

# The letter “R” makes mouths water

by Alyssa Davidson

Anyone who has lived in Hillsborough long enough has heard of, and probably eaten at, Catered Affair.

Nestled in the Boro Center off of Route 206 and owned by Karen and Peter Bloom, Catered Affair has been a staple of the Hillsborough community for over 20 years. Needless to say, their sweatshirts are regularities in the halls of HHS and around town, and countless students have experienced the infamous “Letter R”.

Catered Affair is a local trademark, and not only because of its fantastic food, but its service is unparalleled. There are few delis or restaurants around that, upon entering, you are greeted by name, and there is nothing that can’t be done to please you. Catered Affair is in a class by itself, especially with local high school students.

“We know so many of the kids by name,” said Karen Bloom. “We know what they’re involved in, what they always order. We’re all just



photo by Alyssa Davidson

Catered Affair, located on Routh 206, is home to the restaurant’s most famous sandwich, the Letter “R.”

one big family.”

Possibly the most popular sandwich in the store, especially with students, is the Letter “R”. Sliced chicken breast and bacon with melted

cheddar, lettuce, tomatoes, and mayo all on a fresh Italian roll, this sandwich is fixture of the local teenage diet, with macaroni salad on the side of course. Other regular favorites are

from the “Cardiac Corner,” (the aptly named “Runny Bucket” among them). The “Cardiac Arrest” sandwich is the most popular among the boys.

Not only is Catered Affair locally recognized as the unofficial best deli around, it is also officially recognized, having been voted “Best of Somerset County” year after year. Its most recent recognition has come from Courier News sandwich reviewer Jay Jefferson. Catered Affair’s “New York, New York” sandwich received the highest rating ever given out, making it quite the accomplishment.

Not only does Catered Affair offer extreme hospitality and superior food, it also offers the local school system so much. Catering the Senior Picnic, sports banquets, special days at all of the schools, and supporting high school sports, the Blooms exceed expectations in giving back to the town. Hanging on their walls are pictures of the many sports teams they have supported over the years. The Blooms love supporting the high school and the local teens, and love watching them mature.

“From when they first come in here, we see them all the way through sports, high school, and we end up catering their graduation parties. They really grow up with us!” said Bloom. “My favorite is when everyone comes in for spirit night, we love seeing all the shirts.”

Over the winter, Catered Affair did a sweatshirt giveaway, which many students participated in, and they are now considering doing a summer t-shirt giveaway, perhaps idolizing the “Letter R”. The giveaway will entail the purchase of a certain number of “R’s” to receive a free t-shirt, or something of the sort. Still pondering over this idea, they ask that if anyone is interested in participating in the giveaway, give them any feedback or encouragement on this plan the next time you stop in, they’re waiting to hear from you!

Truly a local treasure, Catered Affair deserves its status as a staple of Hillsborough culture, and if you have yet to experience the trademark Deli, you are certainly missing out.