

#23 Vickie's Diner

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Hi again to all Commercial Center tenants and friends.

Today, we are publishing **the 23rd in a series of stories** focusing on Commercial Center as written by noted long-time Las Vegas journalist, Diane Taylor.

In this article, Diane grabs a bite to eat at the iconic Vickie's Diner, a landmark and staple of Las Vegas's culinary scene for many years:

- *What previously occupied the space that is currently Vickie's Diner?*
- *Why is pink so prominently featured in the decor color scheme of the business?*
- *How much larger is this space for Vickie's compared to its original location on Las Vegas Boulevard and Oakey Avenue?*

Read on and find out...just by scrolling down in this email.

Thanks again to Diane for her continued help with uncovering the fascinating stories that live throughout Commercial Center every day.



Vickie's Diner...on the corner at the Sahara Avenue entrance to Commercial Center.



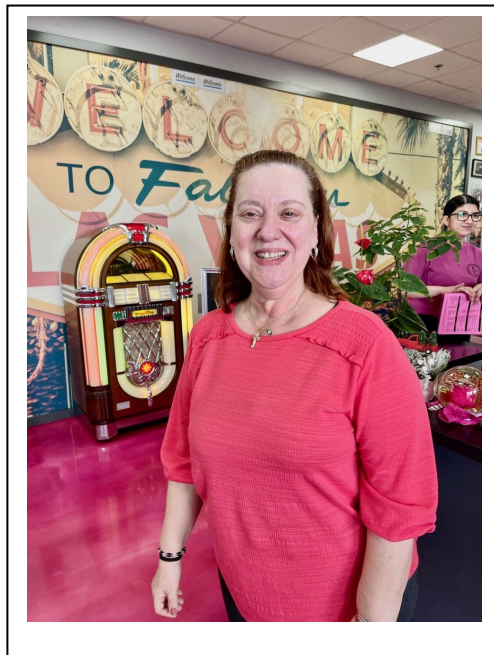
Owner Vickie Kelesis' favorite color is pink, featured in much of the restaurant's decor.



Vickie's Diner includes tables and booths, but also counter seating.



Vickie's Diner Manager, Michael Hawkins.



Vickie's Diner Owner, Vickie Kelesis...the gracious proprietor of this Las Vegas culinary fixture.

Vickie's Diner: There's No Pretending

Manager Michael Hawkins has been in the food business in Las Vegas for 35 years, the last 11 of which with Vickie's Diner, now in Commercial Center.

"I can do everything in the restaurant except what Vickie does," says Mike with a smile. "Vickie can stop and talk to anybody!"

Mike is talking about Vickie Kelesis, sole owner of Vickie's Diner. She is at work before and after the diner's hours of operation (6 AM to 2 PM) seven days a week, attending to all the cleaning, sanitation and organizational details, then getting ready to personally greet customers.

Vicki says easily that she loves her work. She will note that her restaurant is very busy, but that she does no advertising. "Everything is word-of-mouth or from personal videos or comments made by customers. Conventions bring many repeat guests even if they have to charter a limousine or Uber to get here from the Strip."

A couple from Australia was staying at Wynn which they said was expensive at meal time and at which "nobody came by to say hi to us". Vicki says hi and even a lot more. (The Australian couple ate at Vickie's Diner for three straight days.)

The food at Vickie's Diner is made from scratch every day and reasonable prices have resulted in the restaurant becoming known as one of the least expensive breakfast places in Las Vegas.

When the former diner location of Vickie's Diner on Las Vegas Boulevard and Oakey Avenue was sold, newspaper reports noted that Vickie was anxious to find a new location.

The late Ron McMenemy, who owned property in Commercial Center, got in touch with the owner of the property on the shopping center's north side and introduced Vickie to him.

The location, formerly a dentist's office, was then gutted and rehabbed to look like the former Vickie's Diner (pink has always been one of Vickie's favorite colors). The

Commercial Center location is also three times the original restaurant's former size. Vickie says her current landlord, Lindsay Olsen, has been great to them.

The opening of the new Vickie's Diner in Commercial Center was held to great fanfare in July, 2021. With the help of local media, customers found the new location.

Although many customers come to Vickie's Diner in a given day, deliveries are also made, with some to other stores at Commercial Center. "We are open during the time which might be considered breakfast and lunch hours, but Las Vegas is a 24-hour town, so we sell dinners during those times, too," Mike explains.

Vickie was born in Greece and came to the U.S. with her husband, John, now retired, and who is a regular presence at the Diner. "The restaurant business is not an easy business in which to have a success," Vickie says, "but God wants me to continue, so I do."

What's one of the other pledges that Vickie makes? It is to say that she is not "pretending". She says, "If I am pretending, I won't make it."

One final thing to note about Vickie: When she talks with a customer (or a reporter), the customer gets her entire focus. There's no looking around to see who else might be more important. You get Vickie's entire attention...and then you'll smile and make a note to return soon to Vickie's Diner.