

# Food, too

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2C

DETROIT FREE PRESS

## WE LOVED IT!

What's not to love about a Cream Cheese Brownie Pie? Not a thing, the Free Press tasters agreed. This \$1-million Pillsbury Bake-Off grand prize winner was not only great-tasting but easier than, well, pie to put together. The recipe, plus those from other Bake-Off winners, is on Page 4C.

### FREE PRESS RESTAURANT MINI-REVIEW

## Hearty, flavorful pasties really hit the spot

By KATHLEEN O'GORMAN  
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Sometimes you just want a good pasty. If you're having one of those days, go to one of Barb's little carryout establishments. Chances are, you won't do better this far south of Big Mac.

We're talking plump, which is what you want in a good pasty. I weighed one on my kitchen scale

**Sometimes the juices burble out of the steam slits on top of the pasties.**

(except for Sunday in Clawson), and if you're lucky, you'll get there when a batch is fresh out of the oven. They're priced under \$3.50 at both locations.

The beef ones are crammed with meat and a mound of thinly sliced potatoes, rutabaga, onions and carrots. The crust is thin and nicely browned on top but a little

#### Barb's Copper Country Kitchen

★★★  
out of 4 stars

610 S. Main St., Clawson  
248-435-5250  
and  
16310 Middlebelt Road, Livonia  
734-427-3717

heftier underneath — all the better to hold in the juices. Sometimes, though, the juices burble out of the steam slits on top, run down the sides and are baked in place, toasty little rivers of flavorful lava. And even when reheated, the crust does not turn to mush.

The chicken pasties are similarly crammed, but the fillings are potatoes, carrots, celery, onions and green peas. You can order beef or chicken gravy on the side.

Barb's in Clawson also sells square and round pizzas, pizza turnovers, Italian subs, salads and house-made cookies, carrot cake and a wonderful zucchini nut bread.

The Livonia location has the baked goods but not the pizza. Instead, you'll find soup, stuffed cabbage, ham-and-swiss subs, chili, lasagna, potato salad, coleslaw and salads.

Our counter service was quick

in both places, though we incurred the ire of a staffer in Clawson when we added an item after our order had been rung up. And then we got a lecture when we requested a receipt when we weren't automatically presented with one. (You're supposed to ask first.)

Maybe we're getting used to poor treatment in this wonderful new labor-short economy, but we so enjoyed those pasties, we decided we won't let a little grumpiness affect our judgment. And next time, we'll know all the rules.

**Fare:** Great house-made pasties, beef or chicken. They're plump and they're good. Clawson location also has pizza, salads, Italian subs and house-made cookies, carrot cake and zucchini nut bread. The Livonia store has the baked goods but not the pizza, instead offering soup, stuffed cabbage, ham-and-swiss subs, chili, lasagna, potato salad, coleslaw and salads.

**Atmosphere:** None to speak of; it's grab and go.

**Service:** Counter service is quick but can turn grumpy on you.

**Price:** \$; cash and personal checks only.

**Hours:** 11 a.m.-9 p.m. weekdays, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Satur-

day and noon-9 p.m. Sunday; Livonia: 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

**Note:** Catering services available.

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#### How we review

Restaurants receive one to four stars. Ratings are not meant as a comparison of restaurants but as an evaluation of how well individual ones accomplish what they set out to do. Food, service and setting are all considered. All Free Press reviewers dine anonymously. Meals are paid for by the Free Press and are not connected to advertising.

#### Price key

Average complete dinner per person:

\$ Inexpensive (Under \$10)

\$\$ Moderate (\$10-\$25)

\$\$\$ Expensive (Over \$25)

#### Hungry for more?

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■ See our local restaurant listings on the Web at [www.justgo.com/detroit](http://www.justgo.com/detroit)