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Diner Offers Free Wi-Fi

The Whately Diner Fillin' Station gives Local Students a Place to Eat, Study

(Whately, MA) – A diner that offers a “Red Eye Special” for late night and early morning patrons now offers bleary-eyed students something that may actually help them study - free internet access. The Whately Diner Fillin' Station, built in 1960 has joined the digital age and is now a Wi-Fi hotspot.

“It’s a way for our customers to spend a little more time eating, relaxing and socializing at the Diner,” says Ray Vigneault, District Manager for F.L. Roberts, owner of the Whately Diner, located at 372 State Rd. (Routes 5 &10), Exit 24 off I-91.

For an institution that recently added to-go orders and a walk-up window for ice cream, the Whately Diner staff, including Fred Brown who has managed the diner for nearly thirty years, welcomes the technology as a perk for their customers.

The free service is up and running at the Diner just in time for mid-terms.

The Whately Diner Fillin' Station is a classic “Princess” style diner built in 1960 by the Kullman Company of New Jersey. It was originally located in Chicopee, MA where it was known as the Princess Diner. In the early 70s, it was purchased by the F.L. Roberts Company and moved to the current location. In its current location, it was formerly known as the “Maverick.”

The diner was listed as one of the top ten diners in the United States in the September 1998 issue of USA Today, appeared in Yankee Magazine and was included on “Best of Diners,” a Food Channel special.

A scene from the motion picture “In Dreams” starring Annette Benning and Robert Downey, Jr. was filmed at the diner. Some celebrities who have passed through the doors of the Diner include: Jason Robard & family, Ernest Borgnine, Christopher Reeve, Dr.

Ruth, Michael Douglas, Matt Dillon, Susan Lucci, Tom Bevacqua, Sy Becker, Chris Farley, BB King, Vanilla Ice and the Beastie Boys.

Since 1920, F.L. Roberts has done business in Western Massachusetts and Connecticut and in nearly 90 years has expanded to over 500 employees and 60 sites, including 27 gas stations, 21 Golden Nozzle Car Wash locations, eight Jiffy Lube service centers, three truck fueling facilities and the Whately Diner Fillin' Station.

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