



J. ADRIAN WYLLIE

For the past six years, Ayse Uras has been a caterer specializing in food from her native Turkey. In November, she also became the owner of one of a batch of new eateries on Plymouth Road. Her combined restaurant, take-out, and catering operation is hidden away on the north side of the Courtyard Shops.

Turkish cuisine shares many dishes with Greek and Middle Eastern cooking traditions, which makes for some overlap between Ayse's offerings and those of Exotic Bakeries just around the corner. But they're different enough that the two places augment, rather than detract from, each other. Catering and takeout still make up the majority of Ayse's business, but the cafe has seating for up to sixteen people. There are two specials daily. At \$6.75 including bread and salad, they're a bargain. Dishes have savory names like *piaki*, *bayildi*, *borek*, *dolma*, and *pilaf*. Many are pastries or pies in phyllo and other doughs. They range from mini cheese triangles at 50¢ each to stuffed artichoke hearts at \$7.75 a pound. There's a wonderful but very, very sweet dessert, called "Noah's pudding," made of whole wheat, dried fruit, beans, raisins, and sugar; it costs \$2.35.

Eating places infiltrate the north side

A Turkish cafe and a Coney Island are the latest arrivals

Plymouth Road has more people who want to eat than places to feed them. It's lined with big research and development businesses, but wary home owners have tightly limited commercial zoning in the area. As a result, new food businesses are quietly infiltrating several older shopping centers on Plymouth Road, making them mealtime destinations.

In November, **Mark's Coney Island** opened at Plymouth Green, and **Ayse's Courtyard Cafe** opened at the Courtyard Shops. Mark's joins the Brown Jug's Back Room, a Papa Romano's, and the Trellis Cafe and Tea Room. Ayse's joins a Wendy's, a Subway, Ben's Cafe, Exotic Bakeries, Cafe Marie, and Lucky Kitchen. Except for the Wendy's and the Trellis, all these restaurants have been at their Plymouth Road locations for less than two years. The two new openings finally make it apparent that there's a trend at both centers from predominantly retail to new identities as mealtime destinations.

Ayse [EYE-sheh] Uras thought of opening a restaurant at the Courtyard Shops back when the center opened as North Campus Plaza. But she decided her two children were too young for her to take on a full-time business. So she did catering from her home instead. Now the kids are teenagers, and her turn has come. Her cafe is on the out-of-the-way north side of the center, where it's hard to come on by accident. But Uras has quite a devoted following already. For one thing, hers may be the only place in the state to offer Turkish cuisine. For another, many U-M departments have used her catering services, and their members are aware of the restaurant.

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Ayse's Courtyard Cafe, 1703 Plymouth Rd. (Courtyard Shops), 662-1711. Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

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\$1.50

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