

On The Homefront

Each week a different business-person, artisan or professional who lives or works in Lansing will share some aspect about his or her occupation that may be useful to Lansing residents. Interested in sharing your skills? Call us at 533-7963.

Celebrating Spring's Arrival:

Nouvelle New England Fare

By Eileen Stout

Create a basic New England culinary stock and a chef's youthful years working in resort kitchens with chefs from around the world. Add 25 years of experience in restaurants as varied as old world style Italian cooking and a stint in a traditional steak house with its own in-house butcher shop. Stir in a working Parisian apprenticeship with traditional and nouvelle French cuisine spanning vichyssoise (cold potato and leek soup) to buttery pastries. Simmer gently with personal imagination and 167 years of Lansing history and the result is a culinary surprise bound to please the diner's palate.

Raised in Vermont, Rogue's Harbor's Executive Chef John Lovely draws on his personal culinary heritage in much the way America melds the diverse cultures that contribute to our unique society. On any given night, visitors can choose between traditional fare and unique specialty dishes that are the spice of Chef Lovely's life.

With winter waning and spring's fresh local greens still a few weeks away, Chef Lovely offers a light but filling soup and salad repast to mark the spring equinox.

Sausage & Corn Chowder

This favorite has its roots in Lovely's Vermont childhood with a dash of the exotic added for good measure. The following ingredients will make about a gallon of chowder:

- 1 lb. bulk sweet sausage
- 2 quarts of chicken stock
- 2 medium onions, chopped
- 1 cup flour
- 4 stalks celery, chopped
- 2 lbs. potatoes, diced
- 4 cloves fresh garlic, crushed
- pinch of basil
- 1 lb. frozen whole kernal corn
- 1 pint heavy cream
- 1 tsp. cayenne
- salt & pepper to taste
- crumbled crisp bacon

In a large saucepan or your favorite soup pot, combine sausage, onions, garlic and celery over medium to low heat. Stir frequently until the fat runs clear from the sausage and the onions are soft. Add flour and stir constantly to prevent sticking for five minutes. Add chicken stock slowly at first,



keep stirring and bring to a boil. Add potatoes, cayenne and salt and pepper. Reduce the heat and simmer uncovered until the potatoes are tender, approximately 20 minutes. Add the corn and cream; bring back to temperature and it's ready to serve. Garnish the top with crumbled bacon as an appetizer or with fresh crusty bread and spinach salad with warm bacon dressing.

Spinach Salad with Warm Bacon Dressing

Salad:

- 10 oz fresh spinach, destemmed, rinse & dry
- 8 oz. fresh mushrooms, sliced
- 4 hard-boiled eggs, shelled & quartered
- 1 sweet red onion, sliced
- 1 handful ripe black olives, sliced
- 1 cup fresh country inn croutons

Dressing:

- 1 cup cider vinegar
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp coarsely ground black pepper
- pinch of basil, oregano & parsley flakes
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 2 tablespoons of grated Romano cheese
- 1/4 cup chopped crisp bacon.

Combine dressing ingredients, except cheese, in a saucepan over medium heat. While heating, assemble salad ingredients onto four plates. When dressing is warm, whisk in cheese and pour immediately over salads.

As you enjoy your celestial soup and salad, don't forget that Rogue's Harbor is looking for original photos, fixtures, memorabilia, menus, bills of fare, postcards, tickets, etc. from Rogue's Harbor's past to copy or purchase for display in the restaurant.

Eileen Stout owns and operates Rogue's Harbor Steak and Ale in South Lansing. The restaurant celebrates its first anniversary this coming week.

First In A Series:

Planning Board Profiles: Brad Griffin

Ed. Note: Last autumn, the Town of Lansing Planning Board completed two years of work by forwarding a draft zoning ordinance to the Town Board for consideration and action. At present, the Town Board is reviewing (and, perhaps, amending) the draft ordinance before holding a series of informational meetings to get public feedback.

Several folks have suggested, and we agree, that it would be useful for Lansing residents to become acquainted with the breadth of input that went into drafting the proposed ordinance. Accordingly, we present the first in a series of vignettes about Planning Board members who contributed the time and reflection to prepare the draft document. - MS

Brad Griffin first became involved in town affairs as chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission in the early 1970s. After again serving Lansing on a 2010 committee he was tapped to fill a Planning Board vacancy in 1994.

"When I was asked to go on the Board, my first instinct was to continue fly fishing," Griffin recalled. Since retirement he's spent much of his time being in a canoe, behind a bird dog and reading long books. (He's just finished reading about General Stillwell's WWII Burma command and his role as Mandarin Chinese speaking go-between for Pres. Roosevelt and Chinese Nationalist President Chiang Kai-Shek.) However, when he saw the depth of the Board's commitment, "I came aboard."

"Without choices, freedom is an inoperative concept."

Planning Board members have two functions, explained Griffin. "We carry out executive functions, such as subdivision review, on a regular basis and we serve as an advisory body to the Town Board in collecting information and making recommendations that they then consider."

Its in this context that the Board prepared the proposed land use ordinance. "As an advisory board, we give our advice whether or not it's taken," he said.

Griffin accepts as a given that the Town of Lansing is changing, much as each of us is changing. "The main change in Lansing is that it's an attractive community with a much higher growth rate than surrounding towns; you see this with the building and spread of water districts," he said.

Now that a municipal sewer is being considered, noted Griffin, "It doesn't take too much imagination to see that, 'If you build, they will come.'"

Griffin's personal point of view in participating in drafting the zoning ordinance is that, "The possibility of land use regulations presents town residents with options and choices."

Griffin doesn't believe that land use regulations will be a cure-all to the problems associated with growth, but believes that regulations can let residents shape the



BRAD GRIFFIN: Retired DEC officer

future of the town. "My belief is that without choices, freedom is an inoperative concept," Griffin concluded.

"Zoning gives present and potential residents some security that future developments won't work to their disadvantage," he believes. Businesses will be more likely to come if they know they're in a business district that won't be built up to residences that will complain about the presence of the pre-existing business, he explained.

Griffin appreciates the diversity of the eight-member Town planning Board. Despite the wide range of views and sometimes courteously passionate exchange of opinions, "I never served with a group of people who've made a greater effort to be fair," Griffin concluded.



MRS. MARTIN's ninth graders had "hands-on" experience with desktop publishing at the Lansing Community News last Thursday morning.

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