

Sliders Sports Bar & Grill is renowned for its award-winning chicken wings and sports ambience. With its first location in Plainville celebrating its 15th anniversary, and Berlin celebrating its eighth, Sliders is growing again.

Owner Fred Marcantonio is getting ready to open a third site, Sliders Grill & Bar, in a building best known as the former home of Gene's Corner House Restaurant in the Plantsville section of Southington.

"It's the largest of our restaurants," Dan Rowe, director of operations, said of the South Main Street location, which is expected to open by July. "We will have 35 televisions, 1,100 inches of hi-def TV for watching sporting events," he said. "The menu will be the same, featuring our chicken wings."

Small bites

It's official. Yet another restaurant in West Hartford's Blue Back Square.

Rizzuto's Woodfire Kitchen and Bar is open for business. To celebrate, there's a free wine tasting today from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

"Our vendors will be in to showcase the Italian wines we pour," said general manager Frank Fellone.

The restaurant includes a wine bar and features an authentic Italian menu, including fresh pasta, wood-fired oven pizzas, a private party room and al fresco dining. It is at 111 Memorial Road. Telephone is 860-232-5000.

Speaking of Blue Back Square, **Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar** is scheduled to open on May 16. Offering 100 wines by the glass and prime meat and chops, the new restaurant is at 44 S. Main St.

"Fleming's was founded on the premise that a steakhouse can be sophisticated yet comfortable and not overpriced," said its president, Skip Fox. "We offer an engaging ambience and lively environment where one can enjoy great food and a broad selection of fine wine."

The 7,015-square-foot restaurant has

SLIDERS' award-winning chicken wings will soon be featured at the bar's new location in the Plantsville section of Southington.

seating for about 266 guests and a private dining room for up to 72 people. The interior features contemporary decor with fine art by Thomas Arvid, who specializes in using wine as his subject. Information: 860-676-9463.

Another new restaurant is **Equinox Diner**, which has opened at 285 Boston Post Road in Orange.

Owner James Doukas spent years working at his father's diner, the Odyssey in New York, after abandoning plans to go to law school. From 1994 to 2005, he owned the Central Square Café in Scarsdale, N.Y.

His new place has a 50-seat private dining room, wi-fi, plasma televisions and a sophisticated sound system. Retro mosaic floors, padded booths, counter seating and bright colors and textures mix traditional diner styling with contemporary touches.

Executive chef Michael Tully Jr. has devised a menu with 140 items that includes organic eggs, bacon smoked in cherry wood, certified Black Angus beef and specialties including Hawaiian French Toast created with pineapple bread and covered in coconut and macadamia nuts, herb & walnut crusted salmon and bourbon glazed pork. A children's menu and dessert menu are also available.

A second Equinox Diner is under construction in Mystic and scheduled to open in June.

The diner in Orange is open from 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. Monday to Thursdays, 6 a.m. to 3 a.m. Friday and Saturday and 6 a.m. to midnight on Sunday. Telephone: 203-298-4100.

Celebrate the arts and a fine dinner on June 1 at **Max Downtown** in Hartford. Called Max Chefs Showcase for United Arts, the elegant, intimate dinner, from 6 to 9 p.m., benefits the Greater Hartford Arts Council's United Arts Campaign. Cost is \$225 a person. A live auction with celebrity auctioneer Brad Davis will be held. Reservations should be made by May 23 at letsgoarts.org or calling 860-525-8629.

on the web

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