

LAKE TOWNSHIP

Lake Varsity Diner offers unique dining experience

By Deborah Guziak
Record-Courier staff writer

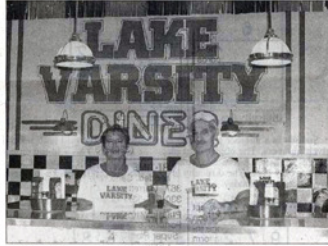
It's easy to relax and have fun in the Lake Varsity Diner in Lake Township.

Just over the Suffield Township line, the '50s style diner is a unique place to come for a bit of nostalgia.

The Lake High School colors — blue and silver — are featured throughout the diner, which also features the typical black and white tiled floor, counter, stools and booths. A brightly colored jukebox features older tunes and country songs. Near it is a corner with parts of the high school, such as part of a wooden floor, lockers and an old wooden teacher's desk. An operating "school zone" warning sign and an operating traffic light hang on the wall.

"We wanted something for the kids to have to hang out in," said Colleen Beasley, who, with her husband, Joe, own the business. There is no smoking in the diner and alcohol is not served.

The couple incorporated Joe Beasley's design ideas into the diner, such as the tables of the booths where photos and ribbons are part of the acrylic table tops, which the couple crafted. They also poured an acrylic finish on the round, sports-themed tables that also are part of the diner's eating area.



Colleen Beasley and her husband, Joe, are the owners of the Lake Varsity Diner in Lake Township, just over the Suffield Township line. The diner is decorated in Lake High School colors and was designed in part so area youth would have someplace to "hang out," the couple said.

"A lot of time, people will look at the table and recognize the people," Colleen Beasley said of the booths.

A trio of wood cut-outs designed to look like girls wear actual cheerleading outfits.

Two garbage cans with holes cut into the glistening silver colored lids challenge people to a napkin toss. Small blue megaphones actually hold ice cream.

With his creative mind, Joe Beasley crafted the names of the foods, which all relate to sports or the school. Some of the items are Federal League Fries, Three Pointers, Spectators, Tossed for a Loss Salad,

Full Count, Personal Fowl and numerous other foods.

There's also a menu for children, called the Rockies Menu, which features foods such as the First Quarter Junior Burger and the Junior Varsity Dog.

There also are daily specials, Colleen Beasley said. Some are selected by the employees — almost all of them are family members.

The diner is located at 13367 Cleveland Ave. NW. It is open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. It may be reached at (330)699-3463.