

The Huntsville Times

New eatery can be fancy or as casual as you like

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Special Sections

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Finally, the torch is passed. For years, Huntsvillians had a catch-all restaurant for a business luncheon, a romantic evening, a night out with friends, a standard meat-and-potatoes feast or just a normal midday meal. It was called The Fogcutter, and it left a void in the city when it closed in 2003.

Connors Steak & Seafood might just be the new Fogcutter. It can be as fancy or as casual as customers want to make it. If the \$34 Delmonico ribeye is outside your price range, order the \$16.99 center cut sirloin, the \$12.99 chicken piccata or the \$7.99 Angus burger. Either way you'll be satisfied.

Lunch choices are even better - an Angus chopped steak or shrimp and grits for \$9.99, for example.

Connors opened several weeks ago in the new Bridge Street Town Centre along Old Madison Pike. It overlooks the development's lake and is within reasonable walking distance from the parking lot on the center's northwest side.

It's part of a group of restaurants with Connors locations in Knoxville and Sevierville, Tenn., and a dozen others across the South by the names The Chop House and Regas. But Connors has a local feel.

Waiters and waitresses wear white chef's jackets, and the restaurant is a maze of stately wooden booths and tables. When weather permits, additional tables will line the lakeside walkway.

A chef's special Isle of Seafood appetizer is a great way to sample the fare, although quite pricey. A \$35 platter includes two pieces of lobster tail, two crab legs, three raw oysters, three boiled shrimp and a ramekin of lump blue crab meat. Other selections are more economical - fried calamari, popcorn shrimp, lobster dip or even fried green tomatoes for \$7.99 to \$9.99.

The Boursin filet is a tempting filet mignon topped with Boursin cheese. The 6-ounce cut costs \$21.99 and the 9-ounce size \$25.99.

The dinner menu lists seven burgers and specialty sandwiches for \$7.99 to \$9.99. Chicken and pork dishes cost \$10.99 to \$13.99. Among lunch favorites are salads, sandwiches and some very tempting platters for \$8.99 and \$9.99. Try the shrimp and grits. Side dishes include collard greens and cheese grits.

Bananas Foster or strawberry shortcake are perfect endings for any meal, and each is more than enough for two people. Connors also adds its own special touch to each.

The banana rum sauce and ice cream are great over a light puff pastry. And diced strawberries mix well with cream as a shortcake topping.