

COUPLE

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"A 10th anniversary, it's a big stepping stone in a marriage," he said. "I was trying to imagine something special. I wanted something to inspire some feelings that you don't normally get on a regular anniversary."

After considering trips to other cities, he settled on the idea of the Longacre House on Farmington Road in Farmington Hills. The Zanchoses held their wedding reception in the house, so it had special meaning.

At best, he'd hoped the two of them could share a drink in one of the rooms. When he approached catering manager Neal Bostic, however, he learned much more could be done.

"Neal said we could do a whole dinner," Paul recalled.



NEAL BOSTIC

Laura's mashed potatoes held the clue to her anniversary gift, a diamond necklace.

mashed potatoes.

"When I proposed to her, I made her dinner ... prime rib and mashed potatoes, nothing gourmet, but I cooked. I put the ring in the mashed potatoes," he explained.

NICE SURPRISE

This time around, he had Chef Russell mound the potatoes around a plastic "bubble," the kind you find in gumball machines. It contained a note directing Laura to look under her chair. There she found a gift box that contained a necklace with a three-diamond pendant: one for their past, one for their present and one for their future.

Both Paul and Laura raved about the dinner, which Paul described as being as good as or better than any from local restaurants like The Lark or Tribute.

"The food was spectacular," Paul said. "The whole atmosphere that night was wonderful. This was a local place we could go that we have a history with."

The cost - well, let's just say it wasn't your usual restaurant tab. But Paul believes men are quite often too concerned with their budgets.

"This is an investment in your marriage, your love, your history," he said. "How often does this day come around?"

Now all Paul has to worry about is what to come up with to celebrate their next 10 years.

"I do have time to think about it," he said.

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IT'S DIFFERENT

For the Longacre House staff, this event would be very different from most others they had arranged. The House hosts wedding receptions, parties, corporate meetings and events like Chef's Cookout and Sunday Brunch.

"It was different, because this was a setting for two people, versus a hundred people," said Executive Director Denise Tawya.

Their first challenge was to make the vast living room, which can accommodate a dozen tables, cozy enough for two.

"We had fun personalizing the room for them," Tawya said. "We had to work pretty hard to make a room this big intimate."

"Lots of candles and lots of fabric," Bostic added.

They moved the room's grand piano closer to the dinner table, which was set up in front of the fireplace, and arranged for Marty Mandelbaum to play that evening. Mandelbaum's trio, Marty's Little Big Band, played for the Longacre New Year's party.

Paul met with Chef Russell Chessin, who customized a "surf and turf" menu. "I have a special diet, and he was able to come up with something that fit with it," Zanchos said.

The night of Nov. 27, Paul told Laura they were going someplace special for dinner: The Lark in West Bloomfield. When they got there, the restaurant was closed, so Paul suggested they go somewhere else. Laura still wasn't sure what was going on - not until they pulled into the long, curving driveway at the Longacre House. He brought along two bottles of Dom Perignon champagne, which they had used to toast their marriage 10 years earlier. Paul had another surprise for Laura, hidden in her

Longacre to offer Valentine's Day cook-out

The historic Longacre House in Farmington Hills will offer a special Valentine's Day "Chef's Cookout," from 6-9 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 14. Executive Director Denise Tawya said guests at the community house's New Year's Eve party so enjoyed dancing, she plans to offer dance music at this event as well.

Chef Russell Chessin has created a menu that includes grilled ribeye steak or tuna steak as the entree, with

sesame style green beans, redskin smashed potatoes and chocolate mousse pie for dessert. The meal also includes appetizers, salad and beverages. Entrees are cooked to order.

The 20-room Georgian manor, built in 1869 and later expanded, was donated to the communities of Farmington and Farmington Hills for use as a community center. Music and dance classes are taught there during the week, and the house

offers a variety of special events throughout the year.

Support for the non-profit comes through events and donations; the house receives no municipal funding. Memberships have been resurrected with introductory pricing for a limited time.

They come with discounts for certain Chef's Cookout and Sunday Brunch events, as well as a five percent discount on banquet catering in 2003. For more information, call (248) 477-8404.

Vagnozzi praises Granholm's approach

Aldo Vagnozzi, Democratic state representative for Farmington/Farmington Hills, thought Gov. Jennifer Granholm's state of the state speech this week was the best he's ever heard from a governor. "She jumped on the positive approach to the issues," he said. "She didn't dwell so much on the budget problem."

Vagnozzi, in his freshman year in Lansing, said he agreed with the Democratic governor's emphasis on the importance of early childhood education. He also supports trying to

bring prescription drug costs down by joining other states to purchase bulk quantities of certain drugs, thus reducing consumer costs.

A co-signer on recent bills to regulate Canadian trade, Vagnozzi is all for Granholm's attempts to have haulers conform to Michigan's landfill standards. That means Canada couldn't dump its beverage cans and other recyclables in the state's landfills.

He also supports the governor's emphasis on keeping reins on development in the state. He'd like to see farms

assessed for their value at present use, rather than being sold based on a developer's plan for additional housing.

On Monday, Vagnozzi plans to join a kick-off of news conferences led by Democrats in the House to announce a plan to reduce prescription drug costs for seniors and the underinsured.

Vagnozzi plans to be at the Ride Aid at 11585 12 Mile in Warren at 9:45 a.m.; the Ambassador Bridge in Detroit at 11:15 a.m. and at the Ride Aid at 1026 N. Main in Royal Oak at 1 p.m. - By Paul R. Pace

GRANHOLM

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It didn't fly, but Maxfield said, "It's still a good idea."

Both North Farmington and Farmington High Schools offer community service programs that aren't mandatory but allow students to earn and receive special recognition at graduation he said.

BLOOMFIELD HILLS WAY

All 2,000 Bloomfield Hills Public School District high school students - including special education students - are required to complete 40 hours of community service, said community service coordinator Elizabeth Gibbs. "That's anybody who gets a diploma. Sixty to 70 percent earn more than 100 hours."

The class of 1990 was the first to complete the requirement. The school board made the decision in 1986, after a committee's study. Students' enthusiasm helped clinch the program, she said. Students have three options and all work through Gibbs. They are:

■ Complete the 40 hours outside of school

■ Take an elective community service class which allows them to work on the requirement during the block scheduled class. Students can do this either inside or outside of school during this time period, which helps students who have job responsibilities after school.

■ Students can earn one elective credit outside of school for every 100 hours spent in com-

munity service and can earn up to three full credits. Students can volunteer during the summer as well. Reflection on what they're doing is important.

"We tell the kids to keep a journal," Gibbs said.

The Bloomfield Hills district received a \$17,000 Learn and Serve grant, which encourages teachers in the K-12 system to integrate what students learn in their classes with volunteer work, Gibbs said.

A "GOOD JOB"

Maxfield thought Granholm did a good job Wednesday.

"She delivered the message we have a serious financial problem," he said. "But it doesn't mean we can't move forward."

He liked her support of business and school partnerships. She encourages us to think creatively and to form partnerships," Maxfield said.

Oakland Schools' Automation Alley fits with the business/school partnership model, he said. Granholm's emphasis on Early Childhood Education and reading to children from birth to five years old is also crucial and gives students a head start, he said. One of Granholm's ideas is teaming high schools students to work with early childhood centers.

"We cannot rely on our educators alone to prepare our students and our state for the future," she said. "Everyone of us must find a way to reach out, too."

Terry Klenczar, director of adult and community education, said this is already happening in Farmington. "Students at the

Alternative High School partner with Alameda Early Childhood Center," she said.

Maxfield shares Granholm's interest in insisting young people stay in school and attend regularly.

"If you do not show up in school, you should not bother showing up at the Secretary of State office either," Granholm said. "We will not issue driver's licenses to chronic truants. It is a privilege not a right. The responsibility of driving a car should be linked to the responsibility of attending school."

There's the argument that students can't get to school or to jobs if they can't drive, Maxfield said, but he added, "It's worth a try." Klenczar said this sounds like a good idea but she needs more information on the proposal. Students in high school completion and adult education classes are older and may have faced multiple obstacles. Truancy or poor attendance is just one, she said.

Dan Mulhern, Granholm's husband, will head the Mentor Michigan program Granholm introduced as Attorney General three years ago. She wants a statewide effort to recruit mentors.

"Research shows mentoring reduces crime," Granholm said.

"Mentoring is about doing more on a more noble level," Maxfield said. "That is what political leadership is all about."

Through mentoring, Granholm wants every child to answer the question: "Who really and truly takes a special interest in you?"

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