

# Gus' bus being prepped for debut

Parties of six or more persons that want to ride in style to Maxwell Silverman's Toolhouse for lunch, or people who want to be chauffeured to the new Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts after dinner at Maxwell's will have the perfect vehicle in which to accomplish the task on or around March 1st—when the restaurant rolls out a sixteen-passenger luxury shuttle bus for the benefit of its customers.

The bus, made by Starcraft, which has been manufacturing a line of buses for more than one hundred years, will revive memories of the original-English double-decker bus that Maxwell's operated back in the 1980's before it was "decommissioned."

The double-decker bus, which now occupies a prominent position outside the entrance to Maxwell's, "needs to be modified" to be brought back into service; "so in the interim," Maxwell's Owner **Gus Giordano** said, "we bought a Starcraft, which is being wrapped in 3M foil at a company in Philadelphia before coming here.

"I've been working on this for three months," Giordano, who is known for the flourish and innovative touches he brings to his business—one of Worcester's most celebrated—said.

The Starcraft shuttle will afford riders a chance to travel in comfort and luxury, Maxwell's Manager **Alex Barbosa** said. "They get to dine and then take the shuttle to the theater, using their receipt from dinner to get on board" and thus avoiding the dilemma of trying to find a place to park during a night out.

Watch for it, soon!

## Dismas to the rescue

Dismas House on Arthur Street, a welcoming facility for prisoners reentering society, is proving to be a good neighbor to the Grafton Hill/Vernon Hill area of Worcester. The latest

evidence of this is the recent announcement by Co-Executive Director **Dave McMahon** that the home has adopted the heavily vandalized playground at Banis Park at the corner of



**A Starcraft bus similar to the one pictured here will shuttle diners to and from Maxwell Silverman's Toolhouse, making getting to the restaurant, or to the theater after dinner, a hassle-free experience.**

Dorchester and Houghton streets as a rehabilitation project. The need for renovation of the park arose when criminals torched the site last year, sending flames shooting into the sky and



**Dave McMahon, co-executive director of Dismas House, stands in Banis Park. Dismas House has undertaken a fundraising campaign to rehabilitate the park's playground, which is sorely in need of new equipment after being struck by vandals.**

effectively destroying equipment that local children had been using to climb, slide and swing (some of us, including representatives of the Oak Hill CDC, can remember when the wraps were taken off a physically revived Banis Park, not that long ago—only to have the effort scuttled). Dismas House, whose Board of Directors is headed by such prominent business persons as Attorney **Chris Tully** and **Charles Valade** of Commonwealth National

Bank, has pegged the cost of the work at \$25,000; were it not for donated labor and possibly materials from

contractors Dismas House hopes to get involved, the price tag would be double what it is projected at, McMahon said. Dismas House's ambitious push to give back to the community

is already drawing support; McMahon said that **Steve Going** and his band Wilbur and The Dukes will perform at least two concerts (one at Viva Bene Ristorante and one somewhere else downtown) to raise money. Other donations are appreciated. The objective is to hit the dollar plateau by spring so that renovations (including installation of indestructible apparatus, this time) can begin. Once the project is finished, "we'll work with **Ray Mariano** (of



BY ROD LEE



the Worcester Housing Authority) and others to monitor the security of the playground," McMahon said. **George Kerxhalli**, chair of the Grafton Hill Business Association (GHBA), says the overture on Dismas House's part demonstrates that "not only has the facility overcome much misinformation" that caused an uproar when it sought permission to open its doors, "it has been accepted into the community and is actually helping to recondition the community." Dismas House has also joined the GHBA's membership ranks. For further information on the Dismas House project, go to [www.dismashouse.org](http://www.dismashouse.org), or call 508-799-9389; to make a contribution, mail a check to Dismas House, PO Box 30125, Worcester MA 01603.

## Business After Hours

**Jen Stanovich** of the Holden Area Chamber of Commerce announced last week that Bay State Savings Bank will sponsor a Business After Hours meeting the Chamber has planned for Tuesday, February 19th from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at The Manor Restaurant, 42 West Boylston St., West Boylston; to register, call 508-829-9220, email the Chamber at or register on the Chamber's website which is [info@holdenareachamber.org](mailto:info@holdenareachamber.org) ... **Mary Hubbard** says the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce will hold a Business After Hours on Thursday, February 21st from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. at Tribeca, 92 Shrewsbury St.; register online at or call Mary at 508-753-2924x229.

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