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# Alla Famiglia owners open new Italian restaurant in Peters Township

Premium content from Pittsburgh Business Times by Tim Schooley, Reporter

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After 14 years of earning a reputation as one of Pittsburgh's best restaurants in the hilltop neighborhood of Allentown, the owners of Alla Famiglia have gone south and back to class to open a new restaurant.

Owner [Jonathan Vlastic](#) has leased the former Thompson School House, a one-room building in Peters Township more than a century old, and reopened it as Arlecchino, which serves the same kind of high-quality Italian cuisine 100 percent made from scratch on site.

Vlastic said he had no expectation of opening a second restaurant, but was compelled by the opportunity to establish an operation in an old building with such character. The building's owner, [Tom Robison](#), was a diner at Alla Famiglia and presented the opportunity to Vlastic.

"The building had the history that it did, and I'm a sucker for that," Vlastic said.

Most recently, the building housed another restaurant called The Classroom.

The restaurant opened about four weeks ago after \$600,000 in upgrades were completed. Vlastic built a large new production kitchen, and more parking was added.

Vlasic and his staff of more than 20 are making all their pastas, breads, gelati and other ingredients by hand, some of which also will be used at Alla Famiglia, he said. The restaurant's location in Peters already is part of Vlasic's regular commute from a farm he bought in Eighty Four in Washington County.

Seating about 50, Arlecchino opens at 6 a.m. for various breakfast pastries and also serves dinner.

Vlasic said the restaurant has done phenomenally well, outpacing Alla Famiglia. So well, in fact, that he opted to stop serving lunch out of a concern that the demands could compromise the quality.

[David Glickman](#), who represented Vlasic in the lease negotiation as a vice president for **Grubb & Ellis Co.**, said Vlasic has brought one of the top restaurants in the city to Peters and expects Arlecchino to be a destination draw.

"He can go off the beaten path," he said. "I think he'll draw from all over the South Hills."

[Terri Sokoloff](#), a principal of **Specialty Group**, a restaurant services firm, agreed, believing it takes a talented chef and a strong operator to succeed in a neighborhood such as Allentown, a neighborhood she believed could be a challenging place to draw diners.

"This will be great exposure for him," she said. "I think it will give more people a chance to taste his creations."

Tim Schooley covers retail, real estate, small business, hospitality and media. Contact him at [tschooley@bizjournals.com](mailto:tschooley@bizjournals.com) or (412) 208-3826.