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After 40 years, Laffrey's Steaks on the Hearth to close

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It's time to bid farewell to Laffrey's Steaks on the Hearth. After 40 years, it will close as of the new year. A lot of trends have come and gone since this intimate, softly lit steak house opened in 1969, just west of the corner of Seven Mile and Telegraph.

Red meat in. Red meat out. Red meat hotter than ever. It made no difference here. It's never been out of style at Steaks on the Hearth, where beef is cooked over the flames of a grill in view of many of the tables.

There's still time to get to the bi-level spot (at 24201 W. Seven Mile, Detroit; (313) 538-4688) before the grill goes cold. It will serve through New Year's Eve.

Toast in Birmingham celebrates its first anniversary

Happy first anniversary to Regan and Thom Bloom's Birmingham edition of Toast -- a Neighborhood Joint, a designation that sets it apart from its Ferndale sibling, Toast, a Breakfast and Lunch Joint, at 23144 Woodward Ave., (248) 398-0444.

The Birmingham outpost (at 203 Pierce St., (248) 258-6278) has a bar and serves all three meals, one of the few full-service restaurants with ambitious menus to do so. Executive chef Jeff Rose turns out eclectic fare ranging from steak frites to tacos, with seasonal changes four times a year.

Pierce Street has become quite a restaurant row, with Streetside Seafood and Elie's Mediterranean Grill just a few doors down, and the Townsend Hotel's Corner Bar and Rugby Grille across the street.

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