

Members Making Headlines

HERITAGE CORNER

National Park Service to Open New Office in Somerset

The Flight 93 National Memorial office of the National Park Service (NPS) will open its doors in uptown Somerset early this fall. A three-year lease, with a renewal option for up to five years, has been signed between Barbara Vanyo, Managing Partner, Glades Pike Properties and the General Services Administration. The office is in Newberry Place at 109 West Main Street, Suite 104.

Joanne Hanley, Executive Director of the National Parks of Western Pennsylvania and Superintendent of Flight 93 National Memorial, will be moving her permanent offices to the new Somerset address. In addition, NPS Community Planner Jeff Reinbold and Program Assistant Joyce Boone will also be relocating to Somerset. This office will serve as the headquarters for their planning efforts over the next few years.

The Newberry Place location will also serve as the combined offices for the Flight 93 Memorial Task Force, the Families of Flight 93, Inc. and soon to be announced Flight 93 Advisory Commission. "Having all of the partners in one location, working and communicating together on a daily basis, will be efficient and effective for all of us and for the public," Hanley said.



Tom & Joe's Restaurant Celebrates 70 Years

Tom & Joe's Restaurant opened its doors in December of 1933. It was started across the street from its current location by brothers Tom & Joe Batrus. In 1950, the restaurant moved to its current location and in 1956 the business was completely remodeled. In 2002, the upper diner portion of the restaurant was remodeled with all new seating, flooring, and counter. Now in its third generation, the restaurant is currently managed by both Tom's son and grandson, George Sr. & George Jr.



For decades now Tom & Joe's has become an Altoona institution where the home style food is surpassed only by the colorful and entertaining atmosphere. Where else do you find your cook making your breakfast right in front of you to then turn around and ask, "Do you want butter on that?" The family ownership and operation also adds to the dining entertainment. All rules from the chain restaurant operation manual are thrown out when you step foot in here. Customer complaints are handled at the owners' discretion and usually make for an entertaining minute or two for the rest of the patrons.

The Batrus family attributes their success on the value they place on their customers. George Jr. adds, "Our customers are considered part of our extended family. It's not unusual to be sitting there for breakfast or lunch and to be carrying on a conversation with one of the waitresses or cooks. First names are used as much as possible and everyone is made to feel like they're at home." Following on with that tradition, Tom & Joe's is planning a customer appreciation day that will take place during their 70th Anniversary in December. They have not provided many details regarding this celebration, but say to watch for ads in the upcoming weeks. For questions and to check the hours of operation, feel free to call them at 814-943-3423.