

# Ansonia celebrates 2 grand openings on Main Street

## Palma Restaurant features Spanish-American cuisine

By Patricia Villers

ANSONIA - City officials welcomed another new business to Main Street Thursday during a festive fiesta held for the community at Palma Restaurant.

The 252 Main St. eatery that features Spanish American cuisine opened its doors Dec. 10, owner Marcia Palma said. “We’ve been busy,” she said with a smile.

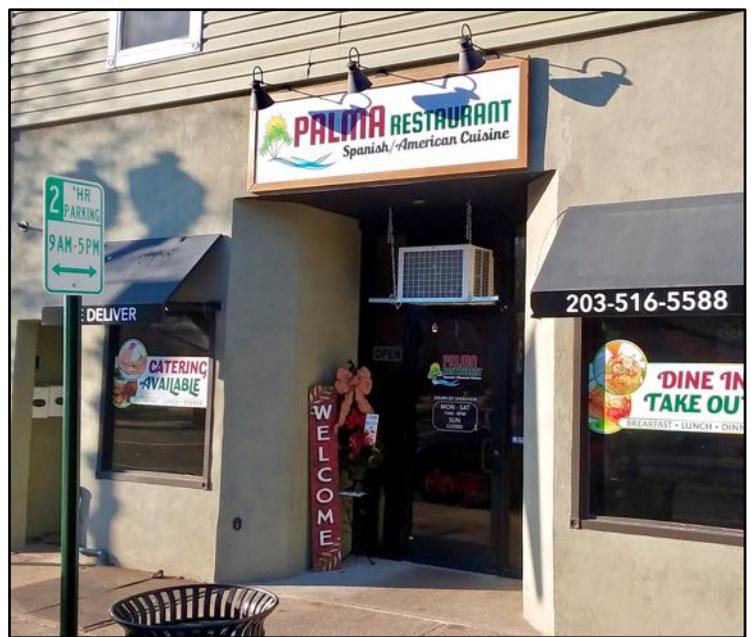
Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce President Bill Purcell alluded to the fact that many restaurants have located to downtown. “I’m a big supporter of the clustering theory, he said. “And this is a wonderful concept for people on the move.” The restaurant features a served buffet for both dine-in and take-out.

Palma said the business is a family affair.

“We want to welcome you to the great city of Ansonia,” Mayor David S. Cassetti said at the ribbon cutting.



The restaurant is directly across the street from City Hall, and next door to the Valley Arts Council’s new Main Street Gallery, which held its grand opening Tuesday.



# Main Street Gallery offers fine art, photography, gifts

By Patricia Villers

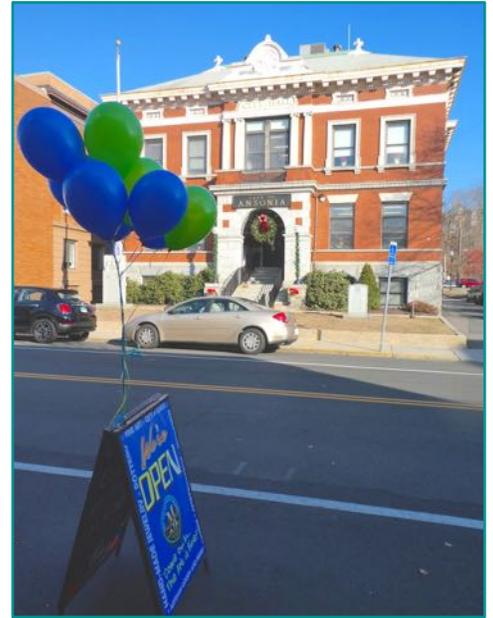
ANSONIA - The Valley Arts Council's new Main Street Gallery featuring fine art, photography, jewelry, sculpture, artisan soaps, and more officially opened last week.

Mayor David S. Casseti and city officials joined Valley Arts Council President Rich DiCarlo and Vice President Steve DiRienzo in the ceremony. More than 40 people were on hand for the ribbon-cutting.

The gallery was formerly on Elizabeth Street in Derby for many years, prompting Casseti to say, "Derby's loss is Ansonia's gain" as he welcomed the artists to downtown.

Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce President Bill Purcell said when he arrived in the Valley in 2000 to take the job, a grant-funded study found the region has a niche for the arts. Out of that study the Valley Arts Council was born, he said.

DiCarlo said the Arts Council will use the location for a variety of art classes for the community with bigger classes held at the Ansonia Armory.



He plans to feature a "Student Artist of the Month" at the gallery, as well as art walks, and an art in the park program, he said.

"The Valley Arts Council is an integral part of the city's Main Street 'renaissance,'" DiCarlo said. "No renaissance can be complete without arts and culture."



## CHOICES available to area Medicare recipients Assistance offered at Center for Disability Rights, Agency on Aging

WEST HAVEN - The CHOICES program helps older adults and other people with Medicare coverage understand their Medicare coverage and healthcare options.

CHOICES offers a number of free programs, as well as community outreach, and information and referral services on a wide variety of topics.

Carmen Correa-Rios is a certified CHOICES counselor at the **Center For Disability Rights**. She can be reached at **(203)-934-7077 Ext. 14**. Please schedule an appointment with her if you need assistance.

You can also contact the Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut which administers the CHOICES program in the south central region of Connecticut.

Appointments are highly recommended so that dedicated time can be set aside for you.



The CHOICES program is available for the Valley towns of Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour and Shelton along with 15 other towns in southern Connecticut.

