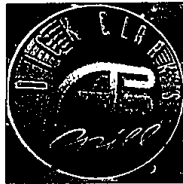


Groove with the oldies at American Bandstand Grill

BY BRENDA DOMINICK
STAFF WRITER

Remember the twist? New York hustle? Breakdance? Electric boogie? Disco-motion? These popular 50s and 60s steps took over dance clubs, the hearts of young and old, and the most recognized show on TV. The American Bandstand show not only introduced millions to a variety of dance moves, but also the greatest bands of all time. The lively and funky show helped "one-hit wonders" become top 40 "hitters" and young groovers "get down" with its variety of live performances and DJ sounds.



Shown here is Dick Clark's American Bandstand Grill logo on the glass partitions of the booths.

Both Dick Clark's American Bandstand show and his now theme restaurants, American Bandstand Grill, embody the American musical classics and dance moves of yesteryear. The dining establishments also offer delicious food at a moderate cost along with the famous music of the 50s to the present. "We attract the family clientele," says Ben Ledesma, kitchen manager of the American

OTHER THEME RESTAURANTS WITH MUSIC

Bahama Breeze
Customers can enjoy appetizers and drinks and gather with friends around the fire pit on the patio deck, while listening to the live Caribbean-style Island music before dinner. On the menu, look for tropical flavors and Caribbean-style favorites, wines, beers and mixed drinks. Locations: In Troy: 539 East Big Beaver Road, East of Livernois; 175 east to Big Beaver East exit, north side. Phone: (248) 528-1674. In Livonia: 19600 Haggerty Road, between Seven and Eight Mile roads. Phone: (734) 542-0891. Hours: 4 p.m.-midnight Monday through Wednesday; 4 p.m.-1 a.m. Thursday through Friday; noon-1 a.m. Saturday; and noon-midnight Sunday.

Volcano Grill
Dine on tropical and Latin cuisine. Learn Latin dancing on weekends. And catch a movie at the Stare Theatre Southfield. Location: 25333 West 12 Mile, inside the Star Southfield Entertainment Centre, located between Northwestern and Telegraph, in Southfield. Phone: (248) 377-0101. Hours: 4-10 p.m., Sunday-Thursday; 4 p.m.-2 a.m., Friday-Saturday.

Sangria
Eat Spanish cuisine and dance the night away at The Sky Club nightclub located upstairs. Location: 401 South Lafayette, downtown Royal Oak. Phone: (248) 543-1964. Hours: Open 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday; 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m. Thursdays; 11:30 a.m.-Midnight Friday; 4 p.m.-Midnight Saturday; and 4 p.m.-10 p.m. Sunday. Tuesday-Friday open 11:30-4 p.m. for lunch. Performances: Watch Flamenco dances on Thursdays. For more information: www.sangriaroyaloak.com

Bandstand Grill inside Great Lakes Crossing Mall in Auburn Hills. "We have a real good variety for kids."

"Our main goal is to make the customers feel like Dick Clark's personal guests."

From the moment you step in, you get a sense of a unique dining experience. Vintage photos, artists contracts, gold albums and rare posters that line the walls are from Dick Clark's personal collection. Classic American Bandstand television footage, as well as up-to-date music videos are shown at every twist and turn of the restaurant. Each of these uniquely featuring give customers an opportunity to enjoy a hoppin' and tasty place to eat, reminisce and take in the ambience.

"They have music all day and the clientele is fun," Ledesma said. "You're constantly hearing music, and it gets (customers) going."

But it's not just the customers who get a thrill out of being at this lively place.

"I love working here," he said. "I've been here for five years, and it's fun to come to work."

On May 3, Dick Clark hosted an anniversary special, ABC's American Bandstand's 50th...A Celebration! which included appearances by many top stars from the world of entertainment who talked about how American Bandstand impacted their careers and lives. Several old favorites like KC & The Sunshine Band and new ones like Alanis Morissette honored the legacy of the show.

And with Clark's six captivat-

ing restaurants and nightclubs throughout the U.S., the Bandstand legend grooves on.

Authentic Rock 'n' Roll memorabilia, including George Harrison's hat and jacket and an Elvis picture and shirt from his personal wardrobe, are displayed inside glass enclosures in the restaurant, giving it a museum-like feel.

Among the several American Bandstand restaurants, the Auburn Hills location is the smallest one. The shiny orange and yellow cushioned booths, and varicolored tables and chairs provides seating for 187 people. But despite being the "baby" of the Bandstand bunch, Ledesma says the Auburn Hills spot has 38 total employees and makes about \$2.2 million a year.

Ledesma says Clark makes a point of trying to visit the restaurant at least once a year.

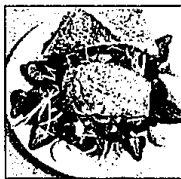
"The last time he was here was November and he should be out here within the next couple of months," Ledesma said.

"When he comes, we'll have a line out to the mall."

And it's quite a treat for the customers who are lucky enough to catch the famous "host with the most."

"He'll sit down, come around, ask people how their doing, shake people's hands, sign autographs, and take pictures with them," Ledesma said.

"It gets pretty hectic and wild in here." Some of the restaurant's specially liquor drinks are named after some of the hits featured on the good old American Bandstand days. Customers can swig "Hey, hey it's the Monkees,"



Salmon & Baby Spinach Salad is one of the coolest hits at the American Bandstand Grill. Includes fillet of salmon, baby spinach, strawberries, mandarin oranges, cucumbers, and Roma tomatoes, tossed in balsamic vinaigrette dressing; \$8.95.

"Blue Suede Shoes," and "Berry Berry Coeus Pop," with their dishes of delight. "We always try to change the menu and spice it up a little," Ledesma said.

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Patate Pleasers: Ben Ledesma, Kitchen Manager of AB Grill II in Auburn Hills, holds up two popular dishes: salmon & baby spinach salad (\$11.50) and rib eye steak entree (\$16.95).

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