

Culture Food & Entertainment now open after renovations

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After opening, then closing during the height of the pandemic, then reopening and closing yet again to get a commercial kitchen built, Culture Food & Entertainment, 18031 Dixie Highway in Homewood officially reopened July 12.

“We are so excited. We are happy to still be here, because we know a lot of businesses didn’t make it over COVID,” said co-owner Joan Sullivan.

The venue opened on New Year’s Eve 2019, and there was a good response early on, especially to the live entertainment, but with the pandemic shutdown, the business turned to offering food for carry-out and streaming artists while encouraging customers to support them.

“We re-opened in the summer of 2020 for outside dining only and were back inside around August,” Sullivan said. “Then there were shutdowns again in October, and we re-opened again in March of 2021. Then we closed the week of Christmas for the construction.”

Adding a kitchen was always part of the business plan. The owners worked toward the original vision of creating a supper club environment with a full-service restaurant



Marilyn Thomas/H-F Chronicle
Joan Sullivan, co-owner of Culture Food & Entertainment, is happy to welcome guests as the venue marks its reopening following the building of a full kitchen in the Dixie Highway building.

and live entertainment.

“We got all our permits together, we got our contractor and we said ‘Let’s do this’ even though COVID was doing another increase,” Sullivan recalled. Culture was expected to reopen in eight to 12 weeks, but supply chain issues pushed everything back.

In addition to difficulties faced in adjusting to the pandemic and construction delays, one of the owners, Michael Towns,

passed away earlier this year. Sullivan now manages the business with co-owners Robert and Sheree Lee.

Culture is finally the space that matches what Sullivan, the Lees and Towns intended. It can seat 180 guests.

Sullivan said that the menu will include “American fare. We’re going to have the full gamut — beef, seafood, chicken, salads, appetizers,” she said.

Robert Lee serves as executive chef and

has had a 30-year career in food preparation, kitchen management and catering. A graduate of the Institute of Culinary Arts at Robert Morris College, Lee previously owned and operated More Than Enough Soul Food Cafe in Chicago.

The new Culture menu can be found online at thatstheculture.com. One highlight of the menu is chicken wings that will have seven different sauce options.

Culture hours are Tuesday through Thursday 6 to 11 p.m., and Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 6 p.m. to midnight. Culture will be closed on Mondays. It will be available for private events.

“We are now a full-service restaurant with entertainment,” said Sullivan. Culture guests can book online reservations through the website thatstheculture.com. No phone reservations are accepted. Reservations are for two-hour seating, along with a \$15 entertainment charge during the days with show seating times.

Culture will host musical performances Thursdays through Sundays.

“Live music will remain a part of our footprint,” said Sullivan. “We’re excited about the re-opening. It’s been really great, even when we had the limited menu and hours. People have really come out and supported us.”



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