

The Alibi

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Kurelich and Beslach, who also run a Livonia sports bar, The Sideline.

"We did it once, we thought we'd do it again," Beslach said.

Kurelich, 30, has been involved in nightclubs for 12 years. In various capacities, he's worked for Graffiti's in Westland, Clubland in Detroit, The Arcus in Dearborn Heights and Wally Bull's in Novi.

"People only give you one or two chances ... you have to do it right the first time," said Kurelich, who has a bachelor's degree in marketing from Eastern Michigan University.

"The Alibi wants to appeal to upscale clientele without being snobby. Proper attire is required: No ripped jeans, jerseys or tank tops but a polo shirt and a sprightly pair of denims won't cause the doorman to arrogantly

snort either. "Nicely casual is what we're looking for," Kurelich said.

The martini menu manages 14 concoctions of the stylish cocktail. The most popular include: Tootsie Roll, The Detroit Blue and The Current Affair.

In terms of smokes, women prefer the \$5 Gourmet Vanilla flavored cigars while men like the bourbon-aged ones for \$14. The upstairs ventilation system has been overhauled to handle the plumes of cigar smoke. A humidifier to keep cigars fresh is also in the plans, Kurelich said.

"We're shooting for the business clientele upstairs ... It's almost like it's two separate bars," Kurelich said.

The Alibi is on the south side of Grand River Avenue, near Freedom Road and M-5. For information, call 478-2010.

Bakery

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River-Whittaker. "Even the parking lot isn't taken care of. That (Panera) would be good for down there."

Panera Bread is an upscale national bakery-restaurant chain, heavily based in St. Louis and Chicago, which is now aggressively moving into Oakland County, already operating two stores in Novi (one of them at Twelve Oaks Mall) and one in West Bloomfield.

The Farmington location, which would open in late 1998 or early 1999, pending approval by the planning commission, "will give us more penetration in the area," said Gary McDowall, Panera district manager for Oakland County.

"Our concept is the neighborhood bakery-cafe," said McDowall, surveying business Thursday afternoon at the Panera location at Grand River-Novi Road. Panera serves a blend of high-quality sandwiches, soups served in bread bowls, loaves of bread and other pastries, all made fresh on the premises.

McDowall said Panera is "aggressively pursuing the site. But there are certain things that are out of our control, such as real estate and zoning."

Making plans

The company also is excited about opening a store not too far from downtown Farmington's business district, which is in the midst of an economic and aesthetic revival.



New look: The southeast corner of Grand River-Whittaker could soon feature Panera Bread. Above is an architectural rendering of the proposed bakery-cafe.

"Grand River is a good road to be on," McDowall said. "... It's our type of neighborhood. It has the community involvement we like to have, it has a strong neighborhood base."

The Farmington Panera Bread location would be similar to stores that opened last year at Grand River-Novi and in early June in the Twelve Oaks Mall, McDowall said.

Lauhoff said the planning commission will review the Panera site plan at its meeting 8 p.m. Monday, July 13.

"Things the planning commission will look for in the plan include landscaping, parking (47 spaces are proposed), and "to make sure it fits in with the aesthetic of the surrounding neighborhood, make sure it's compatible with the area," Lauhoff said.

"It'll look like two fronts, one toward Whittaker and one toward Grand River," Lauhoff said.

The project would further

improve property values that Kop said have been increasing over the years since she moved into her home, at the time located next to a farm.

"Our housing values are good," Kop said. "It (the house) has certainly increased in value, but it will be even better (with Panera). Redoing downtown has been a good thing and we need something down there" at the corner.

Both Lauhoff and McDowall said they like the potential Panera would bring to Farmington.

"It signifies the value of the area, when property owners and new businesses are willing to do that," said Lauhoff, referring to the plan to tear down the existing buildings and put up the bakery-cafe.

southwest corner of Whittaker and Grand River. Lauhoff said the center hasn't received "any facade improvements over the years and it's taken a great deal of city enforcement time to keep it looking decent."

The Panera project likely will "make the adjacent stores more valuable because of increased traffic, and we hope that leads itself to improvements to the World Wide Center."

Lauhoff said he didn't think Panera would take significant business away from existing restaurants and bakeries in downtown Farmington. "It would draw customers from the office corridor" near Drake Road.

Panera has four Oakland County stores now open. McDowall said the company hopes to increase that total to "eight or nine" by the end of 1998 and up to 15-17 stores by the end of 1999.

'Looking decent'

And, the city manager added, perhaps the project could motivate owners of the World Wide Center, a strip mall on the

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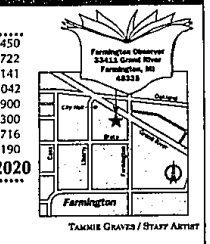
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Park

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chases.

If a park is to become reality, at least 20 to 30 acres are needed. "Three or six acres for a park with swing sets isn't what we need here," Sever said.

Other residents suggested refurbishing the tennis courts at

Olds Town Park - which are primarily used by kids for street hockey - and adding asphalt path for bicyclists.

"It would be nice," said Cynthia Strong, who lives on St. Francis. "The park is for the community."

Planning Director Dale Coughtan dealt with development concerns, saying the city is encouraging Botsford Hospital to expand along Grand River

opposed to encroaching into the neighborhood. He also noted any plans for a Super Kmart are "rumor" at this point.

In terms of public safety, the community is seeing improvements, city officials said.

Police Chief Bill Dwyer reported crime is down for second straight year in the southeast quadrant. Burglaries dropped 23 percent while robberies declined 42 percent, Dwyer said.

Arthritis Today

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You may have heard of a new treatment for osteoarthritis called hyaluronate. When injected into the knee, the hyaluronate is said to decrease pain for weeks to months.

Be careful before requesting such therapy for yourself.

First, the injection will not help if you have advanced arthritis. Second, there are reports that show that hyaluronate may accelerate damage to the joint. Third, articles attesting to the success of the procedure rate hyaluronate not to nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medicines such as aspirin, motrin, and naproxen. There are few evaluations comparing hyaluronate with knee injections of steroid medications. The most common form of therapy.

Fourth, the procedures associated with hyaluronate are expensive. The substance itself costs \$1000/ml, and a course of treatment runs from 300 vials (\$3000). You must take the injection on 3 (or 5) consecutive weeks, and pay for an office visit and a joint aspiration / injection procedure each time. The total cost of the appointment can run over 200 dollars, while expense for the hyaluronate series reaches \$600-\$1000 or more. In contrast, an injection of steroid, with visit and procedure, generates a one time only bill of \$180 or less.

Given the above, many physicians are keeping to traditional methods of treating osteoarthritis of the knee.

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