

Take a bite of history at the Post Office Eatery

Sarah Carideo
Senior Reporter

Instead of going to the usual spot for dinner tonight, head to Gibsonville and try The Post Office Eatery. The four-month old restaurant, although slightly off the beaten path, is a quaint dining alternative.

Owner Dave Sherrill has worked in restaurants such as Applebee's and Sagebrush Steakhouse for more than 30 years and decided to finally open one of his own. The building used to house a post office in Gibsonville many years ago and still has some mailboxes still inside.

The low-key community atmosphere of Gibsonville was one reason Sherrill liked this current location. He said the community has accepted him and he loves the feeling of being welcome.

"It's a perfect little town like you'd see on TV," Sherrill said. "It's just awesome—the people and merchants are wonderful. There's no better place."

The menu features many traditional American food options with some healthy alternatives such as whole-wheat pasta. Sherrill's favorite dish on the menu is the 14-ounce rib-eye steak.

"We hand-cut our own steaks, buy our fish locally and get as much produce as possible from local vendors," Sherrill said.

The same care that goes toward the food also went into the decision on prices.

"If you compare our prices to other places in the area, they are significantly less—not just slightly, but multiple dollars," he said. "You can't



The Post Office Eatery is a locally owned restaurant in downtown Gibsonville. The restaurant offers popular American cuisine and a quaint community atmosphere.

get these low prices locally."

The most unique aspect about The Post Office Eatery is how involved Sherrill is. He said he's not just the owner, but also the cook, the busboy, the server, the washer and everything in between.

"I try to talk to and meet everyone," he said. "It's a really cozy, comfortable small town restaurant where you don't have any of that hustle and bustle. It's just a nice, relaxing place."

Some future plans for The Post Office Eatery include Wild Wing Wednesdays, Ladies' Night Thursdays, live jazz music and all-you-can-eat-shrimp and karaoke on Fridays.

Sherrill hopes to do things other restaurants don't necessarily do. He said he would really like to cater to Elon students and other local residents. The Post Office Eatery is located in downtown Gibsonville on 128 W Main St.



The Post Office Eatery in Gibsonville offers a variety of burgers and sandwiches.

Local salon offers more than just styling services

Sam Calvert
Online Managing Editor

An Elon University performing arts student came rushing through the doors of Coming Attractions Hair and Tanning salon. Her face was red from tears, and she was in a panic. She had dyed her hair black for a part, and now it wouldn't come out.

For hours, the beauticians at Coming Attractions worked on her hair. They also fed her and took care of her, as if she was one of their own.

Eight hours later, the student looked in the mirror and could see her hair finally back to its original color.

"We did it," said Delores Foster, owner of Coming Attractions. "We got it off, and she walked out of here with hair."

The salon has seen many problems like this, including the proverbial brush stuck in the hair.

Coming Attractions has also done hair for every occasion, from proms to weddings to funerals.

"We've had people stop on the way to the funeral home to get their hair done," Foster said.

The salon's supplies have not just been used in the salon. They've also been on loan in Elon's performing arts programs.

One year, when the program was putting on "Steel Magnolias," it used Coming Attractions' supplies as props — which is amusing, since many people tell the ladies at Coming Attractions they have

an uncanny resemblance to those from the movie.

"I've never seen us like that, but everyone else sees us like that," Foster said.

Foster has been in charge for 18 years, beginning when the salon occupied the space on Lebanon Avenue that now belongs to Mynt.

In 1997, it moved to its current location on North Holt Avenue, behind Elon Community Church.

When it first tried to purchase the location, a former fruit stand, there was competition from another local business owner, but when Foster begged for the spot, he relented.

Coming Attractions has been there ever since.

"I can't imagine going anywhere else to work," said Sherry Jones, who's worked with Foster for about 20 years. "It's like coming home to mom's."

And while other salons experience friction and jealousy among beauticians, Jones said the ladies at Coming Attractions have escaped all of that.

"We've been together for 20 years," Foster said. "We have all been together more than we have with our families."

Along with the customers, the people of Coming Attractions have become one big family, both beauticians said.

"It's just a warm atmosphere," Jones said. "Everybody's real friendly. When people have problems, we listen."

The salon provides more than just beauty services, though. Often there is food to



Delores Foster, owner of Coming Attractions, styles a customer's hair. The salon styles hair for every occasion, including weddings.

eat, as well.

During the summertime, there are tomato sandwiches and other light, cool snacks. At Christmas time, the ladies provide a large selection of hors d'oeuvres for their customers. And even when there's no food, there is always a big bag of candy.

"Everybody knows where the candy is," Foster said. "I buy really good candy."

Even beyond food, sometimes Foster will make house calls, and while she's there, she'll help out around the house.

Sometimes that even includes cleaning out refrigerators and

washing dishes.

While one customer was getting her hair done inside the salon, Foster was out washing her car.

"She's one of a kind," Jones said. "I haven't met anyone like her, and I don't think I ever will."

The customers range from

all ages, but Foster said there's one common thread between them: they all want to feel special.

And no matter what, her goal is to leave the customers with a smile.

"Everybody comes in here to look better," Foster said. "And everybody leaves with a smile."

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Explore the salon and hear more from Delores Foster in this video.

<http://bit.ly/EPsalon>

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