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## Reconstruction project to limit Metro Café menu for two months

- Kitchen and dish room will close — Café will offer limited menu.
- Work scheduled to begin Dec. 26 and end March 1.

Executive Chef Eddie Garcia must plan a limited menu for breakfast and lunch. Health laws do not allow on-site food preparation during construction.

*Photo by Gayle Anderson*



By NED RACINE

(Dec. 2, 2008) A project to better waterproof some floors in the Metro Café will crimp its menu this winter but will prevent "rain" from falling on the Metro Information Call Center, even on sunny days.

When a Metro Café drain clogs or overflows, water leaks to the Call Center one floor below. Besides interrupting staff training and Call Center operation, the runoff has damaged electronic equipment, furniture and flooring, many times requiring a contractor to remove the water and repair its destruction.

With funding now available, a contractor will be hired to demolish the floors in two work areas of the Metro Café and add a waterproof membrane to the rebuilt floors. Construction is scheduled to begin Dec. 26 and end March 1. During that time, Metro Café hours will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Building Services and Aramark, the cafeteria provider, will ensure that food service will be offered in the Metro Café during the project, but the variety of the food will shrink.

Metro Cafe workers, including Oscar Reyes (left) and executive



chef Eddie Garcia, will lose the use of the kitchen while equipment is removed and the kitchen floor is replaced. Food options from Metro Café will be reduced from Dec. 26 through March 1.

*Photo by Ned Racine*

To complete the work, the Metro Café kitchen and dish room (where plates, flatware and cooking utensils are cleaned) will be inoperative for approximately two months. Consequently, although the dining room and serving area will still be used, no food will be prepared on site.

County health laws prohibit food preparation in the 1,327-square-foot kitchen when the dish room cannot be used.

Still, Aramark will provide a limited menu for breakfast and lunch. Because the grill will be closed, breakfast foods will consist of muffins, sweet rolls, cold cereal, coffee, bottled juice and sodas. Lunch will consist of grab-and-go sandwiches, salads, deserts and a single hot entree.

To reduce the project's effect on Metro operations, the contractor must perform demolition between 7 p.m. and 6:20 a.m. weekdays and 4:45 p.m. and 8 a.m. weekends.