

Stone Paddle

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zola with romaine lettuce, tomatoes, red onions, mushrooms and a light vinaigrette dressing.

The blacksmith salad uses the same ingredients, but substitutes parmesan for gorgonzola cheese. Also on the menu is a chopped pasta salad with diced chicken and bacon and a simpler house salad.

Rounding out the menu is a range of pasta dishes, including pasta with meatballs, pasta marinara, chicken parmesan, rigatoni with creamy plum tomato sauce and rigatoni Bolognese.

Children's selections include linguine or rigatoni with butter, marinara or meat sauce – all priced at under \$5.

"Everything we do is fresh," Sharp said. "The freezer I have here is probably smaller than the freezer you have at your house."

"The chicken we use is cut fresh and cooks with the pie, which is a rarity. Same thing with our sausage, which we get from the south end of Hartford – a little Italian place that makes the best sausage in town," Sharp said.

The restaurant is doing a "mean business" with the lunchtime crowd, Sharp said.

"My goal in doing this in the economic times that we are in is to get people interested in trying us," Sharp said. "People can come here to get a better product, at [about] the same price. We're very competitive."

While the restaurant does not have a liquor permit, it will serve beer and wine that customers bring. "We'll chill it and serve it," Sharp said.

The Stone and Paddle Restaurant opens daily at 11:30 a.m. for lunch. It closes Sunday through Thursday at 9 p.m. and on Friday and Saturday at 10 p.m. Delivery is available.

James Alexander is a freelance writer based in South Windsor.



Bill and Lil Antiques enjoy a meal at The Stone and Paddle Restaurant.

Photograph by Erin Mizla

Time Machine

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the public on the first and third Sundays of each month from 1 to 4 p.m. Various railroad clubs hold meetings at the store on Thursday nights from 6 to 8 p.m. The meetings are open to the public.

The store has a game room in the basement with everything from card games to board games to collectible miniature games. The room is open whenever the store is and frequently has special events. People can play "Magic: The Gathering" each Friday at 6 p.m.

The store also reaches out to the community, offering rocket demonstrations to scouting groups, for example.

The selection also includes toys, such as dolls, stuffed animals and board games – old-fashioned items that are true to the store's name.

"Time Machine" implies timelessness, Maynard said.

"When we opened the store, we wanted to recognize the broader theme, the time element," he said. "How do people spend their time? Are they isolating themselves watching television or sitting in front of a computer? Or are they spending time together playing a board game, building a model or flying a remote control airplane and interacting together?"

Maynard, the father of five children, founded the store in 1993 in East Hampton where he bought "a business that had gone through a period of distress," he said.

"We bought the contents of the store . . . there were a lot of games and things timeless."

He teamed up with Bob Bell of New England Hobby who owned a train store on the second floor of the factory. Maynard set up a small toy and hobby store on the first floor and eventually bought Bell out.

"I look around here and I recognize about 80 percent of the faces," Kline said. "Suzie Cunningham up front can probably name them all."

"Everything we sell has a positive use," Kline said. "We are not rotting a kid's brain parking him or her in front of a computer. We are introducing what can become a life-long hobby."

Margaret DeMarino is a freelance writer based in New Haven.

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