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West Haven eateries to show off diverse cuisine (video)

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WEST HAVEN — When Jennifer Maultsby-Calhoun was growing up in West Haven years ago, families eating out almost always had to choose either seafood or pizza, she said.

Now, city eateries offer that and more — serving everything from lamb kebabs at Saray Turkish restaurant and St. Louis ribs at Uncle Willie's BBQ to West Haven signature cupcakes at Maultsby-Calhoun's own Charli's Cupcake Factory.

Restaurant owners hope to showcase the diverse offerings this week during West Haven's first restaurant week, where establishments offer discounted, fixed price menus.

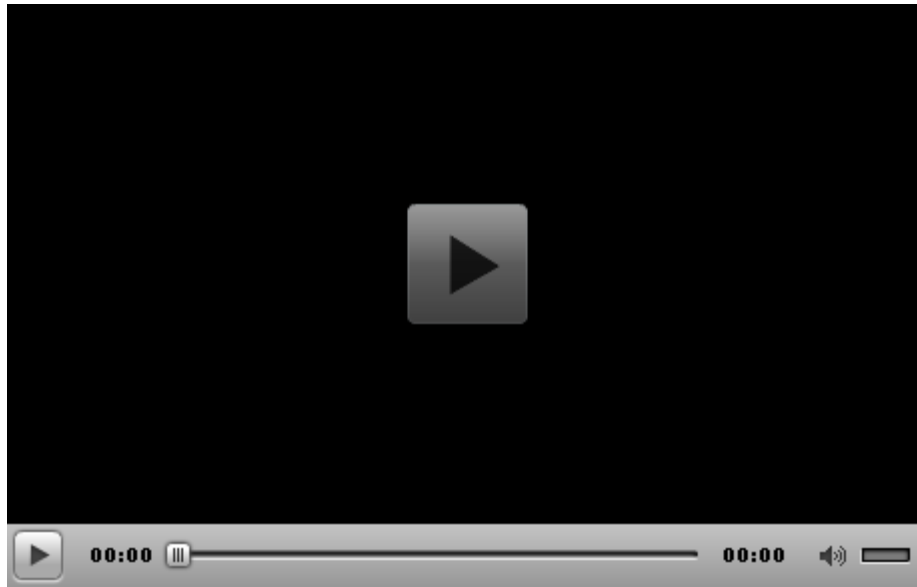
Isabel Tartaglia, owner of American Steakhouse, spearheaded the event, which is presented by the Chamber of Commerce and dining and entertainment promoter NightlifeNation.com.

She said nearly all city restaurants are participating, offering \$7.95 lunch menus, \$19.21 dinner menus (West Haven was incorporated as a town in 1921), as well as special items for the week.

"Restaurants here are unique, they are owner-operated," Tartaglia said, adding that the majority of the participating restaurants are not chains.

"There's that extra special love and attention in all of the restaurants. It's very personal; they know all their customers."

Restaurant owners, city officials and residents gathered at a kickoff Monday at Duffy's Tavern, where they sampled some of the food that will be offered.



The event also marked the unveiling of the West Haven cupcake, a double-vanilla delectable that bears an edible blue wave petunia, the city's official flower.

Maultsby-Calhoun, who Monday served cupcakes with her daughter, Charli, 7, said the treats will be available only during restaurant week.

"I can guarantee we're going to do this again," Mayor John M. Picard told the crowd Monday.

"I just think it's great that everyone comes together, and we have a lot of great restaurants in West Haven."

Chris Walsh, owner of Duffy's, said he thought the week would help attract customers to the Irish-American restaurant and bar, as well as to other area restaurants. "I think it gets people here that normally wouldn't come to West Haven," he said.

To see more of Walsh's comments, watch the video at www.newhavenregister.com.

Phyllis Haynes, owner of Mariah's Chow-Chow Relish, said she was excited to partner with city restaurant owners to offer her relish this week.

"It's fantastic; it's a way to bring West Haven to the forefront, bring some much-needed attention to what we have here," she said, adding that many people might not know the range of what the city has to offer.

"We're in the middle of Milford, Orange and New Haven, so people just bypass us to try to get to great restaurants in those locations, not realizing they can get great restaurants right here."

To learn more about restaurant week, and see menus from participating restaurants, visit www.westhavenrestaurantweek.com.

Call Amanda Pinto at 203-789-5734.

URL: http://www.nhregister.com/articles/2010/10/19/news/metro/bb2spillwhrestaurantweek_w_video101910.prt

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