

# Indigo District

Café • Bar • Music

Full Bar

Organic Café Mmm Coffee

Organic Menu for Lunch & Dinner

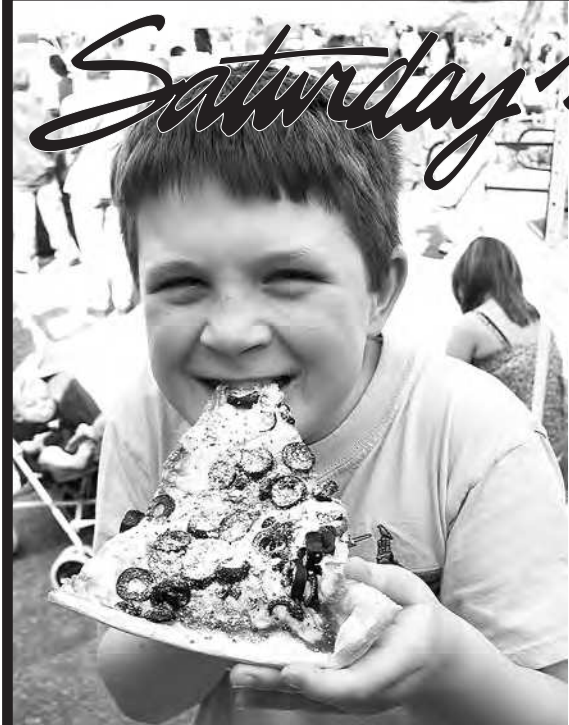
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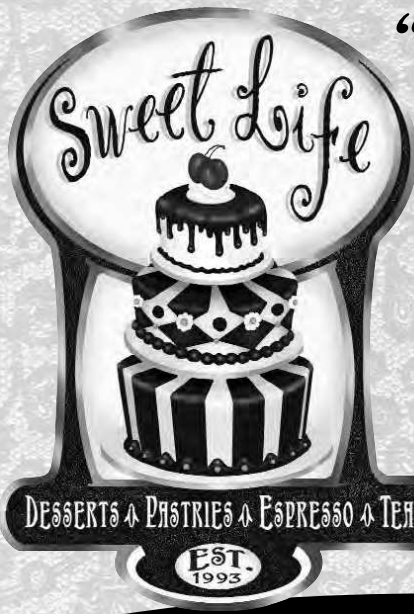
## Saturday Market



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Feed!  
Feast!**

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[www.eugen Saturdaymarket.org](http://www.eugen Saturdaymarket.org)

**"The only way to get rid of a temptation is to yield to it."**

— OSCAR WILDE

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## Breakfast of Champions

*Pump Café wins over a fan for The Diner.*

*By Marina Taylor*

Coming of age in a small town, much of my youth was misspent in diners, late at night when everything else was closed, or early afternoon when breakfast was no longer available anywhere else. The air in these diners was as greasy as the undercooked hashbrowns, the waitresses had dead eyes and the food was the last reason you'd ever want to come back. These experiences tainted my view of diners, and most breakfast foods, for a long time.

Fortunately, The Pump Café in Springfield offers the other side to the diner coin: a fresh, high quality restaurant with a neighborhood feel and a menu full of hand-crafted, delicious comfort foods. The first thing to convince me when I walked in, at the recommendation of many a friend, was the smell. The place smells wonderful: fresh coffee and cinnamon rolls (they make their own rolls every morning, \$2.25 each). The place is a remodeled gas station, the tall garage doors permanently rolled up and replaced with bright south-facing windows. The wall space is filled with auto-oriented memorabilia, old license plates, uniforms, big saws from the glory days of lumber, and those paintings with the Christmas lights embedded in them to make the headlights in the cars and the streetlights glow. There are no vinyl booths, but a mismatched selection of antique oak tables and sturdy wooden chairs fill the open space in the two rooms.

Breakfast and lunch are the only meals served at The Pump, and they're done traditional style. Breakfast is bacon and eggs, biscuits and gravy, omelettes, Raspberry Cream Cheese French Toast, waffles, almost anything you could think to want. Lunch is hot and cold sandwiches (tall as mountains with nice crispy lettuce), fish and chips, burgers and fries of course, and salads. Fair warning on the menu, it gets a little cutsie. My favorite omelette, From the Ground Up!!!! (exclamation points are theirs, not mine) is a great veggie omelette packed with flavor.

It's the homemade touches that make the difference in any restaurant. It's an amazingly simple trick: homemade bread, sauce or burger can bring up the quality ratio exponentially over anything out of a can. The Pump Café transforms somewhat tired Americana classics into love-filled specialties. A bowl of oatmeal becomes a special treat if you order it with the caramel and nuts (left over from the cinnamon rolls, it's delicious). Homemade cornbread, biscuits, chili, soups — the hard work pays off in great taste.

There is a nice sense of familiarity and friendly welcome too: Regulars chat with the waiters, and when you clean your plate don't put it past your waiter to congratulate you ("Nice work there, honey!"). People linger over coffee and a newspaper, and I hated to finish the last drops of my perfect

The Pump Café transforms somewhat tired Americana classics into love-filled specialties.



Pump Café owners Ray & Eva Moreland, Trudy Logan (center.)

mocha, leave my sunny window seat and start my frantic day.

So maybe this is what a diner was really meant to be all along, and this is what the fuss is all about. A nice little spot, some friendly faces and food you can rely on. I'm glad I found it, or I'd spend the rest of my days in a diner-equals-Denny's world, which, unlike the Pump Café, is no place to be.

710 Main St., Springfield. 726-0622. 7 am-4 pm M-F, 8 am-2 pm Sa. Wheelchair accessible. \$-\$\$ AE/V/MC. **EW**