

Thanksgiving from Smith's Restaurant is back

Cohoes landmark now offers holiday dinner to go

For many years, it was a tradition for Cohoes-area families to enjoy Thanksgiving dinner prepared at Smith's Restaurant, the historic dining spot at 171 Remsen St. in the heart of the city's Historic District. This year, the new management of Smith's is bringing that tradition back with a twist, offering Thanksgiving dinners to go.

Smith's reopened last March under the management of new owner Joe Hostig, with Chef L.J. Ehlers in charge of the kitchen. Hostig is a local native who knows the storied history of Smith's from the time of legendary politico "Big Mike" Smith through the restaurant's revival by Eunice Antonucci in the 1980s. He shared a widespread feeling that Smith's was an essential part of the Historic District and the city as a whole, and he wanted it to

remain the way people remembered it, with distinctive features like Big Mike's 50-foot-long mahogany bar and the Political Booth where the original Smith held court.

At the same time, there have been updates like the flat-screen TVs behind the bar and the addition of draught beer. In addition, Smith's now offers a Lite Fare Bistro Menu from 11:30 a.m. until closing as well as a Dinner menu starting at 4 p.m. Chef L.J. serves up a diverse menu of classic American cuisine on a daily basis, including comfort foods like meatloaf and pot roast as well as more elaborate steak, pork, poultry and daily fish specials.

A Minnesota native, Chef L.J. is the child of chefs and spent years training chefs across the country before

becoming Smith's full-time chef. He gives Smith's Thanksgiving-to-go package the traditional flavor families crave at this time of year.

Smith's Thanksgiving package allows you to feed as many people as you want for \$15 per person. It consists of sliced turkey for 1-5 people and whole turkeys for groups of six or more, adding up to a pound per person. With it comes the traditional sides: stuffing, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, green beans, corn, cranberry sauce, rolls with butter and your choice of apple or pumpkin pie.

Group discounts are available, with parties of 12 or more people saving 10 percent on the Thanksgiving package. Orders can be placed until Tuesday, Nov. 24, for pickup at the restaurant from 10 a.m. to

1 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day.

Something new at Smith's starting this month is the introduction of live music in the restaurant's spacious dining room. After hosting their first show last weekend, Smith's welcomes Tommy Decelle's Route 66 for a pre-Thanksgiving party featuring all styles of music on Wednesday, Nov. 25, starting at 9 p.m. The restaurant will host more musical and comedy acts in the months to come, presenting different styles to appeal to a diverse clientele.

Historically, Smith's has been a popular venue for holiday parties, league banquets, and many more special occasions. When party planners may be scaling back their plans, Smith's can make it affordable to celebrate in style in the restaurant's remodeled

dining room, where the big working fireplace gives every event a festive flavor at this time of year.

The new Smith's team envisions the restaurant as a comfortable place for adults to dine and spend time together, where you can eat filet mignon at the bar or burgers in the dining room. This holiday season shows that Smith's of Cohoes is back and making history again.

Smith's is open seven days a week, opening at 11:30 a.m. Mon-Fri, 4 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday. To order Smith's Thanksgiving to go, or to inquire about booking private parties, please call Joe Hostig at 237-9809.



Smith's Restaurant retains all the popular details people remember, from the dining-room fireplace (left) to the Political Booth (center) to the 50-foot-long mahogany bar (right) installed by "Big Mike" Smith nearly a century ago.