

THE METROPOLITAN *dÉtroit*



AN EVENING SNOW FALLS OVER FERNDALE, circa 1950s

By Tom Brank

An evening snow began. We slipped our sneakers into goulashes, tucked in pant legs, and buckled them, then wool hats, gloves, and knitted scarves. We started the long hike up nine-mile road, east to downtown Ferndale to shop for Christmas. On the north side, its dirt path went up over the hill to Pinecrest's Ridge road and began the descent to town, a warming glow of lights rising up through the flurries to meet us.

We passed Harry's Barber Shop; the red and white pole lit brightly, Lee and Chuck Caylor's dad's place. Everyone knows Harry the Barber. It is where the mayor, or the chief of police would learn where the fish are biting in the north channel of Lake St. Clair. Or, where the pheasants are on Miller's Farm, past peat swamp, past the wild pear trees on nine and Coolidge. It's where I never had to pay for a hair cut.

Looking past Sander's big wreath in the window, we could see it was full. A little further down there was room for three at Woolworth's counter; where we had tuna fish, toasted, and chocolate malts. Our bills came. Mine \$1.86, but that's ok, it's Christmas.

We crossed over to Neiser's Five & Dime, the worn wooded slat floors squeaked when we walked through, looking row after row until Lee and Chuck found the right leather gloves for their mother. Up on Woodward's corner there is a line by Santa's house. We stood quietly by the Nativity to gaze at the wonder and mystery of the season. We shopped Federal's on the corner, all three floors, until I found an auto-defroster, \$9.95, for mom's fridge. Federal's, where dad bought the Mossburgh .22 rifle for my twelfth birthday, three months earlier. It's deep, walnut stock I forever polish. We walked and walked both sides of nine, filled with friendly, happy faces, the air full of spirit, joy and snow. Back inside at Kresge's counter, we had hot chocolate. When the waitress placed the steaming cups in front of us she said, "Merry Christmas, boys." We warmed our fingers round the mugs.

Cedar garlands, with big, colored lights are strung across the street. Bing Crosby's White Christmas floats down from above. And, then Gene Autry's Here Comes Santa Claus.

We walked back up Hough's hill path and stopped. Their large home sits in fifty or more tall pine, a Christmas tree glowing warmly within. We stood under great evergreen branches, heavy laden with snow, a white blanket covering the land. The village of Ferndale ready to settle in for the night. The evening snow came down quietly, huge frosty flakes softly vanishing on faces and mittens.

SKI THE BUMPS w Bro Zanderson 5 Michigan Mountains Await You This Winter



Sproinging Off The Fiscal Cliff

You know, there's been a lot of talk about what's gonna happen if we don't like, pay our bills. It's gonna be like a total Yard Sale or something. It's like I can't even scope the tube for a snow report without everybody goin mental over the fiscal cliff. But, it's like, just dig in dudes: use your momentum and plant your poles, you know what I'm sayin? - Sproing! It's gnar, but we'll get through.

Cause, when you're on the mountain it like doesn't even matter. It doesn't matter if Obama's president, it doesn't matter if Romney's president, cause like seriously? - they're both SPORES, you know what I'm sayin? It's like it's cool. Cause, on the mountain we're like totally one, hittin' the slopes, bein' free - butt-draggers to rippers. I say it's time to chillax.

Here are my top five picks for boards and sticks in the lower Penn. SUATBI!

I. Boyne Highlands - Harbor Springs MI

Boasting the highest vertical drop in Lower Michigan, like 552 ft, with a base elevation of like 773 ft, Boyne Highlands has been one of Michigan's sweetest destinations for downhill, snowboarding and winter sport since it opened in 1963. 8 lifts rush peeps to a summit that reaches 1,325 ft, while 2 Magic Carpets assist snow bunnies and noobs. And, there's even a tube lift and kiddie carousel, with plenty of free space for practice.

Like, 34% of the runs are expert, so that's cool. 29% are intermediate, which is also pretty cool. That leaves like 37% for Herbs. The longest run is the North Peak Pass, which comes in at like 1.25 miles, and is pretty cool if you've got a bunny. But, I usually spend my time on the bumps. 4 terrain parks including a skier/boarder cross course and rail yard, and a 13-foot Halfpipe, make up the 430 ski acres, the largest area in like all of Michigan.

The Highlands has night skiing, a tube park, 35 KM of cross-country, like 8 KM of snowshoeing trails, and a lot of other stuff. With an average snowfall of 140 inches, and an average temperature of 26 degrees, it's pretty cool.

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INSIDE

Manny Maroun asks, "What should I do with My Train Station?"

The Metropolitan answers ~

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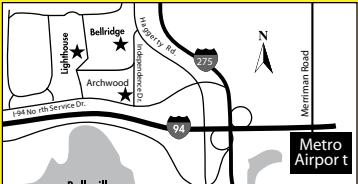
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From The Editor

A TIME FOR ALL SEASONS



We stood along the crest of a low rising hill, before a wood of maple and pine. Through branches of turning leaves, down a gentle slope, we could see the quaint village from whence we came. A crowd of family and friends gathered tightly, heads down, while workers lowered the box slowly into the ground.

We wiped tears, and wrapped arms round one another; the sound of bagpipes faded in still air. From a playground in the elementary across the road came the laughter of schoolchildren.

In silence we stood; puzzled looks on our faces. Quiet. Then the soft, indistinct sound of voices. When we turned to walk back to our cars a gravestone marked Griswold stood out from the other slabs of gray.

Merry Christmas, Clark: a member of ours died too soon . . .

Earlier that morning, in a humble church, the father of the deceased took the pulpit and addressed the gathering with a poem written and handed down by his grandfather. When he finished the poem he folded the paper, placed it in his coat pocket, and continued in stoic, Scot fashion to offer the following advice:

[And, while we may have heard it all before, it bears repeating]

"There is nothing more important in this life than family and friends. If you are fortunate enough to have both then you are blessed. We are now near the holidays; a time when we traditionally get together and let one another know that we are thinking of them. But, as we have experienced, there are times when those we love are taken away before we are able to say all that we wish we had said. And, so I ask you not to wait, but to make the time now, and let those you care for know that they are loved."

Or, something like that . . .

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, to you and yours ~
~ Anthony Brancaleone

*In Memory of Zachary J Plastow
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If you enjoy reading The Metropolitan we ask that you share your copy with family and friends. In this way, The Metropolitan can be Read-cycled. We think that's a good thing. Of course, The Metropolitan also makes a fine gift-wrap, and burns well in the fireplace.



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Warning: This paper has not been proof read, and probably never will. Please, see 'Letter From The Editor', November 2010, online for more information.

Visit us at:
TheMetDet.com



C O N T E N T S

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Communiqué

Local Coffee Shop

Just sat down at a local coffee shop and found the Metropolitan as a welcome alternative to staring at my iPhone -- is this a new publication? Regardless, great work! I love the dedication to all things local; perfect amount of substance and enjoyable to read. Thanks to you and your team -- keep it up!

Sincerely,
Caitlin James, Detroit

New York To Detroit

Picked up a copy of The Metropolitan in the airport near the baggage claim over Thanksgiving. I have never been to Detroit and quite honestly didn't know what to expect, but was in town visiting my new wife's family. Usually, I find "tourist" magazines soullessly promoting things-to-do in the area to be a bore, but The Metropolitan proved to be an interesting read, and informative guide. The piece on Kid Rock was unexpected, and I loved the review on Thankskilling (a movie I made the family watch). Oh, and sorry to Mr. Robertson for the unfortunate outcome of the Lion's game. Detroit turned out to be a great town, and The Metropolitan a great ambassador.

Jonathon Smits, New York

The Spaghetti Incident

For several years, a man in New York City had been having an affair with an Italian woman.

One night, she confided to him that she was pregnant.

Not wanting to ruin his reputation or his marriage, he paid her a large sum of money if she would go back to Italy to secretly have the child.

Also, if she stayed in Italy to raise the child, he would provide child support until the child turned 18. She agreed, but asked how he would know when the baby was born.

To keep it discrete, he told her to simply mail him a post card, and write 'Spaghetti' on the back when the child was born. He would then arrange for the Child Support Payments to begin.

One day, about 8 months later, he came home to his confused wife.

'Honey,' she said, 'You received a very strange post card today.'

'Oh, just give it to me and I'll explain it later.' he said.

The wife obeyed and watched as her husband read the card, turned white, and fainted.

On the card was written:

Spaghetti, Spaghetti, Spaghetti, Spaghetti, Spaghetti.

Three with meatballs, two without.

Send extra sauce

Anonymous

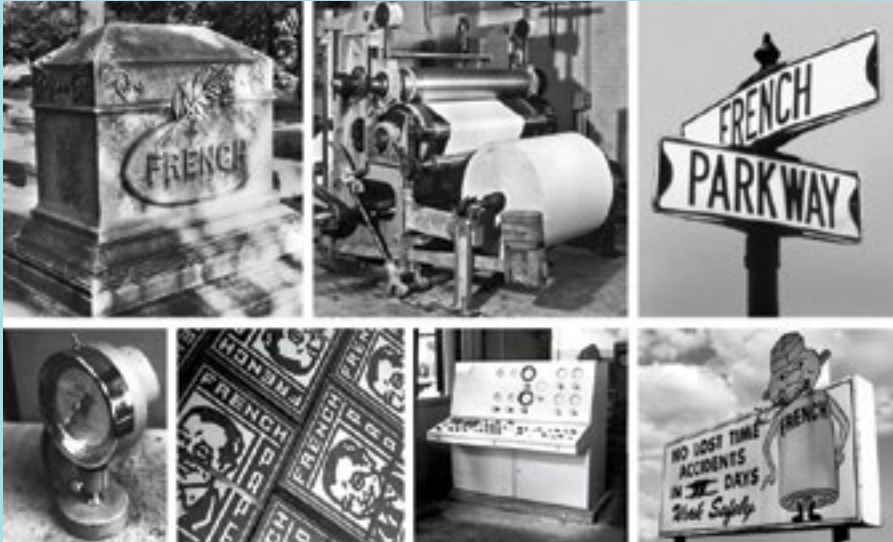
MICHIGAN BUSINESS

ON THE COVER



French Paper Company has been manufacturing paper for more than 140 years in the same community of Niles, Michigan. In an industry known for corporate acquisitions and shutdowns, French Paper has persevered, emerging as one of the strongest, smartest, and most consistent paper brands around.

Remaining as one of the last, small, independent mills in America, French Paper has learned to take their direction from customers, not corporate consultants. They keep their eye on the bottom line by improving their product lines, and when they talk about stock, they mean papers, not shareholder value.



SEND EMAILS, COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS TO ANTHONY@THEMETROPOLITANDETROIT.COM

Society



Valentine Named Best Business

Named 'Best Business 2012' by the Ferndale Chamber of Commerce, and Oakland County, Owner Rifino Valentine and staff have demonstrated excellence in the distilling, bottling and promotion of Michigan spirits, while the Valentine Distillery, located in Ferndale, MI continues to be one of the great drinking establishments in the history of the state. Now bottling Gin - with Whiskey made available soon - The Metropolitan raises its glass in honor of Valentine! www.valentinevodka.com



Ice Skating at Campus Martius

Located next to Detroit Christmas Tree, the Rink offers a high energy skating experience in the heart of downtown, surrounded by Detroit's historic skyline, surround sound, and beautiful color changing lighting. Rink side dining and drinks at the Fountain Bistro, concessions and a party room are part of this special experience.



Rink Hours November 17 Thru December 31, 2012.
Monday – Thursday - 11am - 10pm, Friday - 11am - midnight,
Saturday - 10am - midnight, Sunday - 12pm - 8pm

Zoonique

When the shopping mall becomes a zoo this holiday season, shoppers can make the Zoo their mall. The Detroit Zoological Society (DZS) offers many gift ideas that allow the giver to give twice – recipients will love their “zoonique” gifts and the proceeds from sales will help support the animals at the Detroit Zoo.



Membership has its privileges. A Detroit Zoo membership provides a year's supply of “Vitamin Z” with free admission to the Detroit Zoo and Belle Isle Nature Zoo, free parking, discounts at Zoo gift shops and many other benefits. Prices range from \$53 to \$160. Residents of Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties receive \$10 off.

Opt to adopt. An A.D.O.P.T.S. (Animals Depend on People to Survive) gift package includes a plush animal, photo, fact sheet, personalized adoption certificate and greeting card. Prices range from \$40 to \$1,000. The gift of A.D.O.P.T.S. helps to improve the Zoo animals' habitats and provides veterinary treatment.

Pay tribute. Make a lasting impression at the Zoo with a brick tribute paver engraved with a loved one's name or special message (cost is \$100 to \$1,000). A brass-finished laser-etched butterfly can be purchased to commemorate a birthday, wedding, anniversary or the life of a family member, friend or beloved pet (cost is \$500).

Call (248) 336-5836. To give a gift membership, call (248) 541-5717 and press 3.

“All that is valuable in human Society depends upon the opportunity for development accorded the individual.” ~ Albert Einstein

Frost Fest at Arab Museum

Then, a few weeks later on **Saturday, Dec. 15, from 2-4:30 p.m.**, get the kids out of the house and into the spirit at the AANM's popular annual Frost Fest Family Party. The Museum's Community Courtyard gets all decked out in its winter finery, setting the scene for children's crafts, games, Kid Karaoke, a decorate-a-cookie station and a pizza lunch. Adults are admitted free; children's tickets are \$7 in advance online and \$8 at the door. Tickets for Frost Fest are available online at www.arabamericanmuseum.org and at the door.



Who's Marketing?

St. John Providence Health System has named Duffey Petrosky as agency of record for all advertising, marketing and digital communications. "St. John Providence Health System has consolidated all of its marketing communications with Duffey Petrosky. They have the broad array of talent and resources we need to help us get our messages out to our many physicians and patients in a way that is most relevant, effective and meaningful to them," said Janice Cosby Bridges, vice president, St. John Providence Marketing and Communications.

And, What About Media?

Laine Buszka , Patrick Delaney , Kevin Hayes , Janet Jablonski , Jon Loughridge , Tyrone Noble, and Bethany Rista are the newest members of the accounts team at Cumulus Media-Detroit - 760 WJR-AM, 93.1 WDRQ-FM and 96.3 WDVD-FM. Buszka brings over 14 years in business development experience spanning the spectrum of business from corporate recruiting for I.T. to real estate. Delaney has been in radio industry for seven years. Hayes is taking his career path in a new direction after 12 years working for print publications. Jablonski joins Cumulus as the most experienced radio veteran of the new guard with over 10 years of sales and management experience in Detroit and Ann Arbor radio. Loughridge has spent the majority of his career in the print signage industry. Noble brings over six years of experience in digital media advertising. Rista joins Cumulus Media Detroit with a background in sales and marketing.

Conflict of Interest

This following message in quotations came at the bottom of a Press Release that asked for coverage of their event - "Please consider the environment before printing or forwarding this email. If you do print this email, please recycle the paper. This email message may contain confidential, proprietary and/or privileged information. It is intended only for the use of the intended recipient(s). If you have received it in error, please immediately advise the sender by reply

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“Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence on Society.” ~ Mark Twain

Mayor Bing's Response to the Defeat of Proposal 1

"I am determined to continue with vital reforms now underway in the City of Detroit, despite the defeat of Proposal 1 by Michigan voters in Tuesday's election. I, like many of the citizens of Detroit, opposed the Emergency Manager provision of Public Act 4. However, Public Act 4 was a tool to help us implement our restructuring plan, by giving us more leverage with labor unions."



"In the face of the City's enormous fiscal deficit, I chose to negotiate a Financial Stability Agreement with the State of Michigan, rather than entertain the appointment of an Emergency Manager. The Financial Stability Agreement, approved by Detroit City Council last April, is still in place. We are fully engaged in implementing 25 City reform initiatives under that agreement. These reform initiatives are designed to improve the City's operational effectiveness and efficiency, and provide financial stability."

"I am confident that my administration, in cooperation with the Detroit City Council and the State of Michigan, will find the right path for continuation of our much-needed reforms. With or without the support of Public Act 4, our goal remains the reform of City government to better serve the citizens of Detroit."

Willow Run Airport

The American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) has awarded Mr. Sean P. Brosnan, A.A.E., MPA, Director of Willow Run Airport for the Wayne County Airport Authority the distinction of Accredited Airport Executive (A.A.E.).



New Year's Eve - Drop 'D'

"The Drop" is in its third year. The event takes place at the Compuware Atrium and Hard Rock Cafe in Detroit. This year the American Institute of Architectural Student Association are building the work of art that will be dropped 100 feet in the air. Tickets are currently available at www.showclix.com. It is \$100 for a complimentary bar and appetizers as well as world-class entertainment provided by DJ Tom T.



TAKE GOOD CARE OF THE GOODFELLOWS

A Story Of Christmas Remembered By Jean McNeill De Hayes

It must have been 1931 or 32, because it was during the depression. I was only five or six, and we lived in an upper flat on the Westside of Detroit. You came up a flight of stairs and along a hallway to a door leading into the flat. 4838 Vernor - or was it 3848, I can't remember. It was between Morrell and Ferdinand. My family went to the Holy Redeemer church, and I attended McKinstry grade school on Lansing.

One day, my mother heard someone coming up the stairs, and he was yelling, "Merry Christmas! This is Santa Claus! No child without a Christmas gift!" He had three boxes, and in them were a doll, a truck and a pair of boots, with a jack knife. After he handed them to my mother, he went back down the stairs and out the door.

A short while later, he came back and gave my mother another box. "I forgot to give you a doll," he said, and then he turned and headed down the stairs. My mother told me later that she held the box and thought, "Now, I have two dolls for my daughter." We were very poor,

although at the time I didn't know it.

The next day, it began to bother her. "I will never forgive myself," mother said, in her thick Scottish Brogue accent. "I wonder what wee little girl will be without a doll this Christmas?"

"No mother," I said. "Whosever name is on Santa's list will get a gift."

"I wonder what wee little girl will be without a doll this Christmas?"

"I should have ran after him," she said. "I could have ran after him, and I didn't."

We used to get a free bottle of milk in the morning, and two graham crackers. But, we had to have a ticket, and I don't know how we got on the list - maybe, it was the school? One girl said, "You get milk because you're poor. Only the poor people get that."

My mother said, "That's not true. You're getting that because you're a good girl."

And, then someone said that I had welfare

shoes on. You had to get a ticket downtown, all the shoes were the same, Oxfords, with that tongue on them, a flap on top, and I said, "Mine are not welfare shoes," even though I didn't know what welfare was. So, my mother cut the flap and put different laces on them. "There," she said. "Now, they don't look like everybody else's."

Mother thought about that doll several times during the year. Every Christmas, it was like a knife to her heart. "I wonder what wee little girl ..." she would say, with her head down and her hands clasped.

She always gave to Goodfellows after that, and she never walked past the big, red kettle (Salvation Army) without putting something in it. She must have been around 35 when that happened. She died at 87.

On her deathbed, she still thought of that doll and begged my husband Ken and I to "always take good care of The Goodfellows." I like to think that when my mom, Sarah McNeill died there was a wee little girl with a doll in her arms to greet her.



Detroit Goodfellows

The Old Newsboys' Goodfellow Fund of Detroit is a 95-year-old charity founded in 1914 by James J. Brady. The organization includes 300 members whose sole mission is to ensure that there is "No Kiddie without a Christmas." Each holiday season the Detroit Goodfellows distribute holiday gift boxes to children ages four through 13 living in Detroit, Highland Park, River Rouge and Hamtramck. Each child receives warm clothing, toys, books, games and candy. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the Detroit Goodfellows, please send a check payable to the Detroit Goodfellows to P.O. Box 44444, Detroit, MI 48244-0444. You may also make an online gift using your VISA or MASTERCARD by going to detroitgoodfellows.org/donate



MR. MATTY MAROUN ASKS:
WHAT SHOULD I DO
WITH MY TRAIN STATION?

By Anthony Brancalone

A DETROIT RUIN

As we have previously published in The Metropolitan [Word, June 2011], and have alluded to in a cover featuring the image of the Michigan Central Station [March 2011], with a title reading, *When In Detroit*, The Metropolitan once again suggests a solution to owner, Manny Maroun's plea for "ideas", regarding the preservation or redevelopment of the vacant structure: Turn the train station into the first bona fide Ruin in America.

Completed in 1913, the Michigan Central Station operated continuously, moving freight and passengers, through the First World War, the Great Depression, and World War II. At its height in the 1940s, the Depot serviced over four thousand people per day, with over three thousand employees working within its tower.

But, passenger traffic slowed, followed by cuts in service, to the point where the iconic building was put up for sale in 1956, for \$5 million. Another sales attempt came in '67, followed by the close of more shops, and businesses, with more services being cut. Amtrak took over the nation's passenger railways in 1971 - which should have let us know then the fate of this structure - raising the cost of rail travel, while lessening the experience, and by January, 1988 the last Amtrak pulled away from a station that had been nearly empty for over a decade.

Since then, the Train Station has served mainly to provide a reminder of what Detroit once was, as well as a medium for artists, photographers, and urban spelunkers to convey their emotional ties to an edifice that has come to define our city. In fact, I find it an easy statement to make that Michigan Central Station is the most photographed,

and talked about, structures in Detroit.

Designed by the Warren & Wetmore, and Reed and Stern firms, who also designed New York's Grand Central Terminal, the Michigan Depot is of the Beaux-Arts Classical style of architecture; taught at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, France and is the product of over two-and-a-half centuries of instruction under the authority of the Academie royale d'architecture (1671-1793), and the Academie des Beaux-Arts (1795 to present); both rooted in the Ancien Regime, and dating the style to the Bourbon Dynasty. Fitting, since Detroit - or d'Etoit - is of French origin.

If nothing useful is to be done with this glorious structure, I submit: what better end than by honouring Michigan Central Station with the title, America's First Ruin?

Following the precedence set by world-renowned sites like the Pyramids at Giza, the Parthenon at Athens, and the Coliseum of Rome, the Michigan Train Depot would serve a valuable function in preserving a part of Detroit history. Further, these locations demonstrate that a carefully cultivated Ruin promotes tourism; something the city of d'Etoit is certainly in need of.

Even in an uncertain Egypt, the Egyptian Travel Authority reported the number of tourists last year at 9.8 million, though down from 14.7 million in 2010. According to the Association of Greek Tourism Enterprises, approximately 7.2 million tourists visit Greek temples each year; another example of tourism combating political uncertainty, and financial austerity. And, in Rome the Coliseum receives approximately 3.5 million tourists each year alone.

Clearly, the reason nothing has been done with Michigan Central is due to finance. The amount of money needed to rehabilitate the building must be astronomical. Refurbish, retrofit, codes, green technologies: I can hardly imagine. Even then, management must fill the space, a task that has proven difficult since the 40s. And, what about public opinion? Everyone in the city believes the Train Station is his or hers, and why shouldn't they; it's towered empty over Roosevelt Park the whole of their lives, and has become a symbol of the struggle of Detroit.

But, we're not Egypt, Tony!; we're not Athens, we're not Rome. I know - and we won't be, unless we learn to honor our past.

Therefore, The Metropolitan offers the following suggestion, Mr. Maroun and thank you in advance for considering its proposal.

How To Create A Functional Ruin

1. Work with State and Local government to officially recognize Michigan Central as a museum/ruin - this should eliminate current taxes, and could prove profitable if title exchanges hands. If government proves difficult, seek partners with federally recognized Indian tribes in Michigan. Of course, I am not an attorney or accountant, but I must assume you have access to the best.
2. Partner with Detroit Historical Museum to create ground floor museum. Offer tours, charge admission. Add coffee shop, gift shops etc.
3. Refurbish top floor of structure to support convention, corporate parties, weddings, and events. This leaves only elevators, stairwells, and fire exits. The remaining floors are maintained as a frame. In this way, the structure and use would be similar to the Eiffel Tower.
4. Create indirect lighting at night to feature the structure in an artful and dramatic fashion - someone has already taken this



advice [June 2012]. It looks good now, but could be much better. More dramatic, Manny! Light it up!

5. Fence off the area using local artisans, with reclaimed materials from Detroit.
6. Use designs from local artists and create compelling grounds that surround the structure. May we suggest Wyatt Gage, Henry Ford Academy, who placed 1st in Detroit Design Festival's, 'Unfold The City' competition with his entry, 'Railroad Garden'.
7. Advocate for artists and street vendors to utilize Roosevelt Park, thus creating a pleasant gathering space, resulting in additional foot traffic.
8. A strong solution to the Train Station will support additional entrepreneurs and investors to populate the immediate area.
9. Sit back and enjoy, while tourists the world over visit Detroit to see the first Ruin in America.

These ideas, and more, could benefit Mr. Maroun; as well as the city of Detroit, which can use a boost in tourism, and become a leader in the repurposing of decayed buildings. The Train Station is a great piece of architecture, and reminds us of our glorious past. In the right hands, it can be one of the world's finest historical monuments, and return pride to a city that has taken a beating.

What do you think? talktothestation.com



THERE’S A NEW BURGER IN TOWN

And it’s at the Mercury Burger & Bar

Anthony Brancalone
In The Metropolitan’s quest to find the perfect burger, we have taken our readers on many a delicious journey: Red Coat Tavern (Royal Oak MI), Roast (Detroit), Shake Shack (NY) to name a few. And, now we announce a new burger in town - Blue Apple (Blue cheese, applewood bacon, fresh ground pepper; \$8) - and it’s found at the Mercury Burger & Bar, Detroit.



glorious Michigan Central Station in all her majesty.

When this masterpiece of a burger arrived, served in circular tin, with wax paper, I was beside myself. It simply looked beautiful. Not to mention my dates Grilled Cheese, and are shared order of fries.

My first experience with this burger came months ago, and was nothing less than a shockingly good surprise. My date and I popped in for a meal, and I was immediately drawn to the Blue apple. Ordered medium rare, I added lettuce, tomato, grilled onion and, having been to Dreamland BBQ in Birmingham, Alabama, asked for the tangy, vinegar based sauce, offered as an extra at the Mercury for no charge. Add to that a pint, a soda, and a smile from our friendly server, and there we sat waiting in anticipation.

Using this time wisely, we perused the menu and discovered the Burger & Bar to be aptly named, for the Mercury specializes in a variety of interesting burgers. S.W. Detroit is a burger topped with a chorizo slider; jalapenos, munster, tortilla strips, avacado, and zanahorias (\$8). The Local is a burger topped with pulled BBQ pork, cheddar, slaw, pickles, and Dreamland BBQ (\$8). The Flint burger is topped with green olives and cheddar (\$7), and is a meaty homage to Flint’s own Halo Burger. And, the Eastern Market is a black bean burger, with lettuce, tomato, onion, munster, avocado, all on a whole grain bun (\$7).



Not being a burger person (a story in itself), my date ordered the grilled cheese (\$5). But, she could have easily tried the Grilled bologna, served with Better made chips (\$6), the fried green BLT, with Applewood bacon, and fried green tomato (\$7), or one of several Hot Dogs; Detroit, Chicago, or New York style (\$4). The Mercury also offers a selection Salads and sides; we decided split a side of Sea Salt and black pepper fries (\$2).

The interior of The Mercury is definitely retro inspired: a cross between 50’s diner, with white subway tile, aluminum, and dark wood accents, and modern biergarten, offering a nice selection of beer on tap and in the bottle, with a nicely fenced in, well designed patio to drink from. The downstairs room serves overflow, and as a private area for business, and parties. From our vantage point in the booths, which extend along large windows, we could see the



Upon first bite, I knew I was experiencing greatness. “Wow”, was all I could muster, as I allowed myself to discern the combination of flavors. The burger was prepared to perfection. Another bite. Wow. Another. Wow. “This may be the best burger in town,” I finally said out loud.

My dates Grilled Cheese was monumental; one of the best she has ever had. And, the Sea Salt and black pepper fries rank among the finest frites, period - seriously damn good fries!

The following week I brought members of The Metropolitan staff to the Burger Bar. The week after that, I took my father to Sugar House, for cocktails on his birthday, followed by burgers and fries at the Mercury. Good friend, and writer Eric Campbell, who also moonlights as tender of the bar at Slow’s, located directly across the street, joined us for beer and Bourbon. The place had life, with people conversing, music playing, and a professional staff. The next week, I snuck in and dined alone for lunch, and the week after that I brought my brother to the Mercury Burger & Bar for two Blue apple burgers, and a shared order of fries.

Manager, Kimberlia Kirk, tells me there is more on the menu than the Blue apple, and other staff members have suggested that I try something new. But, at the writing of this piece I am simply unable to do so. I love the Blue apple. In fact, I love the Mercury Burger & Bar, and feel confident when suggesting that anyone give this fine new edition to the Corktown area a try. You will not be disappointed.

2163 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, MI (313) 964-5000 - Mercuryburgerbar.com

A GROCER OPENS IN MIDTOWN

Ye Olde Butcher Shoppe

Metropolitan
Brothers, Michael and Peter Solaka, the sons of the original Ye Olde Butcher Shoppe owner; introduce a new market at 3100 Woodward Avenue at Watson, just south of Mack, in Detroit’s growing Midtown District.

The Solaka brothers’ concept for the Shoppe mirrors their family’s markets that date back to the mid-fifties, when their grandfather opened the family’s first store, Wayne Market, on Third Avenue. Ye Olde Butcher Shoppe offer a broad product mix, and strive to provide a complete grocery line for everyday living.

Sundays feature fresh bagels, smoked fish and Sunday newspapers, including the New York Times, and yours truly, The Metropolitan. Michael Solaka explains, “Although we have added many new components, such as a salad and olive bar, and full coffee service we are keeping true to the spirit of our original store which, was inspired by quality urban groceries in New York.”

Enhancing the user-friendly concept is the addition of a City Basics department that feature paper and cleaning products, seasonal items, kitchen and cooking gadgets, and other sundries for the growing residential market. Additionally, the Solaka brothers have added an outdoor patio for casual dining at the north side of the building, fronting Woodward Avenue.

“We want to provide a place where you can come in and put together a great meal all in one place,” said Peter. “Our pricing will be the same as comparable stores in the suburbs. Since so many people have to drive there for their groceries as it is, I think we will compete well in the Detroit market.”

The Solaka family first started in the grocery business in the mid-fifties when, Peter Solaka, grandfather to Peter and Michael, opened Wayne Market and the adjoining Mary Ann Restaurant (named for his Daughter) on Third Avenue on the growing Wayne State University campus. In the early 60s, the university purchased Wayne Market for an expansion, so Peter moved his store to the corner of Hamilton and Collingwood at the edge of the Boston/Edison district. When Peter passed away in 1963, his two sons, Joe and Tom, continued to operate the store, while branching into other fields.

Joe and Tom opened the first Ye Olde Butcher Shoppe in the Lafayette Park Shopping Center and eventually opened stores on Livernois Street, near Seven Mile Road, and in Capitol Park downtown.

The Lafayette Park store became the flagship and is still remembered by many who worked, lived or grew up nearby. Michael began working for the businesses in 1972 and Peter began five years later. Shoppers came from throughout Detroit, the Grosse Pointes and Windsor, and included many luminaries such as Dianna Ross, Duke Fakir, Patti Smith and Mayor Coleman A. Young. The stores carried fresh meat, produce, deli, baked goods, fine wine, specialty items and a full grocery line.

In 1989, the business was sold. Peter currently owns the Gourmet Deli in Renaissance Center. Michael is past President of New Center Council, and a partner in Northern Lights Lounge in New Center. Monday-Thursday 8am –7pm. Friday & Saturday 8am – 8pm. Sunday 10am-4pm

3100 Woodward Avenue Detroit, Michigan 48201 (313) 974.7356 -yeoldebutchershoppedetroit.com





photos by Ryan Brady

METROPOLITAN MIXERS 02

Rick Paulger

The Sugar House, The Old Fashioned, and The Pinky Pour

Grant Wickersham

Assuming you were nearsighted and were walking past The Sugar House in Corktown without corrective lenses, you might think you had spotted actor Jason Statham slinging drinks from behind the bar. If this is the case, your eyes have failed you on two counts, as the man is Rick Paulger, and he isn't slinging drinks, but carefully crafting cocktails (while possessing superior acting abilities, no doubt).

There is a renaissance of creative, down-to-earth bartenders with attention to detail in Detroit, and Rick is one of them. I spoke with him about his approach to the profession, the unique personality of Detroit, and the pinky finger as an oft-overlooked bartending tool.

"I always approach bartending from the standpoint of a host, with an emphasis on welcoming and presentation," says Rick as he muddles an orange peel and sugar for my cocktail. "I like the idea of the old-fashioned, traditional, more romantic bartenders that know the in's and out's of everything."

He is simultaneously being photographed for this piece as I grill him with questions, but his process of making my drink stays fluid and

precise. (This is impressive to me, as I can barely talk while mixing a Gin & Tonic. This is why I'm not a bartender.)

But Rick wasn't always a mixologist. "I lived in Chicago for a while and I started out slinging drinks at bars till 4 AM," he says with a smidge of audible nostalgia, though he seemed happy to have left it in the past. "Later, I worked at a mixology-type place before coming back to Detroit."

It was at this point in making my cocktail that Rick used his "Pinky Pour" technique, a way of holding the jigger between his pinky and ring finger. Traditionally, the jigger is held with the index finger and thumb, and after pouring in the liquor, requires an awkward twist-of-the-wrist to pour the contents into the cocktail shaker. This leaves you with a protruding elbow - a dangerous movement behind a crowded bar.

Instead, the Pinky Pour allows Rick to pour the contents of the jigger with a simple and elegant opening and turning-over of his hand with his palm facing up. "It's just a lot easier to do, and it looks much better," Paulger explains.

"All the big cities have Pre-Prohibition-inspired places," he says, as he pours my

cocktail. "The difference with Detroit is that despite its size, has more of a neighborhood feel to it. Detroiters want what they want, not to be told what they want."

He sits the drink in front of me: an Old Fashioned. "A perfect platform for the bourbon," Rick comments, and it was. The drink was perfectly balanced, with every ingredient hi-lighted.

As I was finishing my drink, a couple came in from Slows who was put on a long wait. They seemed intimidated at first by the

chandeliers, dark woods, game heads hanging from the brick walls, and a wall of top-shelf liquor. But the laid-back and welcoming personalities of Mr. Rick Paulger and the rest of the staff pulled them in, and they quickly grew comfortable.

I remembered a few times when I had walked out of a stuffy bar or restaurant for being too high on itself. Had I received the warm welcome that the couple received, and heard "White Light/White Heat" by the Velvet Underground playing, as they did, I would have stayed, too.

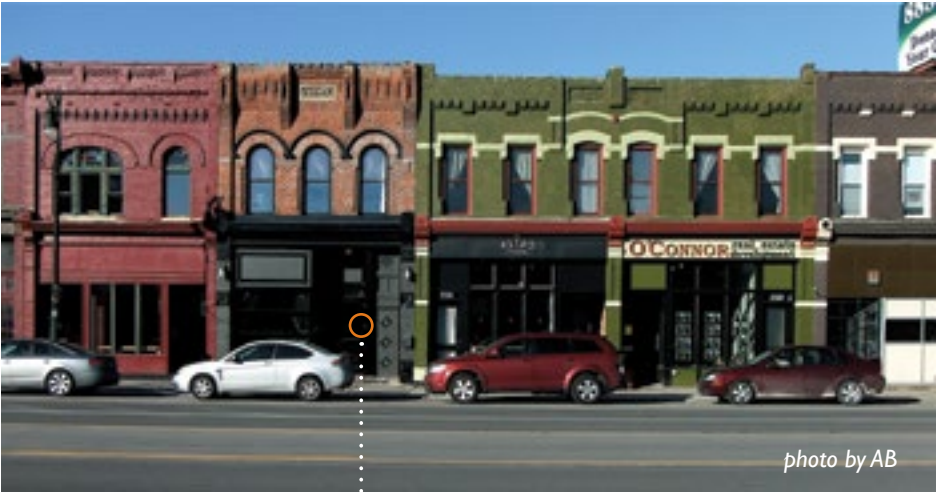


photo by AB



The "Old Fashioned"



Sugar House, Detroit



The Paulger "Pinky Pour"

.....THE SUGAR HOUSE

Named after the old Purple Game hangout, The Sugar House features a seasonal menu of fresh ingredients thoughtfully combined with the finest liquors and an equally top-shelf staff. Come for the fine cocktails, stay for the awesome song selection - and more cocktails.

Currently featured cocktails include:

The Dilletante - a refreshing pun on the dill-infused simple syrup, mixed with Beefeater Gin and Bonal.

Gentiane - the Root Bear Flip - Cruzan Black Strap Rum, Root Liquor, Cinnamon Syrup, and a whole egg.

Stagger Lee - a smoky, bitter-sweet cocktail with Laphroaig Scotch, Bonal Gentiane, Cherry Heering, & Absinthe.



who what wear

Fotoula Lambros

who :: Mickey Alice Kwapis

BUSINESS :: Larkspur Lane Jewelry

TYPE :: Model, Accessory Designer, Photographer, Taxidermist



Not yet 23 years old and already one of the area's finest artist. Her vision is timeless, and her work is outstanding, from creation to marketing. Mickey Alice Kwapis, cannot be summed up as one particular kind of artist. She has walked the runways of Detroit's hippest events, and has left a mark as more than just a pretty face. Mickey founded Larkspur Lane Jewelry in 2008, and in 2012 took it on full time without looking back. The skill Mickey portrays through each piece of jewelry shows the sophistication of an old soul in a modern world. Larkspur Lane is full of, self-titled "objects of curiosity".

Necklaces feature metals, with accents of precious gems and crystals, and fills glass vials with cottonseeds and other natural minerals. The branding for Larkspur Lane is always clean-cut, unique, and sincere in its message. Most recently, Mickey has refined her skills as a taxidermist, and has stuffed some of the cutest creatures wearing her trademark jewelry. LLJ has many items listed on Etsy, which include handmade books and other odd objects, perfect for the many people on your holiday shopping list.

www.larkspurlanejewelry.com

what :: Night of Stars Gala-Fashion Group

International-Detroit Chapter

DATES :: December 6, 2012

TIME :: 7p Cocktail Reception – 8p Awards Ceremony

LOCATION :: Detroit Opera House – 1526 Broadway, Detroit Michigan 48226



This year marks the inaugural Night Of Stars Awards Ceremony for FGI Detroit at the Detroit Opera House located in the heart of Detroit's theatre district. The event was created to honor Detroit fashion and design talent who

have made noteworthy and exceptional contributions to the fashion and design industries. Recently, dozens of nominations have been accepted over the last couple months, and winners will receive awards that include gifts from a list of sponsors and local businesses. A panel of Detroit's finest entrepreneurs and professionals were selected as judges to review each candidate and their portfolio. Nominees represent the luxury markets of Fashion, Automotive, Accessories, Jewelry, Interior/Home, Beauty, RTW and Retail. The Opera House hosts the evening, with a red carpet entrance, hors' d'oeuvres, cocktails and a perfect setting to reflect the shimmering talent in the room. Tickets are \$40 for members, and \$60 for non-members. www.fgidetroit.org/tickets

wear :: Hugh

TYPE :: Men's Bachelor Pad Style Boutique

LOCATION :: 4240 Cass Avenue, Detroit Michigan 48201

HOURS :: 7 days a week

PHONE :: 313. 831.4844



Having a list of successful eccentric pop-ups in its past, Hugh won the Hatch Detroit contest in 2011, and has been buying and hording his inventory to make sure Hugh is stocked for the holiday shopping season. Located in the most recent development in Midtown, The Auburn, Hugh has finally found a permanent brick and mortar in the city, and opened doors to the public in late November. Inside you are sure to find some of the most unique, affordable, and contemporary items that men all over the world would drool over. Different bar sets, art, furniture, and more can be found and can be sure to draw the attention of Detroit's most eligible

spenders. Owner Joe Posch is someone with a personality that lights up a room everywhere he goes. He shares his eye for style and a respect for vintage gifts and décor items in his displays. Joe travels all over the world to insure he is getting the quality and style that best expresses his brand. The opening of Hugh was one of the most anticipated retail flagships in Detroit for 2012. We are all glad to have this gem and his store at our fingertips. Check the website for more information and detailed hours.

www.lovehughlongtime.com

For the latest in Detroit style visit fo2la.com

BEAUTY • MARK

By Jeanette Frost

Metropolitan Gift Giving Guide

This holiday season, The Metropolitan encourages you to buy gifts locally, especially products made locally. Why?

- Builds Michigan's economy
- Keeps jobs in the U.S.
- Helps small business and artisans thrive
- Gifts are more thoughtful and unique for the recipient
- Local shops won't be infiltrated with nut-job shoppers, the likes of which one finds at big chain stores, and thus provides a better shopping experience!

Here are a few local gems worth popping into:

Bath Savvy - Handmade and Michigan-made bath and body care products are rich, luxurious and nourishing for your skin. Whipped Body Butters, Hair & Oil Creams, Sugar Body Scrubs, Oatmeal Bath Teas, Bar Soaps and Lip Balms are formulated with all natural ingredients including shea butter, olive oil, flowers, herbs, and pure essential oils. Products range from \$5-\$22 each. Gift sets are available! Find Bath Savvy locally at Rustbelt Market in Ferndale rustbeltmarket.com or online at bathsavvy.com



Ida Belle Soaps - Metropolitan made, created and packaged by hand, Ida Belle soaps contain olive oil, coconut oil, grape-seed oil, palm oil, shea butter, essential oils and some fragrances. Soap's colors are formulated from tealeaves, herbs, seaweed and flower petals. Scent options are plenty: Frangipani, Rose Garden, Lily of the Valley, Gardenia, English Lavender, Sweet Earth, Comfrey/Burdock, Hyacinth, Jasmine Flowers, Apple Sage Tea and many organic blends. Pine Forrest and Cinnamon Spice soaps are perfect holiday scents! Each bar is beautifully wrapped in either biodegradable paper or festive fabrics, ranging in size and price \$2.75-\$6.75 each. Ida Belle's full line of soaps can be found at Rustbelt Market, The Royal Oak Farmers Market and select products online at idabellesoaps.com

Rustbelt Market - Houses local/handmade artisan creations stimulating all the senses. Bath/body products and candles that smell spectacular. Food, beverage, and dessert vendors that would please the flavor palette of any foodie. New and vintage clothing that feels as amazing on as it looks. Framed art, sculptures, woodcrafts and jewelry pieces that are visually stunning. Live music plays regularly on the center stage during weekend market hours. Vendors vary from week to week and occasionally offer special market prices. Rustbelt is open for additional days and hours around the holidays check out rustbeltmarket.com for more info. Located at the corner of Woodward and 9 Mile Rd. 22801 Woodward Ave. Ferndale, 48220

Old Woodward Shave Company - Has the finest shave products for the men in your life. Shave Oil and Shave Butters are formulated from a barber's perspective containing natural oils and moisturizers that pamper and protect. Give him the gift of smooth, razor bump free, skin with Original Clove Shave Oil (\$12), Original Clove Shave Butter (\$15) and Peppermint Cool Shave Butter (\$15). For men on the go, Old Woodward Shave Co. has travel kits available, includes 8 -.5oz. tubes meeting TSA guidelines (Original Clove Shave Kit \$9 and Peppermint Cool Shave Kit \$9). Old Woodward Shave Co. can be found at The Barber Pole located at 164 S. Old Woodward, Birmingham MI. Also a great place for a shave and a haircut! The Barber Pole (248) 664-9849. Old Woodward Shave Co (248) 644-6400. oldwoodwardshaveco.com and thebarberpolebirmingham.com

Metropolitan's Pro makeup artist can be found at jeanettefrost.com

METROPOLIMAN

GIVE HIM THE BOOT

Matt Counts

Wherever a gentleman has been, there has been a job to be done. Whenever a job needs to be done, there have been boots to help along the way. In romantic times, dandy highwaymen would battle guards and commoners, the slain losing gold, copper, and their boots. When times are tough, one never hears of one pulling oneself up by his shoelaces. It is always the boot, and always will be the boot - arguably the most important piece in a gentlemen's repertoire. Always appropriate, and always in fashion, I present thee, thy boot.



Timberland: Waterproof and tough-tested on the Iditarod, Timberland is a legendary boot that has earned its notch in history. Although the company is much older, it was in 1965 when they revolutionized the boot by inventing soles fused to the upper leather, to create a truly waterproof boot. The signature light brown leather boot has become iconic in the working class world, the hiking world, and more recently, the hip hop world with artists praising their quality and versatility. Available at Shoe Hippo, Livonia. timberland.com



Dr. Martens: Always the rebel, all about revolution. Dr. Martens were the boots of the working class. It was that spirit of revolution that lead the founding fathers to add air to the soles of the boots to cushion them, and to make them more comfortable (after you break them in, of course), hence the "Bouncing soles" on the tag. I remember my first pair. A lovely green that served me well, and still serve well, for over 10 years now. Highly recommended to anyone. Available at Incognito clothing store in Royal Oak. dmusastore.com



Red Wing Shoes: Hand made in Red Wing, Minnesota, Red Wing shoes offer up some real serious boots. Be they for hiking, hunting, logging, or any other work one would ever do, this American Made product is the perfect boot. The Red Wing website also features a list of every boot they sell along with specs and information from the exact weight and diameter, to the construction and leather type. The Red Wing store is located on Woodward in Berkley. redwingshoes.com



HAIR STYLIST

Stein McGee

"I choose to be a stylist because I like to let my freak flag fly. I also like to keep my mind conditioned; and being a good stylist involves critical thinking. I find pleasure in sharpening my skills and using them to apply my imagination to the physical realm. It satisfies my inner scientist."

www.steinmcgee.com





THE FANTASY FLIGHT Brings Christmas Cheer To Children With illness

Raymond Rolak

Delta Airlines only has one charter a year to this location and again this December a group of area children will enjoy **‘THE FANTASY FLIGHT’** to this magical holiday destination. The annual simulated flight to the North Pole is to help bring some Christmas cheer to ill children from local hospitals.

Leaving from DTW Metro the annual event is in conjunction with the Silverliners Club, an organization of retired Eastern Airline flight attendants and supported by aircrew and staff from Delta Airlines.

Approximately 60 children will be onboard. They come from the University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, Beaumont Hospital, St. John Health System and Oakwood Hospital.

In all, about 110 passengers including the children, parents, employees, and representatives from the Silverliners will board a Boeing 757 for their flight to the North Pole. Flight attendants will volunteer their time to serve a catered snack onboard the one-hour trip around the airport.

Upon arrival, the children will visit the terminal's Westin Hotel where they will meet Santa and his elves at a holiday party. Spokesperson for Santa, Bill Neelsen Sr. a maintenance employee at DTW Metro Airport said area retailers donate supplies and gifts to help make the party. "We got a great response from many of the Romulus, Taylor and Southgate area retailers. Ikea in Canton will also give all the children goody bags and stuffed animals."



Each year the airport community also helps to support with contributions. Detroit's Employee Involvement Team decorates the gate area in festive ornaments as part of the event. Kathy Laper, a local Silverliner said she has a core of eight retired flight attendants that really help make the day a success.

The fantasy flight and party is made possible thanks to the cooperation of the Delta employees, the Silverliners, the Westin Hotel, the U.S. Transportation Security Administration, and the Wayne County Airport Authority and Santa's volunteers.

Quirk Factor: Christmas Tree Hugger

Lili Dreadz

Oh, the weather outside is frightful, but that won't stop me from finding the perfect Christmas tree! It's 2012, and finding the perfect tree has become a lost art... or so I thought. Yes, many folks opt for artificial pre-lit trees. They offer no mess, less frustration, and you needn't worry about watering them. My family always had an artificial tree because my mother was allergic to pine. Sadly, I grew up never experiencing the smell of fresh pine on a Christmas morning - such a tragedy.

There are a lot of purists who say real trees are the best, and I couldn't agree more. Yet, many of these same purists will gladly drive to the nearest pre-cut tree lot or hardware store to purchase an often over-priced scrawny prickly stick that will drop its needles with every step you take. Sorry Linus and Charlie Brown, but some trees just don't have that inner beauty waiting to shine to a chorus of lu-lu-lu's! I may be channeling my inner Clark Griswold here, but I believe the best Christmas trees are the ones you select and cut (or dig up) yourself.

It can be tough finding the perfect place to follow the age-old tradition of chopping down your own tree, but the Internet has saved our collective bacon (and yes, I realize the irony of using modern technology to find a pick-your-own tree farm for a good ol' fashion family Christmas). The website PickYourOwnChristmasTree.org may be a visually painful website - typed out in Comic sans - but it does lead you to lists upon lists of tree farms from all over the state. It also contains lots of vital information about these farms at a glance, such as what services and products they offer, and links to farm websites (if they have them). I managed to find quite a few in Oakland County alone.

Each farm boasts something different for customers. Some tree farms offer an entire day's worth of fun, if you happen to be looking for some family time. **Trim Pines Farm** in Holly (TrimPines.com) offers holiday hayrides, a roasting fire for s'mores, portable sawmill demonstrations, and even a chance to meet Santa and 2 of his reindeer! **Huff's Tree Farm** (HuffTreeFarm.com) in Highland is open 7 days a week, with fresh hot chocolate, coffee, and cookies, as well as free wagon rides during the weekends.

Middle Road Tree Farm (MiddleRoadTreeFarm.com), also in Highland, is meant for those who simply want the perfect tree. This farm is great if you're looking for a deal on a tall tree, as they charge a flat \$48 on all "U-Cut Trees". If you're looking towards a sustainable, organically grown Christmas tree, I recommend checking out **Addison-Oaks Christmas Tree Farm** in Oakland (AddisonOaksTrees.com). Their trees are grown the way nature intended, without pesticides or chemical colorants.

Whatever tree you desire to festoon for the holidays, Michigan will deliver. We are a state that loves trees, pines in particular (our state tree, after all, is the Eastern White Pine). Support your local farmers, and treat yourself to the time-honored tradition of cutting down your own tree. Your days may even seem a bit more merry and bright for it.



A WINTER WONDERLAND / HOLIDAY NIGHTS IN GREENFIELD VILLAGE

December 1, 7-8, 14-16, 18-23 and 26-27, 2012

Metropolitan

Holiday Nights transforms Greenfield Village into a holiday scene from the 19th and 20th centuries. Streets are lit by the soft glow of lanterns leading into the historic homes decorated for the season, filled with the scents of evergreen and freshly baked holiday treats. Take a ride in this winter wonderland via a Model T, or on a horse-drawn carriage. As you make your way throughout the Village, don't forget to stop by the Robert Frost home to visit with Santa and his reindeer.

Visitors can lace up their skates and take a turn or two on the Village's ice skating rink. Listen as traditional holiday songs echo through the air as Victorian-era carolers stroll through the Village, and the Dodworth Saxhorn Band serenades visitors down Main Street. Food stations are planted along the paths and are filled with historically inspired seasonal delights, including freshly roasted chestnuts, hot apple cider and cocoa. For the end of the evening, purchase an official Holiday Nights lantern and join the procession from Martha-Mary Chapel to Town Hall for a Fireworks finale accompanied by a sing-along of familiar holiday tunes.

Guests looking to spend some extra time with Old Saint Nick can do so during the village's Supper with Santa dinner package. A special ticket price combines dinner and Holiday Nights admission, and begins with a horse-drawn wagon ride to A Taste of History restaurant inside Greenfield Village. Enjoy a casual holiday turkey meal, arts and crafts and storytelling - and before heading into Holiday Nights, Santa himself will make a tableside visit to wish each child a Merry Christmas.

For the adults, historic Eagle Tavern also offers an exclusive, sophisticated seated dinner package. Live period music sets the tone for a delectable holiday feast, featuring roasted rib of beef, squash soup, roasted chicken with apricot sauce, ginger cake with vanilla sauce and more.

Holiday Nights runs December 1, 7-8, 14-16, 18-23 and 26-27, 2012 from 6:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. Ticket prices are \$17 for adult members and \$12.75 for youth members, \$20 for adult non-members and \$15 for youth non-members. Children four and under are free.

The dinner package, which is available every night of the program, offers 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. seating and includes admission to Holiday Nights in Greenfield Village. Tickets are \$72 for adult members and \$67.75 for youth members, \$75 for adult non-members and \$70 for youth non-members. To purchase tickets for both Supper with Santa and the Eagle Tavern dinner package, call (313) 982-6001 or visit www.thehenryford.org.



FRANKENMUTH

-Michigan's Little Bavaria-

*I*n our way up north, for the Thanksgiving weekend, we found a young couple on the side of the road with engine trouble. Nothing open, and no way to repair the vehicle, we decided to take them to Michigan's Little Bavaria - Frankenmuth - for some early Christmas cheer.



First stop, Zenders Tap Room, where the lovely and charming keeper of the bar, Rachel, promptly served us cold beer and good times.



Warsteiner Dunkel, a classic dark, with a smooth finish, was imported from Germany and, at \$3.75 a pint, immediately put a smile on our faces. "It's a strong beer and it doesn't sit in your mouth all day", observed our little stowaway.



The young lady was still shaken, and a little cold, so we ordered her up a chocolate raspberry hot chocolate truffle, in hopes of making all the pain and fear go away. A stunning success!



"I'm just amazed at how meaty these wings are", she said, as Zender's world famous chicken wings were delivered with equal parts confidence and love. One dozen wings \$7.95.



"Our thing is chicken, theirs is beer . . ." exclaimed Gary, the birthday boy bartender. Who's 'theirs', I wondered?



After a coupla of pints, and our fill of crispy goodness, we strolled across the street to the Bavarian Inn - just to 'take a look'.



What's this, elves in lederhosen? And, that delicious aroma - more hearty fare and good ale!



Quick! Jager Schnitzel and cold beer, all round!



The young miss opted for Bavarian Inn root beer and warm oversized pretzels (\$2.50 ea), her apparent joy filling our hearts. "Let all the cars in the world break down this night, so long as there be pretzels and beer!" toasted her companion.



As we left, the young connoisseur of hops and barley bid adieu to the coy pirate elf, explaining how the Bavarian Inn Dark - exclusively brewed for the Inn - at \$4.00 a frosty mug, was "significantly stronger than the Dunkel, with a more hoppy taste and, though it lingers a bit more, is still a very clean beer . . ."



We entered full of holiday spirit and were immediately transfixed by the grandeur and magnificence that is Bronner's Christmas Wonderland.



Our compatriots walked through a dizzying display of lights and decoration, playing with colorful ornaments, glittering tinsels, and considering Santa's task of circumnavigating the globe in a single night. All would have been well and fine had we not lost them, somewhere in the Christmas tree display.

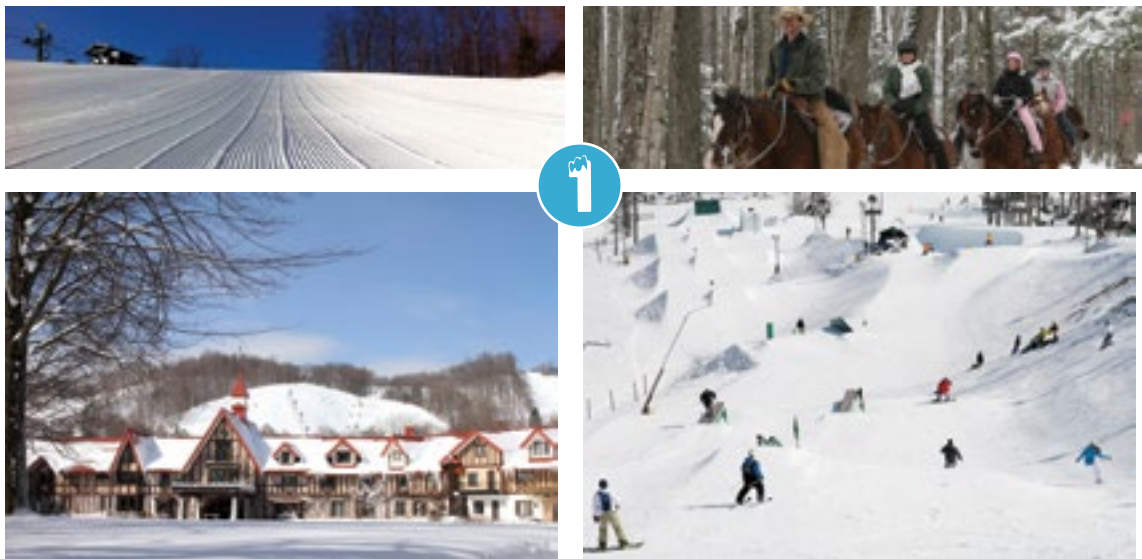


Oh well, we had a turkey to eat and it was getting late. My girl suggested that she drive the rest of the way to Grandma's house, and I, responsibly, agreed. As I looked out the back window, I couldn't help but wonder what would become of our new friends. More importantly, I hoped Santa was engaged in more pressing matters, and that he would still place a gift for me beneath the tree.



SKI THE BUMPS w Bro Zanderson

Continued from Front Page



1. Boyne Highlands - Harbor Springs MI (cont.)

Apres ski at the Highlands is sweet, with dog sledding, sleigh rides, heated pools, and there are usually a few bunnies at the Zoo Bar, though Arctic cougars are notorious for being on the hunt. For lodging and ticket prices www.boyne.com



3. Boyne Mountain - Boyne Falls MI

Established in 1947, Boyne Mountain is the sickest alpine resort in the lower Penn. With 60 trails, and like 10 chairlifts, 2 magic carpets, for bunnies and noobs, 1 tube lift and 1 kiddie carousel for the Lift Lickers, Boyne Mountain is Michigan's ski paradise for shredders and family-style skiers alike.

The Mountain's got a 500 ft vertical drop, with a base elevation of 620 ft. But, the 1,120 ft Summit contains only like 29% beginner runs verses 41% intermediate, and like 30% expert runs. 5 terrain parks, including a sick skier/boarder cross course and a Halfpipe. Cross country, snowshoeing, private and group lessons, ice-skating, Ziplines, sleigh rides, and more all make for a sweet winter wonderland experience. And, when the bell at the Clock Tower sounds off it's like you're in the Swedish Alps.

Boyne Mountain offers 470 guest rooms and suites, with log cabins and condominiums. Check out the indoor/ outdoor pools, and chillax in one of three hot tubs beneath a starry night! Apres ski is as good as it gets, with the Apres Ski Pub, and the Eagles Nest, located at the top of the Hemlock ski slope, offering the sickest view of Boyne Valley. I once strapped a fake cast around my ankle and sipped on Hot Buttered Rum for hours in the Snowflake lounge, getting suhweeeet attention from the Bunnies at the bar. But, lets face it; the best reason to Ski the Mountain is for the slopes! For maps of trails and lifts, and lodging information: www.boyne.com



5. Crystal Mountain - Thompsonville MI

With 45 downhill slopes, 27 lighted for night skiing, Crystal Mountain boasts 4 terrain areas, 1 Glade area, 1 beginner area, and 8 lifts, including 1 high speed quad, and 2 carpet lifts for the Noobs. In fact, the Crystal Clipper High Speed Quad is the fastest lift in northern Michigan, and is powered by renewable wind energy. But, you won't be thinking of renewables when you're shredding ski terrain that includes 26% most difficult, 49% more difficult, and only 25% easy on Crystal's 375 feet of vertical drop. No, I'm guessin' you'll be thinkin' bout Spread Eagles, Daffys, Helicopters, and Alley Oop Flatspin 540s. Unless, you're some kind of hipster Herb - Ahhh!

The Ridge is sweet, Norm's Way, Abbey Road, and I've always enjoyed poppin' one off on BugaBoo.. But, the sickest thing I've seen on Crystal was when this Chumples found his way to North Face, sproinged off Nose Dive, thinkin' it was Nason's Trail, and wound up in a crashtastic Yard Sale. Thankfully, he wasn't hurt, too bad.

Plenty of high end grub at the Thistle Pub & Grille, Blingers and yuppies lodging in upscale condos, but that's cool. As I've said, on the mountain we're all one. There's ice-skating, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, horse drawn surrey rides, fat tire snow biking, and my favorite Apres ski: hunting the arctic cougar. For lodging and ski rates www.crystalmountain.com



2. Nub's Nob - Harbor Springs MI

Known as the local mountain, Nub's Nob has a vertical drop of like 427 feet, with a base elevation of like 911 ft. Its top elevation is 1,138 ft, and includes like 53 runs, or something, with 12 runs on Pintail Peak. Nub's has 9 expert runs, 8 most difficult, 21 intermediate and 15 easy runs for the noobs. There is 1 Halfpipe, and 2 award winning terrain parks on 248 rad acres of fun.

9 chairlifts, one old school rope tow, and one handle tow transport like 18,000 skiers per hour - whoa! Nub's offers a bargain season pass, from Lift-Lickers to Old Timers, that allow skiing once per week, except Saturday (which is bogus), for like \$280. But, dude: for \$585 you can ski anytime that Nub's is open.

The sickest runs are the Terrain Park, Smokey, Scarface, Chute and Power Glade. But, I also enjoy chillin on the Orange lift, ascending through the pines, and jellybeanin off the south side. Betties and bunnies everywhere. Decent food. Probably the best overall value for dedicated skiers, a ski bum haven. Apres ski - Nub's pub. www.nubsnob.com



4. Shanty Creek - Bellaire

In the 1960's, the high, tree-green hills and curving valleys surrounding Bellaire in Michigan's

Antrim County provided inspiration to build a radical ski resort. This vision of entrepreneur, and dude, Roy Deskin became the original Shanty Creek. Today, a day of skiing Summit Mountain is Michigan's most affordable ski ticket. For \$15, family skiers can enjoy a day on the slopes, without all the gangstars shreddin' the gnar.

But, that doesn't mean slopes at Shanty aren't sweet. With 2 mountains, 53 runs, including 4 terrain parks, and a Halfpipe, Shanty has room for all the shripping you bums can handle. The Slush Cup weekend has been Shanty's most popular event for 40 years, and peaks with the main event; hot dogs and meat torpedos racing across an icy 40-degree pond in wacky costumes. And, the Sardine Special allows guests to squeeze as many skiers and boarders into a car, truck or van, with the carload of skis/rides, for one price at Schuss Mountain. Last year, we stuffed 11 dudes and 5 Betties into a 1978 Datsun, 280z - but that's a story for another time.

December events include: Ski Free with Santa - December 25. Located on the slopes of Schuss Mountain from 9am-4:30pm. New Year's Eve - December 31 Ring in the New Year at Shanty Creek Resorts with a Torchlight parade, fireworks, free night skiing, two parties to choose from. www.shantycreek.com

JOYRIDE

w/ gwen joy

MONSTER RALLY
MOCAD 4454 Woodward Ave. Detroit, MI
Dec 7 - 8pm to 12am



Here is an event full of flavor and zest, with an intriguing list of 60 of the areas most talented artists. Monsters in December you ask? A live drawing event too? This will be memorable and will break up December's holiday themed soirees. Several artists have a one hour slot to create their one of a kind monster drawings that will be available for purchase for \$40 each. All of the proceeds go to aid Mocad and its programming. www.mocadetroit.org

THE SANTALAND DIARIES
The Ringwald Theatre, Ferndale
throughout December



If you want to see a play about the holiday season told in a hilarious way, *The Santaland Diaries* is perfect. Humorist David Sedaris's collection of holiday tales, the *Diaries* are autobiographical accounts of spending time with his family (many just as hilarious as David, especially his sister Amy Sedaris who had the show *Strangers With Candy*), and making a paycheck during the holiday season in retail as a elf at a Santa display in a mall. This is my favorite Sedaris story ever. For ticket info: www.theringwald.com

J.C. HUDSEARS ANDREW KRIEGER'S HOLIDAY SHOWROOM
The Public Pool 3309 Caniff, Hamtramck
thru Dec 22nd



THE BLUE NILE
221 East Washington Street Ann Arbor &
545 W. Nine Mile Road Ferndale



Wanna have an old fashioned holiday adventure and enjoy some innovative realistic three dimensional art? The setting is a 1950s department store complete with vintage appliances and furniture. The artist accepts custom orders for bobble head dolls. Bring in a photo of your favorite relative and/or buddy.

TOY DRIVE
The Capuchin Soup Kitchen 1820 Mt. Elliot Street
Detroit, MI 48207



For more visit www.gwenjoy.com

Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical

The Detroit Opera House Dec. 18 – 30, 2012

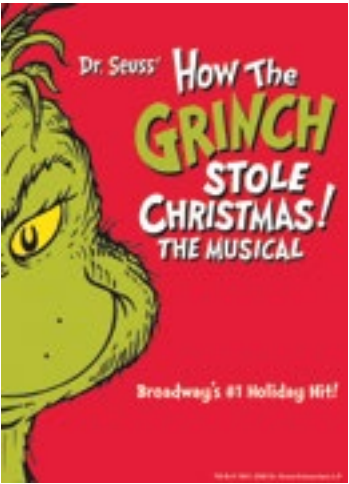
Gay Paris

Featuring the hit songs "You're A Mean One, Mr. Grinch" and "Welcome Christmas", from the original animated series, *The Grinch Stole Christmas* will warm your heart and tickle your fancy. Max the Dog narrates this classic holiday tale that will entertain the whole family, as the mean and scheming Grinch, whose heart is "two sizes too small," decides to steal Christmas away from the Whos, an endlessly cheerful bunch bursting with holiday spirit.

Magnificent sets (John Lee Beatty) and costumes (Robert Morgan), inspired by Dr. Seuss' original illustrations, help transport audiences to the whimsical world of Whoville, while the Music and Book of Mel Marvin and Timothy Mason breathe new life into this timeless story of the true meaning of Christmas.

Starring Stefan Karl, donning green fur as the Grinch, *How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical* broke box office records for two consecutive years on Broadway during its holiday engagements at the St. James (2007) and Hilton (2006) theatres in New York. Since then, thousands of families across America have been delighted by this fantastic holiday musical. It's enough to make lil' Ole me, Gay Paris, want to snuggle up next to the fire, in my green dye chinchilla, winter parka, and sip softly on Christmatinis, But, I digress.

Ticket prices for the Detroit engagement of *DR. SEUSS' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS! THE MUSICAL* range from \$29-\$62 at the Detroit Opera House box office and all Ticketmaster locations. www.ticketmaster.com or www.BroadwayinDetroit.com, and by calling Ticketmaster at 1-800-982-2787.



Take A Trip Back to WWII With The Musical Holiday Comedy The 1940's Radio Hour thru Dec 22

Gay Paris

The 1940's Radio Hour, a musical comedy by Walton Jones, takes you on a trip to Christmas season, 1942. Members of the "Mutual Manhattan Variety Cavalcade," are preparing a final holiday broadcast for the troops fighting World War II. It's getting close to airtime at WOV in New York City, and the zany group is coping with backstage drama that threatens to botch their broadcast. Will they be ready in time?

Rachael Rose of Waterford Township directs this exciting musical comedy loaded with 1940's songs, dancing and old-time sound effects. The show runs November 30 - December 22 at the Farmington Players Barn in Farmington Hills. "It truly is an ensemble show in that every part is important and almost everyone is involved in the action almost all of the time," says Rose. "From the moment the actors set foot on stage, the action and conversations never stop."

1940's Radio Hour deals with colorful characters, like the harassed producer whose leading singer is often drunk; the delivery boy who wants a chance in front of the microphone; the second banana who dreams of singing a ballad; and the flustered sound effects man who chooses a fighter plane over Glenn Miller. Audience members even get a chance to participate in the fun as the live radio studio audience. "By the time we go 'on the air,' the music overlays the already chaotic, comedic conversation, which makes it all the more frenetic," says Rose. "Basically it's like *Noises Off* set in the 1940's and to music."

Speaking of music, Rose is also proud of her Orchestra led by Music Director Jose Reyes of Royal Oak. The score includes more than 20 toe tapping tunes: "(I've Got a Gal In) Kalamazoo," "Love Is Here to Stay," "Ain't She Sweet," "Blue Moon," "Strike Up The Band," "I'll Never Smile Again," "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," "Jingle Bells," and more.



Brittany Davenport (Ann Arbor), Grace Muawad (Grosse Pointe), Taylor Alfano (Livonia), Amy Lauter (Farmington Hills)

Rose is a military veteran herself, so her musical tribute to the troops in this holiday season holds a special place in her heart. She says she hopes audiences will enjoy "a feeling of family, camaraderie, support for the good ole U S of A and a spirit of patriotism that hearkens back to another era."

Tickets are available at both www.farmingtonplayers.org and the box office at 248-553-2955. The Farmington Players Barn is located at 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills Michigan 48334. It's the big white barn on the north side of 12 mile between Orchard Lake and Farmington Rd.



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1. Wings
- 5. Fragrant oil
- 10. Leave in a hurry
- 14. 53 in Roman numerals
- 15. Stage
- 16. Backside
- 17. Small slender gull
- 18. Preserve
- 20. Amazing adventure
- 22. Become looser
- 23. Buff
- 24. Clairvoyants
- 25. Relationships with pals
- 32. Fanatical
- 33. Embankment
- 34. Enemy
- 37. Analogous
- 38. Craze
- 39. Mildew

- 40. Aye

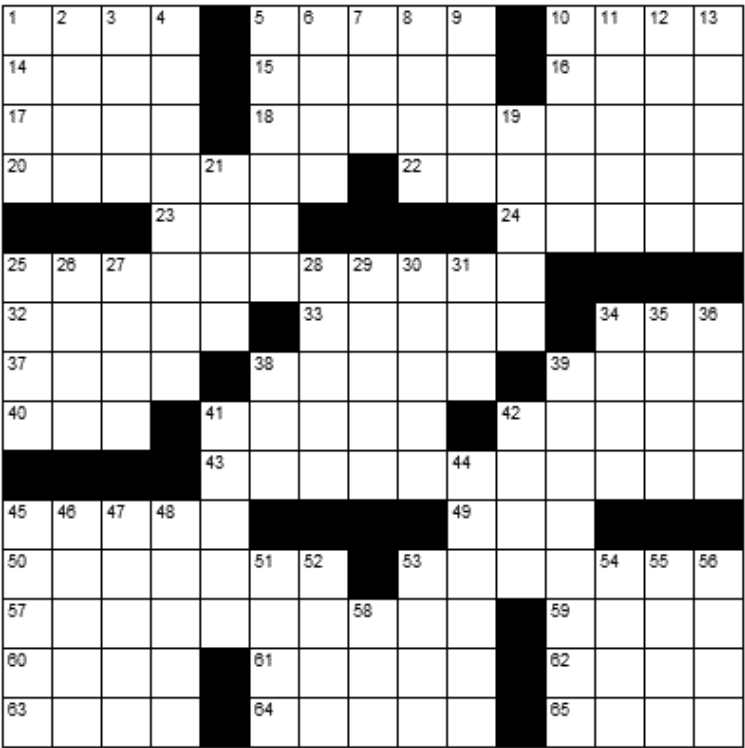
- 41. Polka or samba
- 42. French school
- 43. Testimony
- 45. Nautical for stop
- 49. Residue from a fire
- 50. Not analog
- 53. Lamentable
- 57. Interdependence of living organisms
- 59. Walking stick
- 60. Recreational area
- 61. Muse of love poetry
- 62. Contributes
- 63. Found in a cafeteria
- 64. Cavalry weapon
- 65. Plunder

DOWN

- 1. Countertenor
- 2. Misled
- 3. Breezy

- 4. Famous genius
- 5. Add on
- 6. Not we
- 7. Black gunk
- 8. Vipers
- 9. Bobbin
- 10. Condiment
- 11. Old World rails
- 12. Daisylike bloom
- 13. Adolescents
- 19. Thigh armor
- 21. Found on most beaches
- 25. Wear away by rubbing
- 26. Garden tool
- 27. Nile bird
- 28. Tilt
- 29. Therefore
- 30. Wall climbers
- 31. A leguminous plant
- 34. Central points

- 35. Margarine
- 36. Biblical garden
- 38. A thick flat pad
- 39. Based on traditional stories
- 41. Philippine tribal chief
- 42. Not first
- 44. Seamster
- 45. Highly skilled
- 46. Parish priest
- 47. Ancient Greek marketplace
- 48. Satiny
- 51. How old we are
- 52. Former Italian currency
- 53. Head
- 54. Portuguese folksong
- 55. Annul
- 56. In order to prevent
- 58. Taxi

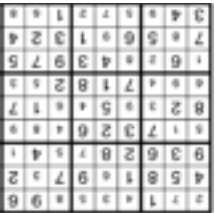
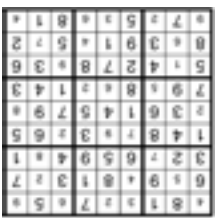


SUDOKU



Sudoku Instructions: Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 thru 9. If you use logic you can solve the puzzle without guesswork.

ANSWERS



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DTW

New Shops in Store for DTW McNamara Terminal
Airport Authority Approves Major Retail Overhaul

DETROIT - The Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA) approved a new retail program for DTW's McNamara Terminal. The new program, which will include a more than \$13M retailer investment in the Airport, will introduce new major brands and local specialty shops to Detroit travelers including the launch of five new concepts not yet found in any airport worldwide.

"When the McNamara Terminal opened in 2002, it swept industry awards and traveler rankings for unmatched customer satisfaction largely due to the variety of shopping and dining options it featured," said WCAA CEO Tom Naughton. "Ten years later, this new retail program will position us well to serve changing traveler demands and expectations well into the decade ahead."

The new McNamara Terminal retail program will introduce internationally-recognized brands including **The Body Shop**, Spanish fashion label **Desigual**, **EA SPORTS**, **The Economist**, **Johnston & Murphy**, **The New York Times**, **PANDORA**, **Spanx**, **Tim Horton's** and **The Wall Street Journal** while also reintroducing popular existing stores **Brighton Collectibles**, **Brooks Brothers**, **Brookstone**, **Caribou Coffee**, **CNBC Smartshop**, **Erwin Pearl**, **PGA TOUR Shop** and **Starbucks** in completely re-designed venues.

Also new to the terminal are several concepts that will be the first to appear in any airport worldwide, including the first-ever retail outlet for NBC's highly-rated morning show **TODAY**, **TIME** magazine's first newsstand, and the first airport boutiques for **Dylan's Candy Bar** and **NBC News**. DTW will also feature the first airport location in the Americas for **Porsche Design**.



In addition to new and national brands, several local, specialty stores are also part of the new program, such as the family-owned, Birmingham, Mich.-based **Mills Pharmacy + Apothecary** and Michigan fitness retailer **Running Fit** (also making its airport debut). Also included are two outlets specializing in local merchandise—**Michigan Sports** will offer licensed apparel and accessories for Michigan's professional and collegiate teams, while **Detroit!** will feature **Made in Detroit** and other locally-themed products.

"This new retail program will take Detroit Metro Airport's Concession program to the next level," said WCAA Director of Concessions & Quality Assurance Greg Hatcher. "It's more than just new and celebrated brand names – most of these new concepts completely re-imagine the airport shopping experience by integrating new and interactive technology, infusing local merchants with international brands, adding more eco-friendly products, integrating gourmet coffee and comic books into our new travel stores, and more."



RUTH’S CHRIS
STEAK HOUSE
TROY

Officially - according to their website - Ruth’s Chris Steak House boasts the ‘best USDA steak, with a special 500-degree sizzle and award-winning wine list’. Unofficially, that sizzle can continue to cook your steak, turning a medium rare into a medium, so be warned. Now, that we have that out of the way, lets get down to business. Ruth’s Chris is designed for executives with large expense accounts. That means signature steaks range in price from \$42 to the \$85 Porterhouse for two. The fancy A la carte system, introduced by ze French, means it will cost an additional \$8 for a baked potato, or a side of asparagus. But, don’t sweat it; you will enjoy your meal. Begin with a selection from the wine list: Cotes due Rhone, Tardieu-Laurent? Super Tuscan, Banfi? Next, try the Caesar salad (\$9), order up a side of shoestring fries (\$8), and then go straight for the Filet (I want to quote \$48). Add mushrooms (\$8). Skip the garlic and olive oil accompaniment, as it overpowers the meat. Finish with Warm Apple Crumb Tart, or Bread Pudding, with Whisky sauce for dessert (\$9). Deal closed. Excellent service!

755 West Big Beaver, Troy (248) 269. 8424



BAKER’S KEYBOARD
LOUNGE
DETROIT

They say it’s the longest running Jazz Club in the world, and they may be right. Regardless, Baker’s boasts some of the finest Jazz you’re likely to see; from national acts to open mic night. Launched in 1934, by Chris Baker, as a beer and sandwich shop, Baker’s became the place for Jazz by the fifties, with trios, and quartets, like Fats Waller, Meade Lux, Art Tatum, and Tommy Flanagan graced the stage. Half moon booths, low light, candle-lit tables, and a wrap around piano bar countertop, Baker’s is a classic in nightclub design. The fifties through the seventies proved to be Baker’s Golden Era, with Dave Brubeck, John Coltrane, Oscar Peterson, Krupa, Corea, and Calloway all entertaining the lounge. Today, the kitchen prepares some of the finest Soul Food in the city, with fried and baked chicken, 4 and 6 piece wing dinners, BBQ ribs, smothered pork chops, ocean perch and catfish plates, complete with sides; black eye peas, greens, Mac & cheese, yams and more - all for under \$15. Lunch 11am-3pm, Tues through Thurs. Dinner served until 11:45pm on the weekend. Live music every night.

20510 Livernois Avenue Detroit MI
(313)345.6300 - bakerskeyboardlounge.com



MITCHELL’S FISH
MARKET
BIRMINGHAM - LIVONIA

Serving lunch and dinner seven days a week, Mitchell’s Fish Market offers a variety of dishes that will satisfy most seafood loving palettes. From ‘Surf & Turf’ selections including Filet ‘Oscar Style’ (jumbo lump crab meat), Live Main Lobster (\$26.99 per lb), Alaskan King Crab Legs (\$29.99 per lb) and Sam Adams beer battered seafood (shrimp, cod, bay scallops), to Mitchell’s Specialties, Cedar Plank Salmon (\$21.99), Lobster & Shrimp stuffed Pacific Cod (\$18.99) and Ginger Crusted Atlantic Salmon (\$21.99), Mitchell’s holds it down as a consistent and reliable seafood restaurant. But, imagine my surprise while taking a meeting in the bar, between 5:30pm and 7:30pm, when the server informed our table of a Happy Hour bar menu that included two delicious swordfish tacos (\$5), Pot Roast Sliders (\$5), and a five-dollar glass of wine. Whoa! Sharing a booth against a Gar Wood inspired mural, in a room filled with Birmingham and Bloomfield attorney and mortgage types, I suddenly felt like I had been included in a tight-lipped secret - a secret I now share with you!

117 Willits Birmingham MI (248) 646.3663
mittellsfishmarket.com



MICHAEL SYMON’S
ROAST
DETROIT

Comprised of three sections: bar/lounge; main dining room; and a semi-private area, Roast is an engaging 200-seat restaurant that sits on the street level of the Westin Book Cadillac. A rustic and modern theme incorporates dark wood, metal, glass and fire elements to highlight the roasted meat concept. And, what a concept it is, with a variety of meat and fish dishes, including a delicious Lamb Shank (preserved lemon, kalamata olive, almond picada \$30), Veal Chop Milanese (roasted tomato, onion, arugula \$36), and a superbly handled Filet Mignon (sea salt & olive oil \$28). Interesting sides include Rosemary fries (\$5), Fried Brussels Sprouts (\$7) and the Roasted Beets (\$7). For dessert, try the Beer & Pretzels (Guinness ice cream, chocolate pretzels, caramel foam \$8). An exquisite wine menu, with an exciting array of handcrafted beer, specialty cocktails and classic cocktails, including our favourite The Metropolitan (Courvoisier VSOP, VYA Sweet Vermouth, Bitter Truth Decanter Bitters, Maraschino Cherry \$12).

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