

Hilltop Restaurant and Bar

The Hilltop Restaurant and Bar (**Hilltop**) opened the first week of October to an enthusiastic welcome by Willington residents. **Hilltop** is located at 39 Adamec Road, the former home of the Pipe Dream Restaurant and subsequently, Teggiano Family Restaurant. A grand opening celebration is scheduled for November 10th. **Hilltop** is open daily for lunch and dinner and features an extensive and varied menu which owner Beni Tena describes as Italian, French and American. Lighter fare includes specialty soups, salads, grinders and sandwiches, wraps, pizza and burgers. Appetizers range from steamed little neck clams simmered in casino butter or sautéed mussels to eggplant rollatini and buffalo wings. Entrees feature a variety of seafood, chicken and traditional Italian specialties as well as prime rib and steak. The writer and the others in his party enjoyed the sautéed sea scallops, baked scrod, ribs and chicken and veal marsala. We look forward to working our way through the rest of the menu.

Beni has totally and painstakingly renovated and expanded the structure that had been vacant for years. The restaurant dining room has seating for 90 guests and the nicely appointed full bar seats an additional 28 people. A separate function room accommodates parties of 90 and can be divided to serve multiple gatherings simultaneously. One of the really neat features of the renovation is a large deck with seasonal seating for up to 80 guests. It boasts scenic views of the Willimantic River valley and adjacent hills.

Beni has been in the restaurant business for 19 years. After managing Jimmy's Pizza in West Hartford, he bought Ellington Pizza in 2001. Nine years later, he purchased Theo's in Vernon, which became Beni's Restaurant and Bar. **Hilltop** becomes his third restaurant. Beni describes himself as a country boy. He said he's drawn to small towns, away from malls and chain restaurants. For that reason, the Willington opportunity was love at first sight. Beni said that Willington Town leaders and officials supported him right from the beginning and that he feels blessed by the way that Willington has embraced **Hilltop**. Beni and his wife, Monda, who manages Beni's Restaurant, and his son Kevin, 14, reside in South Windsor. **Hilltop** employs about 30. The full time staff includes manager, Mary Visgilio, the chef, Deny Pike, the sous-chef and the bar manager. Beni said that he hired staff from Willington and surrounding towns

Stop in at **Hilltop** and meet Beni and Mary and their friendly and accommodating staff, enjoy a great meal or drink with friends or book the function room for your next event. You may also call for reservations – 860-477-1054, 860-477-1055, or 860-477-1056.

