

Grand Island gets Anderson's, while Knights of Columbus Hall gets renovated for banquets

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Grand Island custard lovers, here comes Anderson's.

Three months after [Anderson's Frozen Custard bought the island's well-known Adrian's Custard & Beef restaurant](#) and ice-cream stand, the larger regional company is getting ready to convert the Grand Island Boulevard location into its seventh restaurant. Adrian's Custard & Beef on Grand Island will become Anderson's.

Working with C&S Cos., officials with Anderson's are planning to renovate the interior of the building at 2352 Grand Island Blvd., while also adding a new drive-thru window and delivery lane in the back and modifying the parking lot by extending the paved surface closer to the street. The number of spaces will drop from 59 to 52, but only 31 are required.

The company also is planning new landscaping, lighting and concrete sidewalks to enhance the exterior of the 1.17-acre site. There are wetlands, but the proposed changes will not encroach on them, according to the application. The project requires site plan approval from the Grand Island Planning Board. No rezoning or variances are needed.

Adrian's was founded by Peter and Adrian Figliotti in 1989, but had been owned by ToniMarie Amantia until February, when she sold it to Holly Anderson, whose parents Carl and Greta Anderson had founded their business in 1946. Adrian's had been open only seasonally, but Anderson's plans to operate the new location all year, as it does with its other restaurants. It previously said it plans to keep the equipment, furnishings and picnic tables.

Holly Anderson, owner of the Anderson's Frozen Custard chain, is purchasing Adrian's Custard & Beef in Grand Island and plans to open a year-round Anderson's location at the site.

Osteria to renovate Knights of Columbus

Grand Island residents also could get a new banquet facility, in a well-established building. Osteria Catering, owned by Osteria 166's Nick Pitillo, is seeking to renovate the former Knights of Columbus Hall at 1841 Whitehaven Road into a modern and "multi-functional event space," dubbed Occasions by Osteria. Plans call for accommodating up to 150 guests, through a two-phase project that will include both interior renovations and site improvements. The new facility would employ 20 people.

"This project represents a strategic expansion for the brand, allowing it to offer a dedicated venue for weddings, corporate events, private parties and community gatherings," wrote C&S Cos. engineer Victor O'Brien, representing Osteria. "The goal is to preserve the building's local heritage while reimagining the interior and exterior to reflect Osteria's commitment to high-quality service, elegant design and unforgettable guest experiences."

The project would include construction of a covered entry and a cooler addition, plus parking initially for 73 vehicles and creation of a grove area for outdoor gatherings. Workers would also upgrade the HVAC, electrical, plumbing and other infrastructure "to meet modern standards and support large-scale events," and would

remodel the interior for “aesthetically pleasing event spaces” with neutral colors, modern lighting and customizable layouts, O’ Brien wrote.

Additional plans include installation of a “fully equipped, state-of-the-art catering kitchen to support Osteria’s culinary operations,” as well as new landscaping, signage, facade improvements and updated fire protection and safety systems. Only 2.17 acres of the 7.76-acre site are affected.

A second phase would expand parking to 124 spaces, along with a future 2,000-square-foot storage building and a pavilion or shelter building “should future expansion be required,” according to the application to the town Planning Board. A later connection to an adjacent bowling alley is also possible. However, “it is only anticipated to construct Phase 1 improvements at this time,” the application said.

“Occasions by Osteria aims to become a go-to venue for Western New York residents seeking a stylish, convenient, and full-service event experience,” O’Brien added. “By repurposing a familiar local landmark, this project will both preserve community character and spark renewed economic activity on Grand Island.”

Construction is targeted to begin as soon as possible, with a goal of finishing the first phase this summer.