

DINING

Farwell & Friends 'Deck the Halls' for holidays

BY KEELY WYGNONIC
STAFF WRITER
kwygnon@soe.homecomm.net

Twinkling white miniature lights, snowflakes dangling from the ceiling, wreaths, and Disney characters help create a Winter Wonderland at Farwell & Friends in Livonia. This neighborly restaurant, celebrating its 19th year, all decked out for the holidays.

Alan Wasinski of Redford, a graduate of the Schoolcraft College Culinary Arts program, is in the kitchen cooking, while Bill Farwell greets customers at the door. It's not home, but it sure feels like it.

"I'm a people person, I just enjoy it," said Farwell who lives in Livonia. "We have lots of regulars. I greet everyone by name and they enjoy that."

Farwell also treats his help like a family too. Wasinski has worked at the restaurant 14 years; some of the waitresses have worked there for 15 years. "I treat help like a family," said Farwell. "We work as a family, and care about each other."

Everyone helped with the decorations, and they had a big party afterward with dinner and dancing. While the staff worked in the restaurant with family members, friends, and regular customers, Alan and his crew worked in the kitchen preparing a buffet. About 80 people attended.

"We decorate for all the holidays," said Farwell. "But Halloween and Christmas are the big ones." The restaurant will also be decorated for Valentine's Day and Easter.

To help customers get in the holiday spirit, there are sing-alongs on Sundays with song sheets.

Even if you're grumpy after a day of shopping, stopping at Farwell & Friends is sure to make you feel better. Kids are welcome, and enjoy looking at all the decorations.

"We change our menu every six months," said Farwell. "We're known for our prime rib and 20 ounce New York Strip Steaks. We also offer fresh seafood and fish daily, including crab legs."

Be sure to ask about the daily lunch and dinner specials. "We have a lot of regulars and the specials just the same variety," explained Farwell. "If the special goes over well we add it to our menu." Wednesday is Polish night, and the special combination plate includes kielbasa, pierogi, stuffed cabbage, potato pancakes, soup or salad. Monday is Ladies' Night, ladies' dinner half price with purchase of second dinner of equal or greater value, or if you prefer, one pound Alaskan Crab Legs \$13.95 or 20 ounce New York Strip Steak \$10.95.

"Everything is made fresh daily from scratch at Farwell & Friends including the sauces, desserts, and bread. 'Al does the cooking,'" said Farwell. "He's here from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m."

Farwell & Friends offers quality food at reasonable prices. "Our portions are large," said Wasinski. "Everyone leaves here with a carryout box."

Holiday Dinner Specials, which are also available at

Farwell & Friends
Where: 8051 Middlebelt, Westland, (734) 421-6990
Open: 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Monday-Saturday, noon to midnight Sunday.
Lunch served 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., dinner 4-11 p.m. weekdays.
4-11 p.m. midnight Sundays.
Holiday hours: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Dec. 24, closed Dec. 25, 4 p.m. to 4 a.m. Dec. 31, 2-10 p.m. Jan. 1.
Menu: Something for everyone, steaks, seafood, chicken, soups, salads and sandwiches. Children's menu available.
Cost: Reasonable
Credit Cards: All majors accepted
Reservations: Recommended Friday-Saturday, and during the holidays.
Carryout Available
Banquet facilities: Call for details
Entertainment: Lost & Found performs 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Thursday-Saturday, they play a variety of music including Oldies, Top 40, Big Band and Swing for listening or dancing.
Highlights:
Sunday Christmas sing-along, 8:30 p.m.
New Year's Eve - Open House (order from regular menu) 4-8 p.m.; Party Package 9 p.m., special menu, party favors, champagne, live entertainment.
Holiday and Red Wing Hockey gift certificates available



STAFF PHOTO BY TROY MITCHELL

Holiday fare: Bill Farwell (left) and Chef Alan Wasinski present Crab Stuffed Portobello Mushrooms, Special Rebaked Potato, French Onion Soup in a Bread Bowl, Surf 'n' Turf with asparagus and Hollandaise Sauce, Cajun Chicken Caesar Salad, Strawberry Supreme Torte, and Parmesan Garlic Bread at Farwell & Friends.

lunch, include Lamb Chops with Rice and Mint Jelly, Mesquite Grill Porterhouse Pork Chop Over Rosemary Roasted Red Skin Potatoes, and Grilled Salmon Topped with Asparagus. Top sellers include the crab stuffed mushroom appetizer, Fat Al - grilled ham sandwich, Swiss cheese, lettuce, tomato, special served on a grilled French Roll, Sautéed Perch, Crab Stuffed Shrimp, Baked Mostaccioli, Apple Baked Pork Chops, and Montreal Steak Bits.

Ask to see the dessert tray, which changes daily. Snicker's Pie and Caramel Apple Pie are some of the tasty choices.

A year ago in August, Farwell

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