LEXINGTON DINER

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LexingtonDiner.com

Karin West believes diners play a foundational role in a community. Lexington Diner, in the heart of downtown Lexington, is a quintessential family-friendly restaurant. It prides itself on being a gathering place that reflects the friendly vibe and diversity of its city. Lexington Diner, which opened more than four years ago, aims to combine perfected versions of comfort foods with surprising iterations featuring inspirations from diverse cuisines such as Thai, Mexican and others.

The diner has received media attention by appearing on television shows like "Secrets of the Bluegrass Chef" and "Local Traveler." They support local music through gems like Woodsongs and the Troubadour music series. Guests never know who they may see at the diner. Some of the most recent guests have been prominent names like Ron Perlman, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Al Snow and Alton Brown.

Diner patrons usually don't frequent diners for the sole purpose of experimenting with different flavor profiles, but Lexington Diner stands out. They do this through daily specials during the week. Karin says, "We like to play with food and give our guests a surprise. People feel comfortable trying new flavors here because we do it in a way that is approachable."

Lexington Diner is perhaps best known for its delicious, down-home breakfast. They now serve their famous breakfast all day and entertain many brunch-goers on weekends. Another acclaimed comfort food at the diner is the Kentucky Bourbon Burger, which won the 2015 Taste of the Bluegrass competition, among other awards.

Karin says the diner's secret to success is real food and real people. Made-from-scratch meals make all the difference, so that customers are literally getting a taste of Lexington. The diner still retains its family feel: the wait staff often can remember regular customers' orders and recommend local tourist attractions and favorite destinations for out-of-town guests. "I think people like to know the faces behind the businesses they frequent," Karin added.