

Goin' to Kansas City Why mess with a good thing?

Electrical Rebuilder's Association (ERA) Show promoter Polly Shea announced last July that the spring 2009 show would once again be held at the state-of-the-art KCI Expo Center in Kansas City, Mo. Located virtually on the grounds of the airport, this venue proved to be convenient and enjoyable for ERA Show attendees in 2001 and 2003.

The Expo Center provides just the right size property without feeling like you've walked from one side of the state to the other, and offers free transportation from the airport as well as free parking. The exhibition building is connected by covered walkway to the headquarter hotel, Holiday Inn KCI Airport.

The two-year-old Holiday Inn is a "prototype" full-service hotel with an on-site restaurant and lounge, room service, indoor pool and fitness center, and meeting rooms. Both facilities offer wireless Internet service and are also easily accessible from both I-29 and I-435.

The one problem that the '01 and '03 events posed has been eliminated for the upcoming show. In addition to the Kansas City traditions of the Country Club Plaza, Worlds of Fun, Kansas City Zoo, River Market and Crown Center, the north and west sides of the metro area, as well as downtown, have finally developed some attractions of their own.

A number of golf courses, casinos, theaters and sports venues are a short drive from this year's show venue, however, the expansive Zona Rosa development is only five quick minutes away at I-29 and Barry Road in Kansas City, Mo. Here's an example of the food and nightlife available at Zona Rosa:

Abuelo's Mexican Food Embassy was born of the hospitality and delicious cuisine of authentic restaurants in Old Mexico. Known to food critics for colorful presentations and a creative menu, Abuelo's combines quality food with an impressive Mexican courtyard atmosphere. This restaurant serves traditional Mexican fare, steaks, seafood, drinks

and desserts. (816) 584-8557.

Bo Ling's has been one of Kansas City's favorite Chinese eateries since 1981 and has recently been presented with the Top 100 Chinese Restaurants in America Award by the national publication *Chinese Restaurant News*. The new restaurant is located on the southwest corner of Prairie View Road and 86th Terrace across from Barnes & Noble. (816) 587-7880.

BRAVO! Cucina Italiana is a fun, casual white tablecloth restaurant offering classic Italian food under Roman ruins. BRAVO! invites you to enjoy its award-winning steaks, pasta, pizza and seafood. The concept is positioned between the fine-dining and casual chains, with a menu emphasis on food that is fresh, made-to-order and made using authentic Italian cooking methods. (816) 741-4114.

Granite City Food & Brewery is a casual dining restaurant featuring made-from-scratch food and handcrafted beers. Its menu offers traditional and regional foods prepared fresh daily, including salads, sandwiches, pastas and a variety of entrée specialties exclusive to Granite City. (816) 587-3838.

Hereford House is a Kansas City tradition! Serving only the finest of steaks and delivering the best customer experience possible has put them on the itinerary of Kansas City visitors. (816) 584-9000.

O'Dowd's Little Dublin is a true and authentic Irish Pub. Since opening in its original location in 1996, O'Dowd's Little Dublin has grown to become a distinguished establishment for K.C. residents and tourists. Open 11 a.m. to 3 a.m. every day. (816) 268-6333.

Smokehouse BBQ is Kansas City's best choice for traditional, hickory smoked BBQ enjoyed in a nice, family atmosphere. Smokehouse BBQ's pit experts have been preparing authentic meats for a combined total of over 30 years. Their fine meats are always prepared to high standards of quality and consistency. (816) 587-3337.

Swagat, the finest choice for north and south Indian dining is here to serve you, seven days a week, with mouth-watering dishes from India's vast range of cuisines. If it's a quick lunch you're looking for, they have a fantastic lunch buffet. If it is that cozy atmosphere and

relaxed ambience you want, the dinner menu that will delight you while you settle back and enjoy your evening. (816) 746-9400.

Founded by George McKerrow, Jr. and Ted Turner, **Ted's Montana Grill** features authentic American favorites in a Craftsman-style bar and grill setting reminiscent of turn-of-the-century Montana. Menu features include beef, bison or chicken sandwiches made 20 ways, daily blue-plate specials, and homemade cookies and shakes. (816) 746-8337.

Tomfooleries Restaurant and Bar offers a unique and fun dining experience for all! The menu is packed with tasty specialties and favorites. In addition to lunch and dinner, Tomfooleries serves breakfast on Sundays. On the weekends, be sure to try the Bloody Mary Bar featuring more than 50 ingredients you can use to make it just the way you like it! Bringing the kids with you? Their Kids Menu is sure to please. (816) 746-8668.

Zona Rosa also offers lots of shopping—everything from Abercrombie & Fitch to Zales Jewelers. Store hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday. For more details check out their Web site at www.zonarosa.com.

The **Kansas City Power & Light District** is a vibrant, new eight-block neighborhood in the heart of downtown Kansas City that is redefining the city from its skyline to its sidewalks. The District links together the renovated Bartle Hall Convention Center, the new Sprint Center, offices, hotels, entertainment, cultural destinations and residential developments. The combination of entertainment, retail, nightlife and residential with the District's imaginative and innovative design, has created an intriguing 24/7 neighborhood.

The Kansas City Power & Light District features some of the country's premier operators such as Mosaic Lounge, Gordon Biersch Brewery, McFadden's Sports Saloon, Lucky Strike Lanes, Famous Dave's Barbecue, Jos. A. Bank, Raglan Road Irish Pub and Vinino Wine Bar & Bistro. Many great local establishments also have a home in the District, including Bristol Seafood Grill, The Peachtree Restaurant and ChefBurger.

Venture Into Kansas

With the addition of the Kansas Speedway, the western loop of I-435 in Kansas City has taken on a life of its own the past few years. The O'Reilly Auto Parts 250 will be in town Saturday, April 25, 2009, for those lucky enough to snatch a ticket, but for the rest of us the west side provides plenty to do.

The mammoth structures of Cabela's, Nebraska Furniture Mart, and Great Wolf Lodge stand watch over more than a hundred shops, restaurants, theaters and night clubs at The Legends of Village West shopping center located just north of the intersection of I-70 and I-435 close to the speedway.

The shopping center is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. More than 50 restaurants and nightclubs are open late to provide everything from dining with dinosaurs for the kids to Louisiana jazz and wine tasting for the grown ups. Here's just a sample:

Arthur Bryant's legendary Kansas City BBQ started in Kansas City and continues today! Enjoy barbeque that's slow-smoked with a combination of hickory and oak woods, mellowed to the peak of flavor, then splashed with Original or Rich & Spicy sauce. (913) 788-7500.

Banana Joe's is Kansas City's party bar! Plays the latest dance music in a high energy nightclub. (913) 788-8300.

Cantina #1 offers the lifestyle surrounding the Corona experience to a hip, comfortable restaurant and bar, featuring traditional and updated versions of Mexican-inspired cuisine and cocktails. Live music or D.J. every Thursday through Saturday. (913) 788-8770.

Jimmy Buffett's famous song comes to life in his restaurant appropriately named **Cheeseburger in Paradise**. As soon as you step in the door, you're reminded of swaying palm trees, sea adventures, and beautiful beaches. (913) 334-4500.

Dave & Buster's serves up quality food in big portions in a fun upscale atmosphere. Along with great food, Dave and Buster's presents the latest and greatest electronic interactive entertainment in its famous Million Dollar Midway and traditional games such as billiards and shuffleboard. (913) 981-6815.

Granite City Food & Brewery is a casual dining restaurant with an on-site brewery. The restaurant serves signature beers, and a broad menu of items that are prepared fresh daily and are served in generous portions at reasonable prices. (913) 334-2255.

Jazz, A Louisiana Kitchen is an authentic French Quarter café featuring fine Cajun cuisine. In addition to offering fine Cajun cuisines, Jazz offers live entertainment every Wednesday through Sunday with blues, jazz and Dixieland music. Menu items include blackened seafood, crawfish, pasta and Cajun/Creole delights. (913) 328-0003.

Johnny Carino's Country Italian is a casual, full service Italian concept with an innovative menu featuring "Grandioso" platters and "Wine Harvest" dinners catering to families and dining parties of all sizes. (913) 299-8253.

Margarita Mama's is a high energy restaurant featuring "Mexican Food the American Way." Join us for one of our signature frozen margaritas and our famous empanadas. Margarita Mama's will feature live music on our huge rough top patio seven days a week. (913) 788-8300.

With a mechanical bull ready and waiting for the adventurous, **Saddle Ranch Chop House** is a rock western steak house serving up breakfast, brunch, lunch and dinner. From steak, ribs and chops to waffles, pancakes and deep dish homemade cobbler, Saddle Ranch has something for everyone. (913) 299-1100.

Sling Shots is a combination of country saloon and party bar. Do your favorite line dances on the wood dance floor. Sling Shots is certain to become one of your favorite new spots! (913) 788-8300.

Stanford and Son's Comedy Club proudly presents a new "state-of-the-art" comedy club showcasing today's biggest comedy talents in a plush first-class facility. Stanford and Son's Comedy Club is a family operated business with 25 years of comedy experience where they have helped launch the careers of such famous comedians as Sinbad, Larry the Cable Guy, Jerry Seinfeld and many others. (913) 400-7500.

Embark on an exciting, authentic pan-Asian adventure at **STIX**, where three distinct "restaurants-within-a-restaurant" offers the best of the East. STIX thrills

everyone with the quick-handed, knife-wielding chefs of the flaming teppanyaki grill; the impeccable mastery and artful presentations of the sushi chefs; the pungent seasonings and spicy flavors of regional Chinese cuisines. (913) 299-3788.

T-Rex, a 20,000-square-foot destination restaurant, is a wild place to shop, eat, explore and discover—where whimsicality and reality meet to entertain and educate all ages. Dinosaurs will come to life amongst extravagant theatrical settings including geysers, waterfalls and ice caves. In addition to an eclectic food menu and retail area, children are encouraged to participate in a dinosaur dig to uncover actual dinosaur fossils and artifacts. (913) 334-8888.

The Velvet Room is an upscale lounge offering the perfect place to chill out with friends in the banquette seating or dance the night away. Bottle service is available in The Velvet Room. (913) 788-8300.

Great food, classic rock and the world's largest selection of draft beer served in an upscale, casual setting make **Yard House** the premier destination for any occasion. The eclectic menu of American Fusion cuisine includes an extensive selection of appetizers, salads, sandwiches, rice and pasta dishes, steaks and seafood. Yard House offers a unique variety of draft beer ranging from 130 to 250 tap handles, signature martinis, premium spirits and celebrated wines. (913) 788-4500.