

Governor Markell Celebrates One-Year Anniversary of Small Business

Zaikka Indian Grill Achieves Success in Downtown Wilmington

WILMINGTON, Del. (August 17, 2012) – Governor Jack Markell joined small business owner, Sandeep Nagpal, today to celebrate the one-year anniversary of his restaurant, Zaikka Indian Grill, located at 209 N. Market Street, in Wilmington.

“The energy and enthusiasm around LoMa continues to grow. Zaikka’s contributed to that growth and we join in their celebration,” said Governor Markell.

The event was attended by [Delaware Economic Development Office](#) Deputy Director Bernice Whaley, Wilmington Mayor James Baker and County Council President Tom Kovach. In addition, several other state officials and community members, as well family and friends of Nagpal joined the celebration.

Nagpal and his wife, Anu Nagpal, decided to open a restaurant after working for seven years the hospitality industry. They chose the location in LOMA (short for “Lower Market”), for its reputation as a promising, creative area. The Downtown Visions Main Street Program supported the small businesses with a grant to improve the storefront. Today, the business is a popular part of the city’s vibrant community.

“Zaikka Grill in one short year has become an exciting addition to Downtown Wilmington Community,” said Marty Hageman, executive director of Downtown Visions. “We are proud of their hard work and commitment. They have become great neighbors, participating in the monthly Art Loops and the First Annual Lady Bug Music Festival along with their neighbors Extreme Pizza, Film Bros., Bain’s Deli as examples. Sandeep and Anu even reside in our Downtown. For anyone who thinks that we roll the curbs up at 5 P.M., I challenge you to visit Market Street on a Friday night and check it out yourself.”

Zaikka offers a quick-service Indian menu, featuring build-your-own meals from a variety of ingredients. Patrons choose between rice, naan (Indian flat bread) or salad before selecting their choice of protein; tandoori chicken, Zaikka chicken, braised lamb, kadai paneer (Indian farmer’s cheese), tofu jalfrezi and Channa masala (chick-pea curry). Then, patrons choose a curry (sauce) from mild to spicy. A choice of vegetables completes the meal. Zaikka serves different Indian desserts every week.

Patrons may also enjoy a small plates (tapa style) menu which offers bhelpuri (savory puffed rice with different chutneys), samosa channa chaat, aloo tikki chaat, crunchy channa salad (savory chickpea salad) and more, all available after 3 p.m. Beer and wine is available all day. Zaikka also provides catering and brown bag lunches.

“Zaikka is all about fresh, healthy, authentic flavors of Indian cuisine,” said Nagpal. “It was something new for the area. We still invite new patrons to sample the options before they make their choices. We have been very lucky that people of Wilmington have welcomed us with open arms this past year. It’s been an awesome year. We’re grateful to the community and our patrons for all their support.”

Nagpal added, “If you haven’t tried Zaikka then do give us a chance to serve you.”

Delaware Today selected Zaikka as the editor’s choice winner for “Best Indian Restaurant” in its 2012 “Best of Delaware” issue. The owners regularly participate in Art on the Town, a first Friday tradition in Wilmington in which local businesses showcase independent art throughout the city.

Zaikka is open Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Except for special events on Saturday and Sunday, Zaikka is closed on the weekend.

About the Delaware Economic Development Office

The Delaware Economic Development Office is an executive state agency responsible for attracting new investors and businesses to the state, promoting the expansion of existing industry, assisting small and minority-owned businesses, promoting and developing tourism and creating new and improved employment opportunities for all citizens of the State. Visit dedo.delaware.gov.

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