

Massimino's Ristorante celebrates grand re-opening in Ansonia

By Patricia Villers

ANSONIA - A friendly, family-oriented atmosphere greets all who walk into the new Massimino's Ristorante downtown.

Owner Massimino Andretta of Ansonia and his family Friday hosted an official grand re-opening celebration at the two-story, 1,700-square-foot restaurant and banquet room at 85 Main St. The building is adorned with stone work and features a balcony off the banquet room.

The building is across the street from the original pizzeria Andretta opened in 2004.



A beaming Andretta, surrounded by his wife, Isabella, and three grown children, thanked his loyal friends and customers for supporting him for the past 15 years.

His motto is "Si Mangia in Famiglia" - "we eat with the family."

Andretta's brother-in-law, Mayor David S. Casseti, said Andretta purchased the lot in 2012.

Casseti, who worked in construction for many years, said he dug the foundation in 2017. "It took a few years [but] he's a really patient man," he said of Andretta.

Casseti said the restaurant is "the first new construction on Main Street in over 30 years." A building at 158 Main St. was constructed around 1987, he said.

Article continues on Page 2





The sunset is nigh above the stately Derby United Methodist Church on Fifth Street.

The Romanesque-style church was built in 1894.

- Photo by Patricia Villers

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Continued from Page 1

Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce President Bill Purcell said the opening was the fulfillment of a lifelong dream for Andretta, who started working in restaurants in his native Italy at age 14.



Purcell called Cassetti “a cheerleader for our community,” referring to the Main Street rebirth featuring a variety of new restaurants and businesses.

General contractor was John Behun of Seymour and Ilir Vorfi performed all the masonry work.

See [Patricia Villers' 2004 article](#) in the New Haven Register about the original Massimino's.





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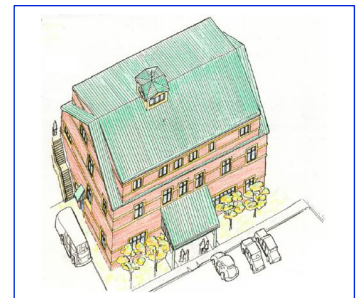
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