

ENTERTAINMENT

# Residents, students enjoy Gilhooley's unique identity



Chef Aldofo Gomez and manager Eric Young have introduced a new menu and renewed attention to service and quality at Gilhooley's, 3901 W. 103rd St. The bar and grill caters to St. Xavier students and area diners with its mission, "We love people and food, in that order." (Review photo)

by Caroline Connors

Gilhooley's Grande Saloon may straddle the two different worlds of neighborhood residents and St. Xavier University (SXU) students, but its focus on quality and service helps it maintain a unique identity in the community.

"We love people and food, in that order," said Eric Young, Gilhooley's manager since March 2008, referencing the restaurant's new mission statement.

Located at the corner of 103rd Street and Springfield Avenue, Gilhooley's has served both the general and university populations since it opened in 1982. It is currently owned by SXU after philanthropist Richard H. Driehaus donated the building to the university in 2004.

"We've tried to reach out to both communities," Young said. "Students can use their meal plan here, but we also have a nice mix of business people coming in for lunch and families coming in for dinner. We sponsor volleyball clubs and the St. Catherine's men's club softball team—we do a little bit of everything."

Gilhooley's recently hired a new chef, Aldofo Gomez, and revamped its menu in an effort to change its perception from neighborhood tavern to destination bar and grill for the surrounding area.

Consistency in food quality is essential to building a strong diner base, said Young, who came to Gilhooley's in March 2008 after operating a successful deli and catering business in northern Michigan.

Healthy options, includ-

ing wraps, soups and salads, a new sandwich menu and a kids' menu draw a diverse crowd for weekday meals and weekend events, including graduations, christenings, showers and wedding rehearsal dinners, Young said.

Gilhooley's also features live music weekly, including local talents Rico Quinn, Harvest Moon and the Madman Band.

Despite its focus on food that goes beyond traditional pub grub, Gilhooley's hasn't lost its appeal as a spot to share a cold one with friends: with its Irish saloon décor and long wooden bar, the establishment is reminiscent of the type of place where everybody knows your name.

At Gilhooley's, however, loyal customers are not only greeted by name, but given personalized beer mugs to use whenever they come in. As members of a new program that began last month, patrons can work their way through a list of 80 different draft, domestic, craft and imported beers before being inducted into "Gilhooley's Hall of Foam" and receiving beer mugs inscribed with their names, Young said.

"The mug stays at Gilhooley's so you can use it for your favorite beverage each time you return," Young said. "The only rules are you have to drink all the beers on the list and don't attempt to do it all in one night."

More information on Gilhooley's menu, hours and entertainment is available at [gilhooleysxsu.com](http://gilhooleysxsu.com).

## Dueling Pianos to perform at BAC

After a sold-out show in February, the Beverly Arts Center (BAC), 2407 W. 111th St., brings back All American Dueling Pianos, featuring Dan Gillogly (left) and Ted Oliver, for an evening of fun and superb musical entertainment on Saturday, May 30, at 8 p.m. All American Dueling Pianos offers high energy, interactive entertainment. Gillogly and Oliver know thousands of songs. Gillogly has written and performed music for A&E, Comedy Central and Fox-TV. He was music director at The Second City e.t.c. for five years and has performed dueling pianos and solo gigs for many years. Oliver developed his style in Las Vegas at the internationally known "Howl at the Moon." He owns and performs at Milwaukee's famed dueling piano bar, Lucille's, and is known for his energetic and comedic musical style. Tickets are \$20 for BAC members. For tickets or information, call (773) 445-3838 or visit [beverlyartcenter.org](http://beverlyartcenter.org).



## Calendar

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from Sweden, will be shown on Wednesday, June 3, at 7:30 p.m., at Beverly Arts Center (BAC), 2407 W. 111th St. Sweden in the early 1900s is rife with social change, war and poverty. A young working class woman wins a camera and it changes her life, allowing her to see the world through new eyes and bringing a charming photographer into her life. Unfortunately, her alcoholic husband feels threatened by his wife's new outlook on life. Admission is \$7, \$5 for BAC members. For more information, call (773) 445-3838 or visit [beverlyartcenter.org](http://beverlyartcenter.org).

### Shedd Aquarium

Shedd Aquarium, 1200 S. Lake Shore Drive, will reopen Oceanarium with three days, Saturday to Monday, May 23 to 25 of Fantasea Fun. The first 100 guests each day

begins at 3 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres and music by the Michael Thorpe Duo. The dedication and bon-cutting ceremony begins at 4 p.m.

The reception area/lobby features the museum's new required tapestry, "Chicago Swedish weaver Åsa Bengtsson. The tapestry is a gift from donor Richard Lenon Bengtsson and Lenon attend the celebration.

The front of the 1905 building has been completely restored to its original appearance. A blue and white checkered stained transom decorates the entrance.

Founded in 1976, the Swedish American Museum interprets the immigrant experience and promotes an appreciation of contemporary Swedish American culture through a permanent collection, educational programs, Brunk Children's Museum and Immigration.

For more information, call (773) 728-8111 or visit [www.shedd.org](http://www.shedd.org).

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