

Flossmoor Commons' Cork Gaming and Wine Bar opens

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Cork Gaming and Wine Bar officially opened at 19870 Kedzie Ave. in Flossmoor Commons on Tuesday, May 3, but the gaming portion isn't operational yet.

About 30 people showed up to the grand opening, including Patel's friends and family and Flossmoor village officials.

"It is absolutely beautiful in here. I think it'll be a great hangout spot for folks who are looking to go out for a night with friends," Flossmoor Mayor Michelle Nelson said.

"It's kind of like being a kid in a candy store; except it's being an adult in a really nice wine shop," said Amy Kent, communications manager for the village.

There's a full bar for patrons to sit and drink wine and eat cheese, salads and other snacks served by Cork, or they can sit around eight small tables. Dozens of wine bottles are displayed on the wall accented by paintings of wine glasses and bottles and a framed Juggernaut wine poster.

What makes Cork different from



Nick Ulanowski/H-F Chronicle

Cork Gaming and Wine owner Ronakkumar Patel, right, raises a glass in celebration with his cousin Nish Patel during grand opening celebrations.

other area establishments are two self-service machines where patrons can push a button to dispense their own wine and spirits.

The bartender gives patrons a card that functions as both their tab and the key to activating the self-service machine. Patrons can choose the amount of alcohol served from

among eight wines and seven spirits. The card keeps track of everything purchased during a patron's time at Cork so they can pay their tab when ready to leave.

"I went to a couple different bars when I went to Canada. [...] I've seen these machines over there," Cork owner Ronakkumar Patel said. "We

already had a successful liquor store business in Homewood – which is Family Wine and Liquor. So, we were already selling good wines at the other location. And I was like, 'Okay, let's try this idea over here in Flossmoor.'"

While there aren't currently any slot machines at Cork, Patel said they'll be adding a gaming room soon.

Patel said it took him "four or five meetings with the village" because trustees wanted a good representation of what a self-serve wine bar would look like before approving the liquor license.

"To his credit, Mr. Patel kept coming back to the board meetings with things that we asked for. So, when we finally approved the license, we all had it right," said Flossmoor village trustee Jim Mitros, who said he was impressed with how it turned out.

Cork employs several of Patel's cousins, and he's looking to hire additional help in the community.

Cork Gaming and Wine Bar is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to midnight and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

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