



Smith Village celebrates opening of The Oak Room

Just in time for St. Patrick's Day celebrations, Smith Village officially opened its onsite pub, The Oak Room, on Monday, March 11.

The pub serves a casual dining menu as well as beer, wine, cocktails, soft drinks and coffee for the enjoyment of residents, their families and friends.

19th Ward Ald. Matt O'Shea, who worked as a bartender to pay for his college education, volunteered at the opening and served a variety of beverages, including a Mojito blend of punch made with pineapple and rum, and a non-alcoholic punch called Blueberry Rosemary Smash.

"The Oak Room is a great addition to an important community institution," O'Shea said. "It's been a fun afternoon, spending time with so many long-time neighbors now living at Smith Village. We certainly

enjoyed ourselves christening the pub."

The Oak Room features plenty of seating, a full bar, two flat-screen TVs and a state-of-the-art coffeemaker offering an array of brewed beverages.

"The Oak Room underscores Smith Senior Living's commitment to providing welcoming gathering places for residents and their families," said Marti Jatis, Smith Village executive director. "It's not so much about having a pub as having a place where people can relax and socialize. Smith Village offers several other amenities, including fitness center, spa, movie theater, library and private dining rooms."

During the opening, residents sampled the Oak Room menu including macaroni with cheese and lobster, roasted Brussel sprouts, chicken wings, a hummus platter and freshly

made chips and fries.

Amid jazz tunes played by saxophonist Gerald Holden, residents settled in for an afternoon of conviviality and conversation in the new space. Several were joined by family members and guests.

"We're very happy to have our very own pub, and I think my fellow residents regard it as a terrific addition to our lifestyle," said Gene Sablick, resident council president. "We're all looking forward to warmer weather when we can relax outside on the adjoining patios."

Smith Village resident Elaine Spencer, president of the Ridge Historical Society, added her compliments.

"We just love it," Spencer said. "We're going to call this our hangout!"

For information, call (773) 474-7300 or visit the website at smithvillage.org.



Leprechaun entertainer Dennis Dooley visits with Smith Village residents Mary Rieger (left) and Fran Connolly during the opening of The Oak Room at Smith Village.