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FEATURED

Farm-to-table restaurant at Laurel View Village open to public

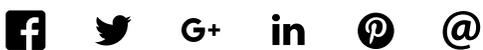
By Mark Pesto

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Linda Yoder, a Laurel View Village resident, brandishes a giant pair of scissors during a ceremonial ribbon-cutting ceremony the Fresh Harvest restaurant at the Davidsville facility on Friday, April 28, 2017. Attending the ceremony are, from left, Ron / Somerset County Chamber of Commerce executive director; Debra Grabinski, director of health services for Laurel View Vill chef Jaime Jones; Gerald Walker, Somerset County commissioner; and Steve Buncich, Conemaugh Township supervisor.

Submitted photo



Fresh Harvest, a new farm-to-table restaurant located on the campus of Laurel View Village in Davidsville, opened to the public Friday morning.

“Fresh Harvest delivers a unique, five-star dining experience in senior living – as well to the Davidsville community,” Laurel View Village CEO Michelle Rassler said in a statement. “We are taking the top trends from the restaurant and hospitality industries and adapting to the guests we serve.”

Grace Zarnas-Hoyer, manager of public relations at Canonsburg-based Cura Hospitality, which runs the restaurant, called Fresh Harvest “a very cool space, with a new menu and trendy culinary demonstrations.”

The restaurant is open both to the public and to Laurel View Village residents. It features as its centerpiece a chef’s demonstration table – known simply as The Chef’s Table – where guests can view live cooking demonstrations.

Zarnas-Hoyer said Fresh Harvest is an example of what she called “the trend in senior living” – moving from traditional cafeteria-style dining toward bistro-like restaurants where guests can enjoy, in her words, “a food experience.”

“Laurel View Village is a little more contemporary modern – not what you think when you hear ‘nursing home,’ ” she said.

“It’s a step above what you’re going to find in typical senior living communities ... more in keeping with what today’s seniors are looking for.

Friday’s grand opening also marked Fresh Harvest’s first catered special event. Hosted by the Greater Somerset and Cambria County Chamber of Commerce, the event’s guests included business leaders, local dignitaries and government officials.

“It was a way for us to really reach out to those folks, because that space can also be used for meetings, small gatherings,” Zarnas-Hoyer said. “It’s a way for us to let people know, ‘Hey, we’re here.’ ”

Head chef Jaime Jones, a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania’s culinary arts program, said she plans to focus on a “farm-to-table” concept – preparing menu items using seasonal ingredients harvested from area farms and producers.

“I’m very excited to offer my culinary talents to Fresh Harvest, especially during the culinary demonstrations at The Chef’s Table within the restaurant,” Jones said in a statement.

Jones, who studied at the Italian Institute of Culinary for Foreigners in Costigliole d’Asti, Italy, has previously worked at Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa in Asheville, North Carolina, and at Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort in Fayette County.

Sous chef Zeno Zimmer, an alumnus of the Ritz Carlton Hotel and of Philadelphia’s world-famous French restaurant Le Bec Fin, was formerly the executive chef at Green Gables Restaurant in Jennerstown.

Fresh Harvest Restaurant – located on the Laurel View Village campus, 1600 Cambridge Drive, Davidsville – is open to the public Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m and on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Chef’s Table is open Tuesday, Friday and Saturday during dinner hours.

Mark Pesto is a reporter for The Tribune-Democrat. Follow him on Twitter at @MarkPesto.

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