

Village Inn in Hartland closes doors

After nearly 30 years Judy Hendrickson "hangs up apron"



CLOSING TIME – Friday, Dec. 12 will be “just another day” at the Village Inn in Hartland, says owner Judy Hendrickson. Nothing special will be going on. Except, of course, that Friday will be the last day. Established in 1985, the Village Inn has been a gathering place and general watering-hole for the rather unique little community that is Hartland. We join others in thanking Judy for her years of hospitality and providing a center for a living community.

Star Eagle photo by Nicole Billing

The Village Inn

The proverb says, "It takes a village to raise a child."

That may be true, but I know that it took a Village Inn to make a town.

Hartland has had a long and rich history of eating. The Village Inn has played a big part in that for many years.

The owner (Judy Hendrickson), cooks, and servers were superb. Wonderful people from every angle. Friendly folks. I appreciate all their good work.

The Village Inn was more than just a place that provided good food, although that would have been enough. It was a gathering place. A destination spot to meet with friends from near and far. It was a place where church groups, retired teacher organizations, bus tours, school reunions, basketball teams, card players, and loafers like me met. It was a place where we learned and discussed the news. It was where we checked to see how others were doing. A bulletin board offered information on needed services and proclaimed future events and meetings. Most of the world's problems were solved over a cup of coffee and a piece of pie.

It was a social club. It was where locals and visitors went to smile. Everyone was allowed on the furniture. Former residents found their way to the Village Inn to let people they once knew have a good look at them and marvel at how little they had changed.

Life is filled with uncertainties. It was nice to have something that I could count on. If the menu was on the wall, life was good.

I will miss the Village Inn. It was a place where a galoot like me could feel a part of something good.

My memories will be pleasing, but my appetite is wistful.

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