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# Warm atmosphere, excellent service keys to success for Mr. Paul's Chop House

By Terry Jacoby  
For MediaNews Group

Mr. Paul's Chop House is not only family owned but family run in every sense of the word and there isn't a job in the restaurant that a family member hasn't done or still does on a daily basis. Just ask Chris, Peter or Paul — the three sons of co-founder and namesake Paul Gogo.

"I washed dishes not that long ago when someone needed to step in and get it done," says Chris Gogo, one of three second generation owners of the legendary chop house on Groesbeck Highway in Roseville.

"I make our Signature Caesar Salad (with chicken, broiled salmon or shrimp) almost every day. We have done every job inside the restaurant, from dishwasher to waiter to cook to salad prep to bus boy to serving drinks. We can take any position at any time wherever we're needed. It really helped us learn the business." And the three brothers are still very much "hands on" because there is a tradition and an expectation and a consistency to live up to. "Every night we are on the floor," Chris says. "We help the bus staff and the waitresses and even do the table-side salads. My brother Paul works behind the bar. We do whatever it takes."

The history is well-known but certainly worth repeating since it ignited the burners on not only a Roseville landmark but also has impacted The Brewery Restaurant in Clinton Township and Luigi's Restaurant in Harrison Township.

The year was 1968. Paul



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MR. PAUL'S CHOP HOUSE

The atmosphere at Mr. Paul's Chop House is truly unique and special

was running the Georgian Inn on Gratiot while Peter owned a coffee house in Greektown when the Gogo brothers decided to open Mr. Paul's Chophouse in Roseville. The goal was to deliver a true dining experience and they believed that nothing says you're serious on a date more profoundly than Caesar Salad and Chateaubri and for two served tableside. "They worked hard to create an atmosphere that was not only friendly and bustling, but one where anyone who visited more than once found out there was a good chance they would be recognized, not only at the front door but by their server," Chris said. "Over the years they imprinted their work ethic and their personalities at Mr. Paul's and became one of the most famous dining restaurants the Detroit area had to offer."

Chris, Peter and Paul have carried on with the same commitment and principles the restaurant was founded on. The three brothers all

help run Mr. Paul's while their other three siblings, Nancy, Garry and Wayne, take care of business at The Brewery Restaurant in Clinton Township. Nephew Dean runs Luigi's Restaurant in Harrison Township and the fourth generation — grandson's Christopher and Anthony Gogo — are now working in the family business. "It's not always easy working with family but we do our best and everyone has found their niche and what they like to do and we all respect each other," says Chris. "The three of us get together here every day and figure things out and make it work." Mr. Paul's also has a remarkable extended family, proving that treating your employees with kindness and respect is a key to longevity. Check out this longevity: Mary has been a waitress for 51 years; Cindy for 32; Sue for 31; Shirley for 28; Linda for 23; and Carol for 10. John has been the head chef for 44 years and Sean has been Sou Chef for 24 years. Mike (33 years) and Sharon (30 years) are longtime hostesses and Angelo, who retired last year, was the bartender for 50 years. Jim, who played piano in the restaurant for 50 years, also recently retired.

While the history and tradition are scintillating side dishes, it's the amazing food prepared with fresh ingredients and style along with friendly and professional service and an atmosphere that harkens back to the days when



Founded by Paul and Peter Gogo in 1968, Mr. Paul's Chophouse has been serving traditional steaks and seafood for over 50 years.

going out to dinner was a special occasion that brings people back for more. "The key to our success is that we have kept our quality consistent over the years," Chris says. "We buy the very best, offer excellent service and provide the ultimate dining experience from the time you walk in the door. We know our customers and our customers know us." And the atmosphere at Mr. Paul's Chop House is truly unique and special.

"People walk in and say this is what a chop house should be," Chris says. "We have the lights turned down to create a really intimate setting. It's a very romantic atmosphere. You almost expect to see Sinatra sitting at the bar. There is just a special feel to the room."

*Mr. Paul's Chop House is located at 29850 Groesbeck Hwy., Roseville. For more information or to make a reservation, call (586) 777-7770 or visit [mrpaulschophouse.com](http://mrpaulschophouse.com)*



Mr. Paul's Chop House is located at 29850 Groesbeck Hwy. in Roseville.



# Local attorneys dedicate their careers to securing justice for victims of asbestos exposure

By Terry Jacoby

Michael Serling, the founder of the Law Offices of Serling & Abramson PC, was in the early years of his career when a young widow contacted him regarding the death of her 52-year-old husband and father of her two young children. "She told me that he had died of this very rare disease called mesothelioma," Serling remembers. "I soon discovered that no one had ever dealt with this type of case in Michigan. I took this case because I wanted to help this woman who was trying to raise her kids on a \$4 per hour job. Serling experienced an "extremely gratifying feeling of success" in prosecuting that case and securing a sizable settlement for the widow and her children. That was in 1975. It was that case that inspired Serling to dedicate his career to securing justice for all victims affected by asbestos exposure. As a highly successful

trial lawyer, Serling and his firm have earned a reputation for taking large corporations to trial and holding them accountable for their actions. "After that case, many, many victims came forward after learning they had redress and had access to the justice system for the devastating effects of Asbestos Exposure," Serling said. "The rights of American workers have been trampled upon," he says. "Nowhere is that more glaring than in the tragedy that has befallen the victims of asbestos-related mesothelioma and lung cancer. Each year thousands of men and women die of these dreaded diseases. These deaths could have been avoided if Asbestos manufacturers and suppliers had looked out for and protected the men and women who built our country through their hard work. It has been my mission for the past 45 years to fight for the rights of those

men and women and their families victimized by the tragedy of asbestos disease and death." Today, over 46 years later, Serling and Abramson are still representing victims of asbestos-related diseases, such as mesothelioma, lung cancer, and asbestosis. Eric B. Abramson, a proud shareholder of Serling and Abramson PC, has worked for the firm since 1989 and has investigated, litigated, and successfully resolved thousands of asbestos cases around the world. His work has brought compensation to those who suffer from lung cancer and mesothelioma along with justice for a multitude of victims and their families. "Even though we cannot restore our clients' health or their lives, we can bring some measure of comfort and justice to them and their families," says Abramson, who has testified before the Michigan House of

Representatives and the Michigan Senate on issues relating to asbestos litigation. While they remain the first and finest in asbestos litigation, Serling and Abramson have also expanded to help many clients in other personal injury and wrongful death cases. The firm has grown dramatically over the years and have branched out to represent victims of personal injury and wrongful death in a variety of other litigation. "We are proud to fight for the rights of victims of auto accidents, on the job injuries, defective medical devices, property damage, and unsafe prescription drugs," Serling says. "We have also partnered with law firms across the country and overseas, who specialize in cases of sexual abuse, roundup weed killer, and environmental contamination." The firm is committed to seeing that justice is served on behalf of their clients.

***The Law Offices of Serling & Abramson PC are located in Birmingham and Allen Park. If you have been diagnosed with mesothelioma or lung cancer contact Serling & Abramson PC for a free consultation at (248) 647-6966 or visit [serlinglawpc.com](http://serlinglawpc.com)***





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# Generations serving generations: Ventimiglia Italian Foods carries on delicious traditions

By Susan Thwing  
For MediaNews Group

Once upon a time people would say “That’s like my momma makes it.”

But as families became busier over the last decades — children’s athletic activities and events, work obligations, the convenience of dining out — those home-cooked meals are fewer and farther between.

However, that doesn’t mean you can’t have a delicious made-with-love taste of yesterday’s family dinners, says Tony Ventimiglia, third generation owner of Ventimiglia Italian Foods, located at 35197 Dodge Park in Sterling Heights.

“We make everything from scratch with fresh ingredients, no preservatives, and from generations of tried-and-true recipes — just like Grandma used to,” Ventimiglia says. That includes freshly made soups, sauces, pasta and gelato. Other menu items include breaded chicken cutlets, salads, fresh pasta lasagna or radiatori alfredo, sausage with peppers & onions, roasted potatoes, and more.

Not to mention the sub sandwiches, for which Ventimiglia is renowned.

As Ventimiglia explains, “the best subs in Michigan have been made by hand every day since the 1960s. It began when Grandpa Vic would bring sandwiches to all his friends down at Tiger Stadium to watch the Lions games. Since then, generations of our family have continued to serve Ventimiglia subs to generations of your families, using fresh bread, Italian meats and cheeses.”

Today, Ventimiglia offers a variety of sub ingredients, and sizes from individual to 3- and 4-foot party subs.

The Ventimiglia family has been in the food business for four generations and more than 100 years. Antonio Ventimiglia arrived in the United States in the early 1920s with his brothers. Starting with a fruit cart, Anto-



The Ventimiglia family has been in the food business for four generations and more than 100 years.

nio eventually opened his own store in Cagalupe in Detroit. His son, and four grandsons—Tony, Sam, Vic, and Ronnie—spent a majority of their time working at the store. For example, on the last day of each school year, says Tony, he and his brothers would go straight to the store, working all summer, and only going home on the weekends to cut the grass. Tony learned all the family secrets — from curing olives to making pasta, and all about cheeses, meats, and old school Italian foods — and even delivered groceries to customers’ houses, learning that great customer service is the only kind.

Eventually Victor decided to open Ventimiglia’s on Eight Mile Road in Detroit, while keeping alive the same traditions his father then opened the current location in Sterling Heights in 1981. Today, Tony’s son, Vic, and his children, continue the tradition started nearly 100 years ago with



Everything at Ventimiglia Italian Foods is made from scratch with fresh ingredients, no preservatives, and from generations of tried-and-true recipes.

a fruit cart in Detroit—serving up some of the best subs, pastas, prepared food, imported groceries, and more.

This summer — as soon as

school’s out — Tony says Ventimiglia’s will be serving fresh gelato outside as a special treat.

“It’s something we do every year,” he says, adding that he ex-



Freshly made pasta, soups, sauces and gelato are staples at Ventimiglia Italian Foods.



Ventimiglia is well-known for their sub sandwiches, made the same way generation after generation with fresh bread, Italian meats and cheeses.

pects to see many familiar faces. “Our saying is that we are generations serving generations, and it is true. I have served cookies to the grandchildren of customers from years ago. It’s a very rewarding, community-oriented experience.”

In addition to takeout orders, Ventimiglia provides catering services. From small family dinners to large scale events, they have fresh, scratch made food for all to enjoy.

For more information, visit [ventimigliafoods.com](http://ventimigliafoods.com).



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# Redecorating? For 50 years, Warren community has turned to Villa Carpet

By Susan Thwing  
For MediaNews Group

As summer approaches in 2022, the mad dash to purchase new homes continues. In Macomb County, home sales are up 49% from March until April, according to Rocket Home statistics.

And with a new home, remodeling is just around the corner. New owners want to put their special touch on their new dwelling. Switching out flooring, window treatments, carpeting — all to make the house a home of their own.

That's when local residents turn to Villa Carpets Floor Covering Center in Warren. Because staff at Villa Carpets know two things — community-based customer service and the in-and-outs of remodeling.

From choosing just the right color, pattern, and material for carpeting, to selecting the perfect blinds, sales staff at Villa Carpets can help.

Do you prefer to have the focus of your room be away from the windows, so want a natural or neutral color and a relatively simple style? Or would you prefer to emphasize a view out the window with more color or a bolder style in the window treatments? From light control to hardware, Villa Carpets staff can guide you to the right selection.

"Whether your work is new construction or a renovation, large or small, we will provide professional expertise and personal service to guide you through the process from concept to completion," says Cassie



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VILLA CARPETS

Blascyk, sales manager. But more important, she says, at Villa Carpets, community is everything.

Celebrating the company's 50th year in business, Villa Carpets is a local, family-owned business now run by Dan

and his sister Carol. The siblings took over the business 26 years ago from their father who decided it was time to retire.

Having worked in the store since he was 12, Dan says the succession was natural and the customer service perfected by the original owners, his parents, stays firmly in place.

Having grown up in the area, and still heavily involved in the local

community, Blascyk, sales manager. But more important, she says, at Villa Carpets, community is everything.

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Whether you're looking for a simple area rug or a complete redo of your home's wood flooring, check out Villa Carpets for low-key but highly expert assistance.

And while Villa Carpet offers a large selection of products, customers should not be overwhelmed. Villa Carpet has four designers on staff to help customers design the perfect living space, choosing from flooring, carpeting, window treatments and more.

The staff stay up-to-date on the latest flooring products and best installation practices to help ensure results are not only beautiful, but durable.

Blascyk says a recent

trend in flooring is vinyl planking — a durable, hard wood surface that became popular because it mimicked wood plank flooring very convincingly—more so than even plastic laminate flooring.

She says there has been an explosion of offerings for vinyl plank flooring, including products that look like ceramic and porcelain, and natural stone like marble or granite. The stone-look products are usually shaped in tiles, rather than planks.

In addition to helping with residential remod-

els, Villa Carpets has been involved in some large project updates, including buildings at the Detroit Zoo, the GM Tech Center, Warren City Hall, and Dorsey College.

So whether you're looking for a simple area rug or a complete redo of your home's wood flooring, check out Villa Carpets for low-key but highly expert assistance. Shop at home options are also available.

For more information, visit [villacarpet.com/flooring-services](http://villacarpet.com/flooring-services).



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