

BUSINESS

Opportunity knocks: Brothers take over parents' Marshfield restaurant, make it over

By *ANTHONY CAPUTO*
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After 30 years of business, the Venus II Restaurant and Sports Bar in Marshfield has gone through an overhaul this year.

Brothers Stephen and David Drosopoulos took over the Ocean Street business from their parents, Nicholas and Peggy, in January. Since then, it has gone through some aesthetic changes.

Originally a small pizza and sub shop before expanding in 1993, the restaurant now boasts 10 plasma TV screens and a two-story deck with an ocean view.



Stephen, left, and David Drosopoulos have taken over Venus II Restaurant and Sports Bar in Marshfield from their parents. (GARY HIGGINS/The Patriot Ledger)

“The business was in decline for the last five years,” said David Drosopoulos, 24. “We took it over and gave it a fresh start. We just saw the opportunity and grasped it.”

The original Venus Cafe is owned by the brothers' cousins in Whitman.

After the new deck was finished, the owners, both Marshfield residents, held a grand reopening in August. But the restaurant had never actually closed.

While doing most of the demolition themselves with the help of their father and some relatives, the brothers moved booths from the first floor to their 200-person function hall on the second floor.

They extended the bar there and basically ran the restaurant from that floor while the ground floor was being renovated.

“It never stopped,” said Stephen Drosopoulos, 25. “We did what it took to speed up the demolition and remodeling.”

With the temporary dining room upstairs open, the brothers were able to save money for the renovation.

To kick off the new era of Venus II, the Drosopoulos brothers plan to place a time

capsule under the restaurant. They are encouraging customers to donate items from the past 30 years that could have historical significance. The owners plan to bury the capsule later this month or early next. They hope to dig it up, perhaps 20 years from now, to see what remains, David Drosopoulos said.

The restaurant also features 15-inch flat-screen TVs at each of the downstairs booths so customers can personalize their TV choices while they eat.

They also have live bands performing on their first-floor stage.

“Everything you see is brand new,” David Drosopoulos said. “A lot of (this) took us working 100 hours a week.”

After graduating from college - Stephen from Quinnipiac University in 2004 and David from Bryant University in 2005 - the brothers worked at Venus II with a goal to take the business over from their parents, Stephen Drosopoulos said.

The restaurant employs about 20 people; the brothers expect that number to increase to about 45 during summers.

The brothers have more improvements planned for January, when they will start to renovate the second-floor function hall. They plan to bring in TVs and add two bars.

If business is good, the brothers eventually want to open a second restaurant. But for now, their focus is on making a name for themselves and Venus II.

“We basically want to be the hot spot on the South Shore,” Stephen Drosopoulos said.

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