

Olives and Oil brings Electric Italian cuisine to Seymour

By Patricia Villers

SEYMOUR - With a funky flying pig as a mascot and an 'Electric Italian' neon sign on the wall Olives and Oil has introduced an eclectic restaurant to town.

The first Olives and Oil is located 124 Temple St. in New Haven. A second location recently held a grand opening and ribbon cutting at 318 Roosevelt Drive, in front of The Inn at Villa Bianca.

It is the site of the former Tavern 1757, which closed in September after about seven years in business.

"We fell in love with the space," Erick Williams, one of the owners, said at the grand opening celebration. He is a co-owner with Matt Bailey and Chef John Brennan.



The "Electric Italian" cuisine is described as "Where the Old World meets the New World." Brennan said his recipes are from his mother and grandmother and are close to his heart. He said everything he creates is made from scratch.

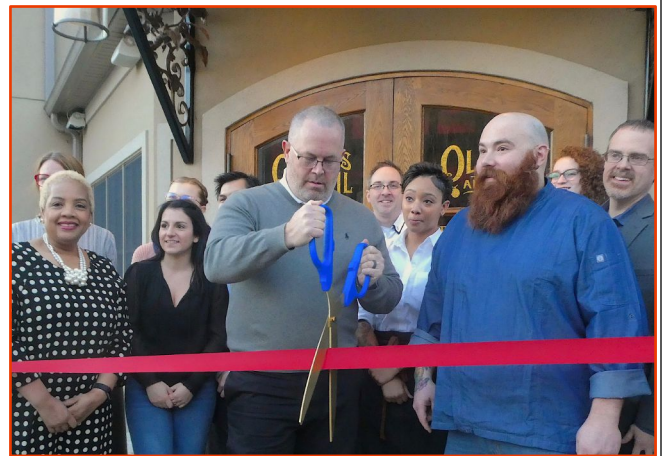
Vintage decorations make for an inviting interior. Williams said the antiques on display are from his family, and the pig mascot symbolizes celebration.

First Selectman Kurt Miller welcomed the three men and their employees to Seymour.

He said his wife enjoys dining at the New Haven location. "When we heard you were coming to Seymour my wife was the happiest she's ever been in her life," Miller said with a smile.

Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce President Bill Purcell said, "You're not only coming to Seymour, you're coming to the Valley." He said the business has "a winning formula in New Haven."

"We want everyone to come in, eat, and enjoy," Williams said.



Clubs offer enrichment at Ansonia Middle School

ANSONIA - A variety of clubs has become popular at Ansonia Middle School this year.

Students looking for a club to join after school have several new choices: robotics, chess, art, gaming, and Student Council. They join several existing clubs and have seen a large turnout since meetings began in October.

Principal Pete Colaccino, who is in his first year at AMS, asked staff to tap into their expertise and interests to offer more to the seventh and eighth graders.

"If teachers are able to create clubs and activities that focus on their skills and interests, it creates a more authentic experience that readily translates back to the students," said Colaccino. "In turn, students learn from someone who has a genuine passion for what they are doing."

Math teachers Allison Ley and Jeremy Dionne offered to start a Chess Club. Ley said she has been playing since she was eight, while Dionne said he is relatively new to the game and is fine-tuning his skills. About 10-14 students attend the bi-weekly Monday meetings.

"We want to make it a friendly, fun experience," Ley said, noting most of the students came with some knowledge of chess and have improved their strategies. Students get individual challenges to help build critical thinking skills.

On a recent Monday, five games were taking place. One game pitted teacher Bill Izzo against a student who had challenged him. Another game involved two pairs of students who said they had a long-term game in progress. If they don't finish by the end of the session, they take a picture of the board and pick up where they left off when they meet again.

Anna Nguyen, who was teamed with Fahmida Chowdhury, said she is passionate about a lot of things and has been playing chess since she was in fifth grade. She has learned from her dad, as well as from online videos. Fahmida also said her older sister taught her to play.

Ley said she hopes to have the new AHS Chess Club visit before the end of the school year so they can challenge her students. John LaRovera, the district's math and science administrator, said this is one of his hopes.



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Clubs offer enrichment at Ansonia Middle School



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LaRovera said he learned to play when he was a sixth grader at Prendergast School. "Chess offers students a chance to develop critical thinking skills, increase aptitude in recognizing patterns, and reason abstractly. All of these skills are necessary to be successful in math."

He said if students are interested, he will help provide them with an opportunity to compete in local events and eventually, regional and state competitions. Membership in other clubs range from five to 40.

The National Junior Honor Society, established at AMS a few years ago, has 30 eighth graders who meet monthly. Advisor Jessica Bedosky leads discussions about volunteering opportunities as well as post-secondary options such as careers and civic duties.

In February 27 seventh graders are slated to be inducted into the society and will join the group, which focuses on academic excellence, leadership, and citizenship.

Another existing group is the Human Relations Club, which has 30 members. Four teachers serve as advisors: Devin Arpaia, Vicki Baldwin, Chris Quinlan, and Cindy Mullins.

A group of students will participate in a training session next week to prepare for the launch of the educational program for seventh graders in February in Ansonia and Derby. The Ansonia High HRC will join their middle school peers for this program.

This is from a press release by Ansonia Public Schools

Saturday, February 8, 2020

FREE HOT BREAKFAST!



8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

**Assumption Church Hall
61 N. Cliff Street
Ansonia, CT**

**Blood pressure readings available
FREE RAFFLE!
All are welcome! Bring a friend!**

*Breakfast sponsored by the
Assumption Church Social Justice Committee*

The fading January sunset nicely highlights the cupola of the Sterling Opera House. The 1889 building highlights the landscape on Elizabeth Street in Derby.

- Photo by Patricia Villers



Memorial Service Scheduled for World War II Chaplains

SEYMOUR - The Emil Senger Post 10 of the American Legion will hold a special memorial service in Seymour on Monday, Feb. 3, at 7 p.m., for four World War II military chaplains who perished when their ship was hit by a German torpedo.

After the attack on Feb. 3, 1943, George L. Fox, Albert D. Good, Clark V. Poling and John P. Washington helped other soldiers on the USS Dorchester board their lifeboats. They gave up their own life jackets when the supply ran out. The chaplains then joined arms, recited prayers and sang hymns as the ship sunk. Their sacrifice was well publicized at the time and each was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Purple Heart.



The service will be held at the Seymour United Methodist Church, at 90 Pearl Street. There is no admission charge, and light refreshments will be served afterward.

For more information, contact Post Commander Mike Kearney at 203-888-7813 or Senior Vice Commander George Bashura at 203-888-7734.

