



SJ-R.COM

The State Journal-Register • Springfield, IL • The Oldest Newspaper in Illinois

A la carte: The Fairview becomes Fairview Restaurante

By **KATHRYN REM** (kathryn.rem@sj-r.com)

THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Posted Apr 24, 2010 @ 11:30 PM

THE FAIRVIEW – a popular north-end restaurant and tavern for decades – has officially reopened as an Italian steakhouse called THE FAIRVIEW RESTAURANTE.

For now, it's serving dinner only. In a few weeks, however, lunch will be added.

Owners are brothers Bob and Jim Zaffiri, Tom Stevens and Jordan Podeschi, an award-winning chili maker who will cook and manage the business. All grew up on Springfield's north end and were customers of the old Fairview.

"When I was a kid, I delivered papers here and always came here to eat," said Bob Zaffiri.

On the menu are steaks, seafood, chicken, pork, pizza, horseshoes, burgers, soups, salads and pasta dishes, such as veal parmigiana, baked mostaccioli and spaghetti with garlic shrimp. Among the appetizers: spinocci (deep-fried spinach and artichoke tortellini with pepper jelly), anchovy bread and asparagus in tempura.

"We've got some of the original dishes," said Podeschi.

On the dessert list are spumoni and sugar-cream pie with fruit. A children's menu has corn dogs and macaroni and cheese.

Patrons of the previous Fairview will be interested to know the restaurant serves the original house Italian salad dressing. On Monday nights there is a shrimp boil with peel-and-eat shrimp for 29 cents each. Carryout food is available.

The building had been vacant for two years. Remodeling included a new bar, new floors and carpet, kitchen and bathroom redos and fresh paint.

Hours are 4 to 11 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Reservations are requested for weekend dinners: phone 544-7777. The address is 1530 E. Sangamon Ave.; it faces Sangamon from atop a railroad viaduct.

The building opened in 1944 as a grocery store, Ridgely Market. Owner Alex Palusinski turned it into the Fairview Tavern in 1945, and it proved to be a popular watering hole and gathering place. The structure, which then included a second-floor apartment, was destroyed by a Christmas Eve fire in 1992. The Palusinski family rebuilt it into the single-story building it is today.

Meal service has stopped at Springfield's off-track betting parlor, CAPITOL TELETRACK.

The breakfast, lunch and dinner business just wasn't as lucrative as it used to be, said George Rembert, who had been the chef and kitchen manager there for 21 years.

"It was the general downturn in the economy. We still had the regulars coming, but it wasn't making it," said Rembert.

The facility still serves Butch's Pizza, hot dogs and chips. And the bar is still open. Customers are allowed to bring in food from the outside, but no beverages.

"What surprised me most was that I thought the meals would continue through the Kentucky Derby. They really pack them in for that," said Rembert. The Derby is May 1.

Capitol Teletrack, 1766 Wabash Ave., is electronically linked to Fairmount Park racetrack in Collinsville.

MARY JANE'S CAFE, on the main floor of Brookens Library at the University of Illinois Springfield, has reopened.

The coffee shop had been run by an independent vendor who left in December. Now it's managed by the university's food-service system.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday.

Besides hot and cold coffee drinks, there are teas, sodas and fruit smoothies. Foods include soups, salads and pastries, such as muffins, bagels, cinnamon rolls and cheesecake.

Mary Jane's is named after Mary Jane MacDonald, the first librarian hired at the school then called Sangamon State University.

Wonder why commercials for DUNKIN' DONUTS have been running on Springfield's television station, WICS-TV, when Springfield doesn't have a Dunkin' Donuts?

So were we. We thought perhaps the ads were signaling the coming of the Canton, Mass.-based doughnut chain to The Land of Lard. So we called DD to find out.

"What you're seeing on the TV station is part of our national media buy. For certain promotions, we buy media on stations throughout the country," said Dunkin' Donuts spokeswoman Carrie Reckert. "It does not mean we are opening a store in Springfield."

You don't have to wait for Sunday to get restaurant news. Check out the new SJ-R blog, Off the Clock, with timely updates on the food, entertainment and culture of Springfield. Go to the newspaper's home page at www.sj-r.com and click on "blogs" at the top of the page. Or go directly to <http://blogs.sj-r.com/offtheclock>.

Is your restaurant offering a Mother's Day special on Sunday, May 9? If so, please send details (menu items, prices, restaurant name, address, phone and hours) to the A la carte column by 5 p.m. Wednesday. A list of specials will be published next Sunday.

The A la carte column is written by Kathryn Rem, 788-1520. It highlights restaurant openings, closings, renovations and relocations, as well as personnel changes and business news. Menu items are listed for new restaurants. Send items to A la carte, The State Journal-Register, One Copley Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701; fax to 788-1551; or e-mail food@sj-r.com. The deadline for Sunday's column is 5 p.m. Wednesday. Please include your name and daytime phone number.

Copyright 2010 The State Journal-Register. Some rights reserved

Comments (5)

Loading comments...

Login or register to post a comment:

Login

Username:

Password:

[Forgot password](#)

[Register](#)

Email:

First Name:

Last Name:

I agree to the terms of use

I am over 13 years of age

NOTE: Your inbox must accept emails from "no-reply@gatehousemedia.com"

All your favorite advertising circulars, coupons, deals, travel specials and more ... online, anytime!
Introducing zip2save.com. Check it out now!

zip2save.com
Online anytime!

[Contact us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [About our Ads](#)

The State Journal-Register | Springfield, IL 62701

Copyright © 2006–2010 GateHouse Media, Inc. Some Rights Reserved.

Original content available for non-commercial use under a [Creative Commons license](#), except where noted.

SEO by [eLocalListing](#) | [Advertiser profiles](#) | [Cherrp Local](#)