

Merchant of the Month

By Patty Petrone, co-owner with Lou, her husband

What makes the Red Fox Diner a tradition in Lighthouse Point? It's much more than a diner, it's an experience. It's the kind of place that you can come alone and feel comfortable. Meet up with friends and enjoy a nice meal. Grand kids in town? Bring them too!

The site of the Red Fox (in the Venetian Isles Plaza at the northeast corner of Sample and Federal) has been a restaurant for over 40 years. Some of the old names/themes include "The Red Fox Diner — a family restaurant," "Mr. Greek Shishkabob" (featuring Toronto style cooking), and Chef Henry and Sylvain's "home French cuisine." Flaming dishes were even prepared table-side. Now it's back to an American diner.

In 2005 the Red Fox was purchased by Lighthouse Point residents, Lou & Patty Petrone. Lou had previously owned a gourmet Italian restaurant in Plantation and was itching to own a diner. He ate at the Fox every morning and casually mentioned to the then-owner "if you ever decide to sell, call me first." Well, he did and the rest is history.

Local residents come to the Red Fox Diner for many things: great food, friendly service by Laura and crew, and the chance to visit with old friends and neighbors. Some of our customers eat here every day! If they're sick we deliver meals to them.

The décor of the restaurant now features old aerial photographs of the community dating back to the 1950s. Local artist, Johanne Gravel, hand painted the Hillsboro Inlet and nautical buoys. For those wishing to enjoy our wonderful Florida weather there are tables outside; and dog lovers can bring their well behaved pets.

The Red Fox specializes in freshly made, quality food made by Chef Sergey and his staff. We only use extra-large eggs for our omelettes; our soups are made from scratch every morning (chicken noodle is served every day) plus one other soup of the day. Fresh bread and bagels are delivered daily from a local bakery. Our turkey sandwiches are made from oven roasted breast meat, not processed with fillers. And the tuna, chicken and egg salads are made in our kitchen.

The burgers can't be beat. As quoted in the *Sun-Sentinel*: "the half-pound burger is made with fresh, never frozen, ground meat. In the decade or so that I've been chowing down on them, the Lighthouse Point burger (\$8.95) has always impressed me. Order it medium, like I do, and that's exactly how it comes. The burger is all the more pleasurable with a choice of sides. As much as I love French fries, I know the potato salad is great with big chunks of red skin potatoes in a creamy dressing that doesn't taste like mayonnaise overkill. Portions are big and prices fair" - *Judith Stocks, Dining Finds August 2, 2007*



Those wanting a fast meal enjoy our "Breakfast Express." A hearty breakfast sandwich (made for you, not micro-waved) gets you in and out quickly. "Lunch Express" offers a soup and sandwich combo for \$6. Weekends are special with treats such as gourmet breakfast wraps, creative omelettes, and made-to-order Belgian waffles topped with fruit.

In addition to the regular menu, we offer daily specials. Some favorites include: Strawberry Walnut Chicken Salad, Philly Cheese-steak, Magno's Magnificent Chili over Rice, New England clam chowder, Chicken Caprese Wrap and Veggie Quesadilla.

The Red Fox participates in many of the community events — most recently at the "Taste of Lighthouse Point" and the "Environmental & Plant Fair." Look for us at the "Keepers Day Expo."

The Red Fox is open everyday from 6:30 a.m. for breakfast and lunch and we deliver too! Visit our website (www.redfoxdiner.com) for directions and today's specials; or better yet, stop in and say "Hi." You will probably see someone you know and enjoy a good meal, too.