

★ THE ELBERTA ALERT ★

*free!

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A Community News Organ

Fri., Nov. 2, 2012

EATING UP THE NEW MAYFAIR

By Kathryn denHeeten

PRAISE THE LORD and pass the potato (chips, homemade), the Mayfair is back!

From the looks of the cars lined up outside and the customers lined up inside, I'm not the only one to be delighted to have "Elberta's Country Club" open for business. The Mayfair has a fresh look that doesn't stray far from its roots and a new menu of simple, delicious fare. Best of all, it has the welcoming atmosphere of a village pub where locals and out of towners alike can laugh and relax with a cold drink, a hot meal, and good company.

I visited the Mayfair with a group of friends on its opening weekend (the full menu debuted Thursday, October 18) and the place was packed to bursting with customers. I have to say I was amazed at the way the kitchen, under chef Jennifer Haugen, was pumping out the orders, and the waitstaff were keeping their cool

despite being totally slammed. I can only imagine how exhausted they must have been at the end of the night. Kudos to the new owners and all the staff for their energy, patience, and bravado.

I've been to the Mayfair several times since the opening weekend; I just had to go back to check out the full menu and spend time having fun. One evening, a friend and I got there just after the grills had been shut down and the staff went out of their way to rustle up some nachos and a burrito for us. That's the kind of small town hospitality I really appreciate.

Now let's get down to the heart of the issue, what everyone will want to know—how's the food? I haven't personally tried everything on the menu, but I think my friends and I have pretty much covered it and we've been well pleased and eager to relive the experience.

The first thing I tried was the chili.

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LOGBOOK: GENERAL ELECTION 2012

Important note: In the General Election, you may "split your ticket" and vote for candidates from different parties in different races. Information source: League of Women Voters 2012 Nonpartisan Voter Guide. Vote at the Elberta Library between 7 am and 8 pm, Nov. 6.

BALLOT PROPOSALS

Proposal 1 Emergency Manager Law

Referendum on Public Act 4 (2011). YES = Maintains the law NO = Repeals the law Public Act 4 established criteria to assess the financial condition of local government units, including school districts. It authorized the Governor to appoint an emergency manager (EM) if the state finds a financial emergency, and allows EM to act in place of local government officials. Requires EM to create financial and operating plans, which may include modification or termination of contracts, reorganization of government, and determination of expenditures, services, and use of assets until the emergency is resolved. Alternatively, authorizes a state-appointed review team to enter into a local government approved consent decree.

Proposal 2 Collective Bargaining

Amends State Constitution to grant public and private employees the constitutional right to organize and bargain collectively. Collective bargaining agreements regarding hours and working conditions would take precedence over state laws. An employer is defined as a person or entity with one or more employee. Invalidates all current or future laws limiting the ability to join unions or bargain collectively. Laws may still be enacted to prohibit public employees from striking.

Proposal 3 25% Renewable Energy by 2025

Amends State Constitution to establish a standard for renewable energy. Requires electric utilities to provide at least 25% of their annual retail sales of electricity from renewables—wind, solar, biomass, or hydropower—by 2025. Costs passed on to consumers in order to achieve this goal can amount to no more than a rate increase of 1% per year. Deadline of 2025 may be extended to prevent rate increases over 1%. Requires legislature to enact additional laws to encourage use of Michigan-made equipment and employment of Michigan residents.

Proposal 4 Home Health Care

Amends State Constitution to establish Michigan Quality Home Care Council (MQHCC) and provide collective bargaining for in-home care workers. MQHCC must provide training for in-home care workers, create a registry of workers who pass background checks, and provide financial services to patients to manage cost of in-home care. Preserves patients' rights to hire in-home care workers who are not on the MQHCC registry but who are bargaining unit members. Allows MQHCC to set minimum compensation standards and terms and conditions of employment.

Proposal 5 Limit New Taxes

Amends State Constitution to limit the enactment of new taxes by state government. Requires a 2/3 majority vote of the State House and State Senate, or a statewide vote of the people at a November election, in order for the State of Michigan to impose new or additional taxes on taxpayers or expand the base of taxation or increase the rate of taxation. This amendment would not be construed to limit or modify tax limitations otherwise created in the State Constitution.

Proposal 6 International Bridges and Tunnels

Amends State Constitution to require the approval of a majority of voters at a statewide election and in each municipality where "new international bridges or tunnels for motor vehicles" are to be located before the State of Michigan may expend state funds or resources for acquiring land, designing, soliciting bids for, constructing, financing, or promoting new international bridges or tunnels. Creates a definition of "new international bridges or tunnels for motor vehicles" = "any bridge or tunnel which is not open to the public and serving traffic as of January 1, 2012."

VILLAGE OF ELBERTA

Trustee (choose 3)

Joyce Gattrell
Ken Holmes
Bill Soper
Jennifer Wilkins

Treasurer

Laura Manville

GILMORE TOWNSHIP

Supervisor

D Carl Noffsinger

Clerk

D Sharyn Bower

Treasurer

D Laura M. Manville

Trustee (2)

D Ronald L. Beyette
D Douglas D. Holmes

BENZIE COUNTY

Probate Judge (1)

John B. Daugherty
John D. Mead

Sheriff (1)

R Ted Schendel
I Coury Carland

Commissioner, District VII (Elberta, Gilmore, Blaine, Joyfield, Weldon, part of Village of Thompsonville) (1)

R Adrian M. Poulisse
D Donald R. Tanner

STATE OF MICHIGAN

House of Representatives 101st District (1)

R Ray Franz
D Allen O'Shea

Supreme Court (2)

Republican Party endorsed: Colleen O'Brien, Stephen Markman
Democratic Party endorsed: Connie Kelley, Bridget McCormack

Other: Doug Dern, Kerry Morgan, Bob Roddis

Supreme Court partial term (1)

Republican Party endorsed: Brian Zahra
Democratic Party endorsed: Shelia Johnson
Other: Mindy Barry

UNITED STATES

House of Representatives District 1 (1)

R Dan Benishek
D Gary McDowell
Libertarian Emily Salvette
Green Ellis Boal

Senate (1)

R Pete Hoekstra
D Debbie Stabenow
L Scotty Boman
US Taxpayers Richard A. Matkin
G Harley Mikkelsen
Natural Law John D. Little

President (1)

R Mitt Romney (VP Paul Ryan)
D Barack Obama (VP Joe Biden)
G Jill Stein (VP Cheri Honkala)
L Gary Johnson (VP Jim Gray)

EXIT POLES ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The *Alert* caught Consumers Energy worker Doug Richley and colleagues delivering several electrical-line poles on October 29. Richley says the poles get replaced about every 10 to 20 years, depending on wear and tear; Consumers periodically checks the poles' viability. New poles will appear



PHOTO AND PHOTOSHOPPING BY EMILY VOTRUBA

throughout the village in the coming weeks; so far, all the old poles have survived Hurricane Sandy!

NOTE: Careful students of media may spy something odd about the photo at left. Something—a piece of Elberta infrastructure—has been made to disappear through the magic of Photoshop. Can you spot the difference between this image and Elberta reality? If you know what's missing, tell us and we'll give you a free

space in the paper to do with as you wish in the next issue. 231-399-0098/elberta.alert@gmail.com



ELECT JOHN D. MEAD

Probate Judge

Paid for by the Committee to Elect John D. Mead Probate Judge
P.O. Box 1128, Frankfort, MI 49635
www.mead4judge.com

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE NOVEMBER 6!