Papa loves Mambo's - so will everyone else

"We get a lot of people coming in and asking for it," he

said. But are suburban-

BY RENÉE SKOGLUND STAFF WRITER rakoglund@oc.homecomm.net

Ask Rece Rainwater, owner of Mambo's, a new take-out restaurant in Livonia, what's in any of his mouth-watering Louisianastyle barbecue dishes, and he has a one-word answer. Secret!

Well, Rainwater deserves to keep his secrets, especially when he can bring your taste buds to their knees with his deep-fried jumbo shrimp, Cajun sausage, BBQ ribs and real, honest-to-godness homemede gumbo. Then there's the daily specials, which include Wally Gator, Beer-Boiled Crawfish and frog legs.

legs.
"If you come to this carryout, "If you come to this carryout, you get everything fresh," he said, removing a jumbo shrimp from the refrigerator and dan-gling it in front of me between his thumb and forefinger. "I opened this place because I got opened this place because I got sick of junk food, all that pre-

Mambo's

Address: 15385 Morriman, Livonia (off Five Mile Road)
Phone: (734) 524-5670
Hours: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondey-Thursday; 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Fri-

oay and Saturday
Menu: Louislane-style berbecue: Ribs, chicken, shrimp, catfish,
clams, sausage, gumbo and an assortment of sides. Specials on
Thursday, Friday and Saturday
Prices: Dinners, \$7.45-\$10.50; snacks, \$5.45-6.99; sandwiches,

5.25-\$6.55
Extras: Children 10 and under eat free; Delivery on the weekends

packaged, pre-pressed, pre-manufactured stuff.

Rainwater, who has 26 years
of experience as a chef, threw a
slab of ribs on the grill and
splashed it with a ladle of
"secret' liquid. He fanned the
aroma in my direction. My table
buds got ready to kneel.

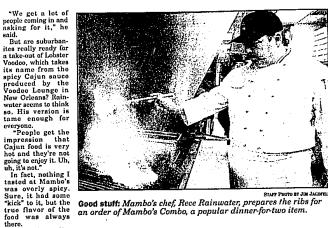
"One of the things you don't do
is load the ribs with a bunch of
Open Pit and call it barbecue.
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it had a nice smoky taste with
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it had a nice smoky taste with
it had a nice sinky ta

Next time, I'm going to tap into my French-Canadian heritage and sample the frog legs. Rainwater claims they're "the size of small chick-

Building customers

if you bite into a dark or white chunk of gator.

Hill Auditorium - Ann Arbor



kitchen full of great aromas, friendly service and a menu just big enough to keep customers

Good stuff: Mambo's chef, Rece Rainwater, prepares the ribs for an order of Mambo's Combo, a popular dinner-for-two item.

Building customers
Mambo's location, in the shadow of a Rite Aids Drugs, makes it easy to miss. However, people are beginning to find it, and Rainwater and manager David Kwiatkowski are working hard to make sure customers keep coming back.
"You've got to be creative when it comes to fare people are not used to. Louisiana barbecue is not standard fare in the Livonia rea," said Kwiatkowski, who claims the Wally Gator tastes like duck or chicken, depending if you blie into a dark or white

shrimp ribs, perch and sausage for two — costs \$14.95. All dinners include fries or rice, slaw and cornbread. Also, each child, age 10 and under, who comes in with a parent eats free.

Rainwater has no plans to make Mambo's a dining-in spot.

He likes it just as it is — a place with cheerful Cajun music, a big enough to acep con-happy.

"I think people can enjoy themselves in the comfort of their own home rather than go somewhere with illusions of grandeur and be disappointed," he said en legs."
You do get your money's worth
at Mambo's. Dinners average
\$7.45 to \$10.50, and the
Mambo's Famous Combo — FEBRUARY 8, 2002

In 100 words, or less, give us your idea of a wonderfully romantic

evening for two and you could win:

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▼ A dozen red roses; Flowers from Joe by Carolynn in Livonia

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▼ The winning romantic couple will be announced in your hometown newspaper on Thursday, January 31.

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Cathy Young, Promotion Manage "LESSONS IN LOVE CONTEST"

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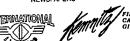
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