



NEWS from the Shelby County Mayor's Office

Lee Harris, Mayor

Vasco A. Smith, Jr., Administration Building
11th Floor, 160 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee 38103

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SHELBY COUNTY'S HISTORIAN, MAYOR LEE HARRIS, AND THE COUNTY
COMMISSION CELEBRATE THE ARCADE'S 100 YEARS IN BUSINESS**

*Shelby County Commissioners, commission staff, and members of the media are invited to the
lunch featuring The Arcade Restaurant classics.*

Memphis, TN - This afternoon, Shelby County Commissioners and Mayor Lee Harris will celebrate the oldest restaurant in Memphis as it celebrates 100 years in business. People attending the Shelby County Commission committee meeting will be invited to sample a few of The Arcade Restaurant's most celebrated menu items, including the famous Sweet Potato Pancakes. This lunch is in celebration of the downtown diner's 100 years in business.

"The Arcade Restaurant is the perfect place to get a great meal with a side of history," says Mayor Lee Harris. "As the popularity of the South Main neighborhood has risen and fallen and risen again over the last 100 years, The Arcade has weathered it all. I congratulate the Zepatos family on the great success of this historic diner."

"We are honored to continue to be a favorite diner of both Memphians and tourists alike," says Jeff Zepatos, owner The Arcade Restaurant. "Four generations of the Zepatos family have now run The Arcade. We look forward to the next 100 years."

**The Arcade Restaurant Lunch
August 21, 2019
12 o'clock
160 North Main, 6th Floor Lobby**



“For 100 years, half the life of our vibrant community, The Arcade Restaurant has stood stoically,” says Shelby County Historian Jimmy Rout. “The Arcade has withstood The Great Depression, endured WWII and war rationing, persevered during our civil rights struggle, and survived urban renewal. The Arcade is the ‘grand dame’ of the neighborhood.”

According to its website, The Arcade Restaurant has the distinction of being Memphis’ oldest restaurant. It was founded in 1919 by Speros Zepatos, a recent immigrant from Greece. The Arcade Restaurant was remodeled in the 1950’s to the hip fifties diner you see today. The diner has become a popular place to film movies, and can be seen in such films as The Firm, Walk the Line, The Client, and many more. With the recent resurgence of downtown Memphis, The Arcade Restaurant has expanded to include additional seating, a bar, and an espresso bar.

The Arcade Restaurant will be hosting its 100 year celebration this Saturday with special menu items priced at 100 cents for 100 years. A portion of the proceeds from the event will go to St. Jude Children’s Hospital.

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