

VILLAGE FOCUS

BY CAROL KLEM

The New & Improved Rubino's

It's official. If you want to be seen, there is a new place in the village to do that – it's the new and improved Rubino's Deli, loaded with visibility and a menu to make your mouth water. It is so visible, you can practically see what customers are eating as you drive by.

Rubino's is a staple in the village. It has been around for 20 years, first across the street practically from their new restaurant on Main Street, next to The Music Store. Then it moved into the back of Main Street... next to OTB, where visibility was sorely lacking. Now Mark Vinci has found and purchased a new home at 34 East Main Street, the former home of Mac 5 Bikes. The building has historic significance in that it once was the home of the Smith & Lotze Furniture Store, which was very popular in its day.

The minute I walked in, I got a good



Lookin' good! The new and improved Rubino's has a great view of our world on Main Street.



Markye Vinci and her dad, Mark, pose at the new Rubino's on Main Street.

vibe... and when I saw Mark's friendly face, it was obvious he has hit the mark this time around. This is the perfect place to sit and watch what is going on Main Street, we agreed. "Picture the parades," he said, pointing to a ringside seat.

The downside that accompanies a move such as this is the displaced sports bar family he leaves behind from the old Rubino's Deli and Sports Bar next to OTB. Everything closed to make way for "progress" – and meanwhile, those regulars began seeking another social club, said Mark's daughter, Markye. "Doogie the bartender", who had been with Hatter's since its beginning, then Rubino's, was again jobless. "He is one great guy," said Mark, who looks forward to giving him a recommendation. "He has an enormous following," he added.

As always, the menu fits every taste. Mark said, "Nothing is different," just the place, and the menu that has worked for years still works – so they won't fix it. At least 15 different kinds of pizza with six different crusts and red, white or garlic sauce are available. Mark suggests you try the flavored edge crust.

Rubino's menu features cold, hot, premium and garlic subs, deli platters, cheeses, hot fresh breads, sub trays, wrap trays, condiment, antipasto and meat trays. Complete dinners are also available.

I had a hard time choosing a sub to take home for supper last week. I chose the shaved beef with melted cheese, onions and peppers, and pickles on a warm fresh roll and was it ever good. Next time we will eat it in the window and watch the world go by.

A Hand of Applause

There are some places where the customer service isn't always great.

One thing is for sure: Webster's Post Office earned a glowing report from one of its customers just before Christmas. Lois Wright joined the large numbers of package senders a bit before Christmas with a gift postmarked to her sister, Mary in Colorado. She approached the PO employee with the box to be told that she could save money by mailing the gift a different way. The next thing she knew he was efficiently re-packaging it for her and saving her some hard-earned cash.

"I was so impressed with his attitude and Christmas spirit – his helpfulness, I decided to go home, call and register a compliment on his behalf," she said.

And so she did, and the person on the other end of the line asked her to describe the gentleman and again - she did. "He had dark hair and glasses," she explained.

There was a chuckle... and then the voice said, "It was me!"

I guess this is the perfect opportunity to thank everyone at the post office who worked tirelessly and graciously this Christmas season – who went the extra mile to make all of our lives a little better... in particular, the employee with the dark hair and glasses.

Cahill's resolution will not affect job as Mayor

Like I said, Mayor John Cahill's job will not affect his job as Village Mayor, but will affect his family... and anyone out there who is looking for him.

"I resolve to further hone my archery

skills with my son, John V., now that he has his own compound bow. Going hand in hand with practicing shooting our bows, will [be] dedicating *significantly* more time in the woods with my son and other family members."

So, you can't find the mayor? Look in the woods.

Saying 'goodbye' to 2016 & some village businesses

Here it is again... another New Year's Eve. Again, we say goodbye to the old and welcome the new. Maybe we will belt out a verse of Auld Lang Syne... and maybe we won't. As for me: "Auld Lang Syne" is sad.

No other time is like New Year's Eve, and nothing reminds us of the fleeting nature of time and the importance of long-standing friendships like this song. I am for remembering old friends.

In Webster Village, if you listen closely, you may hear Frank Sinatra singing, "It was a very good year." Ah, yes, I think that's true, although we have seen many changes, seen shops open and shops close. And for some, the year could have been better.

We bid a fond farewell to a number of businesses, some that many of us will truly miss.

Probably bidding the Giunta family goodbye was the saddest of all. For decades, since 1949, **The Webster Dry Cleaners** has kept Webster residents looking spiffy and pressed, and Joe has been chief operator/owner for as long as I can remember.

In addition, the Giuntas have been wonderfully generous contributors in our community. "A business that makes nothing but money is a poor business," said the late Henry Ford. Joe and Donna agree with this philosophy. "If it was all about the bottom line, I would have closed shop years ago," Joe said a while back... a quote I remember well.

Jo and Donna are enjoying their family, cruises, and the good life... so we bid them well.

We also bid adieu to **Singh Mart**, the corner store that offered a whole new shopping experience. I learned quite a bit from Brighton residents, Mohinder Singh and his wife, Harpreet Kaur, about the art of Indian cooking. I think of them each time I sprinkle Dhanajiru powder, a combination of ground cumin, coriander, black pepper, and turmeric into my soups or dishes.

Sage Keber, a 23-year-old Geneseo Communications grad, began **The Entertainment Collective LLC**, a full service entertainment company that hosted varied music and entertainment events in the Harmony House on Main

Street. He had leased the main floor of the Harmony House from the Chorus of the Genesee, and in turn planned on renting out space for concerts, neighborhood craft shows, trunk sales, catered parties such as weddings and showers, family reunions, dance recitals, theatre, etc.

Sometime it's true... "the best made plans of mice and men..."

The village said goodbye to Cindy Corrigan and **The Art Stop** on Four Corners after a long and fun stay. We are happy to report that Cindy and the staff are well and being welcomed in Penfield at Four Corners in the old Masonic Temple Building.

Also we said so-long to Kristina Dini-Jeffords and **The Mad Hatter Café & Bakery** at North Avenue. Kristina headed to the "big time" on Alexander Street and Park Avenue, across from Parkleigh Pharmacy. When you are in that area, pop in and see her.

Mac 5 Bikes – run by Chris and Laura Murkowski – was one of our most popular shops. The couple decided to enjoy family life more and cut back on the workload.

On New Year's Eve, I made a final stop to say so-long and good luck to silversmith **Chip Arnold** and his cohort, Eve – and to say goodbye to his artful jewelry. Hope some of you got to his great sale... I did.

The whole northwest block, known once as the Utz block, then the Bowman block, now is referred to as the almost empty block – but not for long. I think there are amazing plans for its future... so just stay posted.

Nothing remains the same... new shops appear, spring follows winter, and the cycle begins again.

As we head into the year 2017, let's walk through our lives, room by room,



Joe Giunta - well-known for the exceptional care he gave cleaning everything from suits to preserving wedding gowns

and do some patching, some caulking, and make some repairs. It would be nice if we could, in this process, give ourselves a new backbone, to stand up for what we believe... grow new ears to listen more intently, new eyes to see clearer where work can be done... but more importantly, find new and more caring hearts. At least, let's try to be there for each other.

Equally important, let us regain the sense of humor of our childhoods. Remember he who laughs lasts.

Happy New Year!