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Show Caption View Thumbs PURCHASE IMAGE 1 of 5 Sylvia Rector/Detroit Free Press By Sylvia A pre-World War II gas station and garage in downtown Northville has been reborn as a handsome new restaurant.

Detroit Free Press aurant Critic

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Dining Out

Dearborn

The Garage Grill & Fuel Bar opened Nov. 27, serving a casual American menu that ranges from burgers and hand-tossed pizzas

to lasagna, fried chicken and sauteed lake perch. On my scouting visit last weekend, service was friendly and

attentive, and restaurant managers were visiting tables to ask

guests for feedback. Look for a review of the food later, after the

In a telephone interview this week, managing partner Mike Bageris

"We are tickled pink with the business. It has been bigger and better than we thought," he said. Prices are designed to be moderate enough

said the crowds have been almost overwhelming, and the

kitchen has time to hit its stride.

restaurant is hiring more staff.

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of Dearborn Country Club.

salads and soups are mostly \$6-\$11; pizzas Garage Grill and Fuel Bar run \$9-\$13; and most entrees are in the teens to mid-\$20s.

dry cleaner.

⊕ ZOOM Purchase Image 🕎 Northville's new Garage Grill & Fuel Bar on West Main occupies a former Gulf Oil service station built in 1940. / Sylvia Rector/Detroit Free Press

Top 10 best new metro Detroit restaurants for 2012; do

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downtown Northville in early morning. Bageris says Deneau painted

the scene in 20-foot sections on canvas in her garage. In summer, outdoor dining will be available for 55 guests. A

rounded front corner, located at Main and Wing streets, was most recently the Gardenviews home and garden store. The building opened in 1940 as a Gulf Oil gas station and in later years served as a Sunoco station, a Chrysler dealership and a

Designed by architect Ron Rea of Ron &

features high ceilings, white walls and

contrasting black trim. Pairs of sewn-

together blue jeans cover the backs of

booths. And the bar's chandelier is made

from the wheel and tire of an antique car with

four attached headlamps from a 1930 Model

Roman architects in Birmingham, the interior

The distinctive white building with the

for everyday dining, Bageris said. Starters,

Α. The highlight of the space is a colorful 28-by-7-foot mural visible from both the bar and dining room. Painted by Detroit artist Darcel Deneau, one end of the scene shows Woodward Avenue and the GM building in downtown Detroit at night; the rounded middle area depicts the Gulf service station in 1940 at midday; and the other end shows

The restaurant had been scheduled to open around Labor Day but work was delayed by state-required environmental cleanups of the soil, said Bageris, who previously was general manager and COO

separate banquet space called Jack's Garage, displaying a

Garage is owned by Mark and Bill Evasic, owners of Master

restored 1930 Ford Model A, can accommodate up to 80.

Automatic, a precision machine shop in Plymouth. Steve Siekierzynski, previously of Assaggi Bistro in Ferndale, is the chef. For now, Garage is serving only dinner; lunch will be added when

staffing levels can accommodate it. Hours are 5-10 p.m. Monday-

Contact Sylvia Rector: 313-222-5026 or srector@freepress.com.

Main; 248-924-3367 and www.garagenorthville.com)

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