a touch of Cajun influence as well. The menu is peppered with meals of a cajun burger, cajun chicken breast, Cajun chicken and linguini, and St. Louis ribs served barbecue, Cajun and teriyaki.

An "Executive Menu" offers burgers, chicken tenders, fish sticks, hot dogs, cheese pizza and grilled cheese for children ages 12 and younger.

"We feature an executive menu for kids because it's the kids who make the decisions. A cupcake comes with it. Where else do you get dessert includ-

ed?"

When talking about the restaurants, Barnett put less emphasis on the food and more on his patrons.

For example, as he went over the highlights of The Library Pub's specialties, he quickly changed gears to his clientele.

"We have the best burger you can get in town. The high quality pizzas that we feature. We offer two for one burgers every Friday and Saturday. It's the best place to watch any sporting event. If you don't believe me, ask Martin LaPointe and Doug Brown. They come in here," (Kirk) Malby, (Aaron) Ward, all the Red Wings hang out here," he explained.

Just in case you missed it, or lost the paper. Here are some of the restaurants we've recently visited:

**Champps Americana** - 19470 Haggerty Road, (between Seven and Eight Mile Roads) Livonia, (734) 591-3334. Open 11 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. Monday-Saturday; 10 a.m. to midnight Sunday. Sunday brunch menu 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Menu: Classic American dining including salads, sandwiches, pasta, chicken, steaks, seafood, pizza and hamburgers. Children's and late night menus available. Cost: Entrees \$9.95 to \$14.50; sandwiches \$6.25 to \$10.50; burgers \$4.75 to \$6.95; pizza \$6.50 to \$8.25. Sunday brunch items range from \$6.95 to \$9.95. Reservations: Not accepted. Credit cards: All majors accepted.

**Mountain King Chinese Restaurant** - Where: 469 Old Woodward, Birmingham (248) 644-2913. Hours: 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday; until 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday; noon to 9 p.m. Sunday. Menu: Mandarin, Szechuan and Cantonese specialties served at lunch and dinner. Cost: Lunch specials \$5-\$8. Dinner \$5.50-\$11. Multi-course family dinners for 2-6 people \$21-\$60. Reservations: Accepted. Credit cards: All majors accepted.

**Flying Fish Tavern** - Where: 6480 Orchard Lake Road, (corner of Maple Road) West Bloomfield (248) 865-8888. Hours: 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday; 3 p.m. to midnight Sunday. Menu: Casual neighborhood family eatery serves comfort foods with special focus on fresh catches of the day. Cost: Appetizers and dinner salads \$4-\$8; sandwiches and burgers \$5.50-\$7; pastas \$7-\$9; big plates, specials and catch of the day \$9-\$15; desserts \$2-\$4. Reservations: For parties of six or more only. Credit cards: All majors accepted.

### RESTAURANT SPECIALS

**New role** - Keith Farnie, Executive Chef of Forte Restaurant in Birmingham will assume a new role as Consulting Chef of Epoch Restaurant Group on May 1. In his new role, Farnie will work with the marketing division of the company where he will support their public relations efforts by expanding his involvement in television-related programming and promotion.

6566 Drake Road, (corner of Walnut Lake Road) (248) 681-8088 celebrates Cinco de Mayo Friday, May 1 through Tuesday, May 5 with entertainment and specialty food items. Entertainment by Jose Rojas (Latin dance music) 7 p.m. Friday-Sunday, May 1-3 and Tuesday, May 5. New menu items include "Geoffrey Fieger" and Primavera Grilled Quesadillas. Hours are 5-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; noon to 11 p.m. Friday; 5-11 p.m. Saturday.

They will be open 4-10 p.m. Sunday, May 3 for the Cinco de Mayo celebration.

**Cranbrook Le Gala de Cuisine** - offers a taste of more than 45 of metro Detroit's most popular restaurants including Local Color Brewery, 3-6 p.m.

Sunday, May 3, Cranbrook Schools Quadrangle, 500 Lane Pine, Bloomfield Hills. Tickets \$125 (friend); \$150 (patron); \$200 (benefactor). For ticket information call (248) 851-5038. For general information, call (248) 645-3000.

**Old Mexico Restaurant**

HOME COOKING  
 53700 Grand River • Downtown Farmington Hills (248) 975-3333

**FRIDAY DINNER FISH SPECIALS**

4 COURSE \$13.95  
 • Fish & Chips  
 • Beef God  
 • Salmon Pattie  
 • Dinner Dessert  
 All prices include tax & gratuity. Reservations accepted.

**Family Weekends**

Enjoy our unique heated swimming pool, video games, Pin Put Golf and much more in our Michigan's largest Holiday Homes. Ideal location for lunch meetings and family reunions.

**\$69/49**

11:00 am - 10:00 pm  
 Call Now for Reservations  
 248-477-4000

**Mr. Z's STEAK HOUSE 537-5600**  
 17331 Five Mile Rd. (Corner of Inland)

**Mother's Day SPECIALS**

OPEN 1 - 8 P.M.  
 Adults \$7.95 Children \$3.95 (under 10 years old)

YOUR CHOICE OF:  
 • Roast Turkey with all the trimmings  
 • Baked Macaroni with meat sauce  
 • Honey Glazed Ham with sweet potatoes

LIMITED MENU ALSO AVAILABLE  
 Dance Band Thur., Fri. & Sat. - OVER EASY

**MITCH HOUSEY'S**

BAKED HAM \$7.95  
 ROAST PRIME RIB OF BEEF \$12.95  
 ORANGE ROUGHY Lemon Pepper \$9.95

**Mother's Day SPECIALS**

All Dinners Include Salad, Vegetable, Baked Potato and Hot Bread

Limited Menu Available \$7.95  
 Other Dinners From \$7.95

Reservations: 1 pm, 3 pm and 5:30 pm

Hours: Open 7 Days Daily Mon.-Sat. at 11:00 a.m. MOTHER'S DAY - 1 p.m.

28500 SCHOOLCRAFT (Opposite Lakeside DRG)  
 425-5520

**DON PEDROS**

AUTHENTIC MEXICAN CUISINE

24366 Grand River (2 blocks W. of Telegraph)  
 CARRY OUT (313) 537-1450

MARGARITA MADNESS \$1.25

**CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION**  
 May 1st thru May 5th Free Guis & Surtapas & Drink Specials

**BARBQUE FACILITIES**  
 Food of the Best \$7.95  
 American / Mexican Banquet Buffet

**\$3.79 LUNCH SPECIALS**

**MEXICAN SAMPLER FOR TWO \$10.95**  
 Includes: Steak Fajita, 2 Items, Cheese Enchiladas, 2 Pintos, Queso, Tostitos, Beans & Rice.

Done in a Coupon Expires 5/7/98  
 Not valid with any other offer.

**Coming Thursday, May 21**

Oakland County's **Summer Guide to Fun and Entertainment**

Filled with ideas and advertising to make your summer the best ever.

To be Included in this section, please call the Oakland County advertising department  
 248-901-2500  
 Fax 248-901-2553

THE Observer & Eccentric *It's all about you!*  
 NEWSPAPERS  
 805 E. Maple • Birmingham, MI 48009

**Quarter Mania**

\$50 Per Person Registration Fee

**25 Bowling**

Remember when 25¢ bought a lot of fun? Now old fashioned 25¢ prices are back!

**MAY 1st thru MAY 10th**

- 25¢ Bowling\*
- 25¢ Shoe Rental
- 25¢ French Fries
- 25¢ 10oz. Soft Drink

\* You must participate in bowling to be eligible for 25¢ offers. Call bowling center for times and lane availability.

This Offer Good at These Locations:

<b>CENTURY BOWL</b> 7345 Highland Road Waterford (248) 606-4700	<b>OXFORD LANES</b> 2200 S. Telegraph Dearborn (313) 278-6800	<b>SKORE LANES</b> 22255 Eureka Road Troy (313) 291-6220
<b>MERRI-BOWL</b> 30950 Five Mile Road Livonia (734) 427-3900	<b>SUPER BOWL</b> 45100 Ford Road Canton (734) 459-6070	<b>TROY LANES</b> 1850 E. Square Park Rd. Troy (248) 878-8122
<b>PLUM HOLLOW</b> 21900 W. Nine Mile Smithfield (248) 353-6540		

**STEAK HOUSE**  
 If it ain't fun, we just don't do it!

Open Noon to 9:00pm

**Mother's Day Dinner Specials**

Lamb Chops with Rice & Mint Jelly \$13.95  
 or our new special: Roast Turkey with all the trimmings \$13.95  
 All Stars Grill with Salmon & Herb Butter \$9.95  
 Broiled Walleye \$11.95  
 Honey BBQ Chicken with Redskin & Baby Corn \$9.95  
 Dinner Includes Soup or Salad, Potatoes, Vegetable & Bread of Hot Bread. Call for Reservations.

32350 W. 8 MILE • FARMINGTON HILLS, MI 48335  
 (Between Meridian & Farmington Road)  
 Call 248 426-6454

Hours: Mon. - Sat. 10:30 AM - 2AM Sun. Noon - 2AM