

TABLE FOR ONE!

A Monthly Spotlight
on Local Dining Establishments

By
Rick
Lanning

FREDDIE'S II

LOCATION:

2789 South Park Road, Bethel Park.
(412) 833-1830

FARE:

American – Prime Rib, Seafood, Steaks,
Chicken, Pasta, Sandwiches

There are few things more fun than trying to find a new restaurant to review for a newspaper.

Now I have reviewed scores...make that hundreds...of restaurants during my professional career, from a small French restaurant known as La Petit Cafe on the island of Grand Cayman, where the chef broiled his steaks, chops and succulent fish on hot rocks in a process that goes back 1,000 years, to a cowboy steakhouse called Pinnacle Peak Patio in the McDowell Mountains above Scottsdale, Az.

That is why it was a pleasure to seek out Freddie's II, a restaurant and lounge, located at 2789 South Park Road in Bethel Park just off Route 88.

After hearing about the Table for One review that ran in the January issue of the *Union-Finley Messenger*, Freddie's II owner Ron Kragnes contacted us and invited me to come by and sample some of his food.

I came. I ate. I was satisfied and left, knowing I would return.

Before I start telling you about what Freddie's II specializes in, let me note that Kragnes also owns Freddie's Grill and Catering on Route 88, about a mile away, which features breakfast, lunch and catering. I haven't been to the other restaurant, but I can tell you this about Freddie's II — it is a fun place to meet new friends and the crabcakes, steaks, homemade soup and dessert menu will make your mouth water.

We are the best kept secret in South Hills, said Terri Macias, an 18-year employee at the restaurant. She also said she and the other waitresses, along with the owner, are constantly on the alert to come up with gimmicks to make the popular restaurant even more popular. For example, each Tuesday is 'Bald Tuesday night.' By being bald or even semi-bald, just by showing up, you receive anywhere from 10 to 50 per cent off your dinner tab.

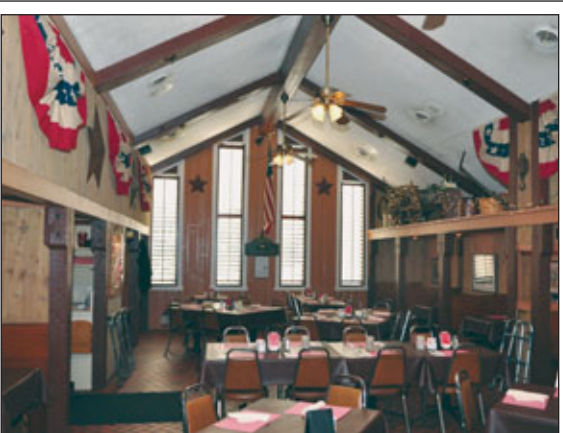
It's all determined by degree of baldness, said Terri, grinning. I'm the Bald Meter Manager and am usually the



Freddie's II is located at 2789 South Park Road in Bethel Park



Freddie's II offers a private party room for events, meetings and other functions.



The dining room is spacious and comfortable.



Amy Brooks tends bar at the cozy lounge area at Freddie's II

one that determines how much you save on the dinner.

Wednesday night, she said, is poker night. We have a Texas Hold em tournament each Wednesday night starting at around 7:30 p.m. said Terri. She pointed out that the stakes are modest and tournament and games are here just for our customers and employees to have fun.

Oh, and thanks to Terri, I am an official member of Freddie's Freeloader Club. There is no cost to belong. All you do is sign up, Terri gives you a special plastic card and you are a bonafide Freddie Freeloader entitled to discounts and other benefits after you have spent \$300 in the restaurant/lounge. At last count, there were more than 1,800 'freeloaders' in the club.

As for the food at Freddie's II, I can give you a five-star thumbs up rating on their stuffed mushrooms, the Maryland lump crabmeat imperial and the \$13.95 filet of sirloin, a well-prepared steak that is out of this world. The menu features veal, pork, chicken, baby back ribs, pasta, and a low-priced freeloaders menu.

I was also impressed by the wine selection, which includes six red and five white wines, along with Korbel Brut and Mondoro Asti Spumante. The list includes one of my favorites, Woodbridge by Robert Mondavi.

Stop by to Freddie's II, and tell them that I sent you. Say you saw the Table For One review in the *Union-Finley Messenger*, and that you want to taste this goodness for yourself. You won't go home disappointed. I promise.

Rick Lanning is an international journalist who has worked in many parts of the United States and the Caribbean. He has been published in more than 50 magazines and 125 newspapers, including PEOPLE, LIFE, READER'S DIGEST, WESTERN HORSEMAN and CARD PLAYER MAGAZINE.

He has also published three books as a ghostwriter and is available as an after-dinner speaker or humorist. You can reach him by sending an email to lawrenzi@hotmail.com.

If you are interested in having a "Table For One" review on your restaurant, email the Union-Finley Messenger at news@unionfinley.com