## Destination HERE: Tourism in Southwestern Illinois

# Collinsville chamber brings Horseradish Festival, Italian Rooted in history and Fest to town, and more

The Collinsville Chamber of Commerce has been proudly serving the Collinsville community for 95 years. Its mission is to promote, support and represent Collinsville area businesses and community interests. Its goal is to make Collinsville a great place to live and do business. The Chamber hosts many networking events throughout the year, offers resources that support members growth as well as proudly hosting two weekend-long annual festivals in Uptown Collinsville. These festivals help local nonprofits and organizations raise money for their causes all while bringing tourism to our beautiful Uptown Collinsville. For more Chamber information, visit online www.discovercollinsville.com or email us at director@discovercollinsville.com.

The first annual Chamber festival comes with the International Horseradish Festival. Did you know that Collinsville Illinois is the Horseradish Capital of the World? Collinsville produces one third of the country's horseradish. In 1988, the first International Horseradish Festival was held. Over the years, this festival has turned into a large Main Street event held the first Friday and Saturday of June. The Chamber and the Festival Committee strive to make this a family fun event. Attendees can enjoy horseradish food vendors, live music, craft vendors, a large kids area, car show, pageant, 5k and so much more. For more information, follow on Facebook or visit online at www.internationalhorseradishfestival.com. Interested in being a vendor, register for an event or sponsor?

Applications are available on the website.

The second annual Chamber festival is the Italian Fest, held on the third Friday and Saturday of September every year. This event began over 40 years ago as a sidewalk sale on Main Street, and in 1984, the first festival was held to celebrate the Italian culture and heritage the city was built on. Now, Italian Fest has developed into the largest Collinsville festival. During this two day celebration, attendees experience Italian food vendors, live entertainment, live singing of the Italian anthem, grape stomp, 5k, Bocce Ball tournament, kids area, parade and still more. For more information, visit www.italianfest.net or follow on Facebook. Interested in being a vendor, register for an event or sponsor? Applications will be available on the website July 7.

#### Save the dates for this year's festivals:

- Horseradish Fest Friday, June 2 and Saturday, June 3 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- Italian Fest Friday, Sept. 15 and Saturday, Sept. 16 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

There are many ways to be involved with each festival. If interested in learning more, contact the organizers at festivals@discovercollinsville. com or call (618) 344-2884.

The Collinsville Chamber of Commerce staff, Board of Directors and Festival Committees would also like to thank everyone who has participated, volunteered, sponsored, and supported the Chamber and Festivals over the years. We would not be able to make these events successful without you!

# Andria's Steakhouse – built on tradition

In 1978 Sam & Muggs Andria purchased a countryside home tucked away off a grassy knoll in O'Fallon, Ill. What started as a place for live music and football sized prime rib quickly grew into a piece of Southern Illinois history. The iconic Andria's Steakhouse is known for their warm hospitality, famous brush on steak sauce, and an atmosphere that feels like home.

In the 80s son-in-law, Larry Kenison, took over the operations by adding a manufacturing facility for Andria's Steak Sauce and expanding the restaurant outside of its original format. Even through expansion, the restaurant still feels like home and the manufacturing facility distributes Andria's Brush-On Steak Sauce, Andria's House Salad Dressing, and Andria's Barbecue Sauce to over 400 retail doors throughout the Midwest. "Through all of the ups and downs, our patrons and employees are the memories I cherish most," says Larry. On any given Saturday night, you can find Sam and Muggs' daughter, Maureen Kenison, greeting patrons at the door. Muggs was always known for her kind smile, warm hospitality, and generous personality; Maureen continues to follow in her footsteps today.

Maureen and Larry's son, Max Kenison, entered the business at an early age and has had his roles over the years. He's been in and around the restaurant business since he was born, he loves connecting with diners, seeing his young employees grow into adults, and he cherishes the employees that have been with them for decades by leaning on their expertise. "Many of our employees have seen me grow into an adult, they are like my aunts, uncles, brothers, and sisters, but more importantly we are all one big family," says Max. As a generational business, Andria's is committed to the foundation of community, delivering quality food with warm hospitality in a home-based atmosphere.

In 2022 Max married his wife, Rebecca Kenison, and she entered the business bringing grocery, food safety, and operational experience. She has taken on the reins of leading Andria's manufacturing efforts and plans to live out Sam Andria's legacy and vision of making Andria's a household name. "I've learned so much from the Kenison family - from their values, their relationships, and their unwavering sense of community. We will continue to stay true to our roots and committed to delivering versatile products to our loyal and new customers," says Rebecca.

If you are looking for a place that feels as comfortable as being home, then you must visit the historic Andria's Steakhouse at 6805 Old Collinsville Rd. O'Fallon, IL 62269 and try their legendary Andria's Brush-On Steak Sauce. You are sure to be welcomed with open arms and in a short period of time you are certain to become a member of the Andria's family.



### INTERNATIONAL HORSERADISH FESTIVAL Friday June 2nd & Saturday June 3rd.



Join us in Uptown Collinsville as we celebrate being the Horseradish Capital of the World!

Enjoy food, craft vendors, kids area, car show, live entertainment, and more!





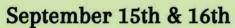
The Collinsville Chamber of Commerce is celebrating their 95th Anniversary in 2023! Since 1928, the Collinsville Chamber of Commerce has been proudly serving the Collinsville Community

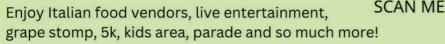
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Our goal is to make Collinsville a great place to live and do business.



### CELEBRATE COLLINSVILLE'S **40TH ITALIAN FEST**







**Executive Director Katie Slimick** 618-344-2884 director@discovercollinsville.com

