

BUSINESS & REAL ESTATE



The inside of the banquet facility at La Galleria on 3923 Southwestern Blvd.

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# Hamburg family works to make La Galleria a memorable venue

By Megan Tomaszewski  
HAMBURG SUN CORRESPONDENT

From an entirely vegan, gluten and soy-free wedding to Christmas parties booked as early as August, La Galleria banquet facility is providing guests with uniquely customizable options that reflect the family-run business’ enthusiasm and creativity for the business.

With the help of a five-star ranking on WeddingWire and winning the site’s Couples’ Choice Award for six consecutive years, the Hamburg family running the facility has enjoyed its busiest fall wedding season on record.

The family did close its doors on Thanksgiving to celebrate together at home for the first time since opening 41 years ago.

“We decided to give the staff off to enjoy the holiday. Most of them work other jobs and they still put in 500 percent this season,” event manager Cherie Carducci said. “We love them, they’re great.”

Still, the business on 3923 Southwestern Blvd. wasn’t too far from the Carduccis’ minds, as the family invited several employees for dinner and started 20 hours of Christmas decorating the next day.

“It’s a huge process, but it’s so much fun,” event and social media coordinator Gabriella Carducci said.

Forgoing all weekends, Easters, Mother’s Days and Thanksgivings in order to provide an inclusive service to clients is one of the main factors allowing the Carducci family and its 40 longtime employees to make La Galleria into a highly-recommended venue for parties, bridal and baby showers, anniversary dinners and of course, weddings.

“We’re responsible for people having the best day ever,” Gabriella said. “We really customize each event and pour ourselves into each one — whatever you want, we’ll make it happen.”

In the wedding and shower realm, expansive brochures detail a variety of inclusive packages with thoughtful, anything-but-ordinary options to make the dream of every bride and groom dream come true — and on most every budget.

“We try to give everybody a great value for their money,” Cherie said. “We try to be fair and I think people are pleased with that. We have a reputation for that.”

Cherie added that one of her favorite parts of wedding planning is getting to develop a relationship with clients and helping them to feel comfortable and confident, and quelling any of their anxiety or confusion.

“People see sincerity in their first appointment here and any walls come down by the time the appointment is done,” she said. “It’s a very honest approach—we’re a



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The Carducci family of Hamburg, now representing three generations, has owned La Galleria banquet facility in Orchard Park for more than four decades. Below, the venue lights up with decorations at this time of year during the holidays.

part of one of the biggest events of their life, so we try to get to know them. That’s really rewarding, to see them come in not knowing what to do with the process and then end up really pleased with it. It’s fulfilling and it’s never boring.”

What also makes the venue standout is its menu, which features inventive, home-cooked dishes like bacon jalapeno mac & cheese, cranberry basil chicken and stuffed veggie crepes with goat cheese and béchamel. LaGalleria offers 10 delicious add-on food stations, including a Buffalo Bar (pizza, wings and roast beef sliders) and a toast-your-own s’mores station.

Curated by Gabriella’s father and Cherie’s husband, Ardwin, the recipes strive to bring modern, elegant twists to down-to-earth dishes. Ingredients are hand-selected by Ardwin from area stores or from the family’s own herb and vegetable garden during warmer months.

“My dad is constantly in the kitchen making new things and is like, ‘Here, I made this, tell me if it’s good,’” Gabriella said. “He wants it to be the best thing possible, and we don’t have a chef in the kitchen that hasn’t been trained by him.”

This culinary focus stems largely from the business’ roots, evolving from the Carducci family home to a fine dining restaurant that specialized in Northern Italian cuisine before turning into a banquet facility in 1979. And while La Galleria is still owned by Cherie’s 90-year-old mother-in-law, Aida — who still does all the laundry for the facility — it certainly



hasn’t stayed stuck in the past.

This blend of traditional and contemporary is exhibited throughout the venue and grounds in Orchard Park, bordering Hamburg, which underwent renovations five years ago to incorporate more rustic, yet elegant elements such as refurbished barn wood, white and tan brick, lanterns and the removal of the original red carpeting, which was replaced with hardwood.

“Generationally, my parents see things through different eyes, so it’s nice to be able to bring a new perspective. We wanted to do something that was homey and comfortable, that people didn’t feel like

they were in a big ballroom,” Gabriella said. “It was like, ‘Come to our house and we’re going to give you the best wedding we can.’”

The mother-daughter duo added that organization plays a huge role in pulling off such a celebration, with the event planning staff providing each client a final checklist a few days before to ensure that everything is properly accounted for.

“It’s everything from the food you picked out to at 8:02, Grandma is walking in,” Gabriella said. We’re very detail-oriented.”

She added, “We’re onsite and so hands-on here. That’s such a beautiful part of our business.”

## Transactions Oct. 23 - 27

Real estate transactions for Hamburg and the surrounding communities for the period of Oct. 23, 2017 to Oct. 27, 2017. Information provided by the Erie County Clerk’s Office.

### ANGOLA

- 11-15&17 North Main Street, 11-15-17 N Main LLC to Homegrown Kids LLC, \$145,500.
- 1 Center Street, HUD to Eric Depan, \$38,000.
- 22 Orchard Avenue, Joseph L. Maciejewski; County of Erie to Orchard Park Road Storage LLC, \$31,000.

### BOSTON

- 6304 Patchin Road, Barbara J. Reilly; Kevin J. Reilly to Evan S. Po-Chedley; Jessie L. Po-Chedley, \$360,000.
- 7509 Valley Circle Lane, Catherine E. Marra; Jeremy Wellman; Laurie M. Wellman; Laurie Wellman to Bayview Loan Servicing LLC, \$177,508.

### BRANT

- 10380 Brant Angola Road, Darlene Kellogg; James Kellogg to Darlene Kellogg, \$50,000.
- 10843 Erie Road, Joseph L. Maciejewski; County of Erie to 10843 Erie Road Trust, \$10,000.

### EDEN

- 2295 March Road, Kelly M. Ryan to Eric T. Bermingham, \$110,000.
- 7049 Versailles Plank Road, Joseph L. Maciejewski; County of Erie to Joseph Preischel, \$47,000.

### EVANS

- 6895 Kimberly Lane, Linda Mae Militello to Julie A. Steinbrenner; William E. Steinbrenner, \$229,000.
- 1880 Cain Road, Christopher T. Abate to Michele A. Schultz, \$192,000.
- 1343 Peppertree Drive, Julie A. Steinbrenner to Robert J. Fisher, \$149,000.
- 661 Hartley Drive, Chad R. Barron; Michelle M. Barron to Justin Mazurowski, \$144,600.
- 9366 Jamestown Street, Patrick Quinn to Ariel C. Phillips, \$91,000.
- 464 Walnut Street, Martin J. Wolvertson to George Anthony, \$40,000.
- 7704 Decker Road, Joseph L. Maciejewski; County of Erie to Queen City Home Repair LLC, \$28,000.
- Vacant land Seneca Road, Evans Land Corporation to Manguso Land Surveying Pc, \$20,000.
- 248 Grant, Joseph L. Maciejewski; County of Erie to Crestpoint Corporation, \$20,000.
- 8604 Brenne Road, Joseph L. Maciejewski; County of Erie to Harold L. Eschberger Jr.; Patricia A. Eschberger, \$14,000.
- 9743 Redwing Street, Joseph L. Maciejewski; County of Erie to John E. High Jr., \$11,000.

### HAMBURG

- 6762 Willow Ridge Drive, Nvr Inc dba; Ryan Homes of New York to Gregory Ahrens, \$416,000.
- 6768 Willow Ridge Drive, Nvr Inc dba; Ryan Homes of New York to Deborah Moss; Joshua Moss, \$366,120.
- 2322 Agassiz Drive, Marrano/marc Equity Corporation to Barbara S. Mcclary; Danny P. Mcclary, \$334,336.
- 6511 Boston State Road, Lee P. Evans III to Rita Los; Kurt A. Schumacher, \$289,000.
- 4725 Winding Woods Lane, Michael H. Ork to Margaret M. Cannan; Sean P. Cannan, \$282,000.
- 5806 Lakecrest Drive, Jolie A. Mandell to Jennifer A. Hurley, \$270,000.
- 107 Evans Street, Rodney O. Personius; Cambridge Business Park LLC to Cil-Business Park Inc, \$270,000.
- 3655 Briarwood Court, Ronald E. Wanderlich to Bryan Price, \$250,000.
- 35 Pierce Avenue, Benjamin Perkins; Jayne V. Vendetti; Bruce Zeffel to Deutsche Bank National Trust Co Tr; Soundview Home Loan Trust 2007-Wmcl Asset Backed Certificates Series 2007-Wmcl Tr, \$239,680.
- 46 Scotter Circle, Margaret R. Mulloy to Rex Powers III, \$225,000.
- 1409 Stainton Drive, Judith Insalaco; Samuel Insalaco to Rebecca A. Colvin, \$225,000.
- 4233 Arthur Court, Nvr Inc dba; Ryan Homes of New York to Crystal Mcqueen; Michael Mcqueen, \$219,830.
- 1539 Evergreen Drive, Daniel J. Rychlik; Ellen B. Rychlik to Matthew L. Stotz; Stacy Stotz, \$214,500.
- 6408 Mayflower Lane, Debbie J. Corcoran to Jeremy M. Diaz; Katherine M. Diaz, \$194,500.
- 144 Hunt Avenue, Andrew S. Gibson; Vickie L. Zemla to Kevin N. Collins, \$188,900.
- 59 Highland Avenue, Evan Po-Chedley; Jessie Po-Chedley to Meghan Sullivan, \$185,000.
- 5190 Dorst Drive, Patricia A. Steinmetz; Ronald J. Steinmetz to Christine A. Hare, \$180,000.
- 84 Brookwood Drive, James F. Elsaesser Jr.; Suzanne G. Elsaesser to Christopher Gilmour; Michelle R. Gilmour, \$165,000.

- 5222 Innesbrooke Court, Carol Cecala; Lana V. Tupchik to Fannie Mae, \$164,058.
- 4013 Midway Court, Elizabeth M. Downs to Timothy W. Glass, \$160,000.
- 4254 Sheva Lane, Joseph J. Kurcz; Diane M. Kurz to Charles T. Walden; Jenna M. Walden, \$160,000.
- 94 Robert, Janine M. Hayes; Joshua T. Taylor to Amber Costanzo; Craig Klausen, \$160,000.
- 134 Chapel Glen, Cheryl A. Wailand; Gary R. Wailand to Gregory J. Whittemore, \$156,350.
- 3670 Princeton Road, Hamburg Lodging Inc to Jeffery R. Hyde; Lesia Hyde, \$155,000.
- 4363 Beetow Drive, Robert N. Sarasin Jr.; Wendy A. Sarasin to Megan A. Alimonti; Tyler J. Alimonti, \$140,000.
- 4244 Meadowbrook Parkway, Jeremy M. Diaz; Katherine M. Orłowski to Judy A. Lamb, \$134,000.
- 4368 East Frontier Drive, Alexander W. Johnston; Kathleen M. Johnston to Phillip R. Koch, \$132,500.
- 5784 Diana Lane, HUD to Patrick Woodman, \$125,000.
- 2650 Greenfield Avenue, Barbara J. Snoberger; William R. Snoberger to John S. Dunlap, \$123,225.
- 4490 Windsor Terrace, Phillip R. Koch to Katherine M. Pumm, \$110,000.
- 3694 Sixth Street, Helen A. Jablonski to Eric Jablonski, \$106,000.
- 6956 Taylor Road, Arr Holdings LLC to Molly J. Frank; Kevin J. Georger, \$93,500.
- 3075 Lyth Road, John Dlugosz to David Custard-Jaroszk, \$76,000.
- 2271 Pleasant Avenue, Elizabeth J. Motz to Nicholas P. Nowakowski, \$65,500.
- 5216-5218 Innesbrook Court, Joseph Genetti to Dato Development LLC, \$51,000.
- 4684 Lakeshore Road, Wells Fargo Bank NA to Lions Development Group LLC, \$40,000.
- 4255 Sheva Lane, Jeffrey C. Hubbard to Angela C. Frost, \$27,100.

### LACKAWANNA

- 43 Weber, Stephen Yuranovich to James McCormick; Margaret E. McCormick, \$115,000.
- 291 Franklin, Jennifer Bartolucci; Jacob Grzybowski; Jennifer R. Grzybowski to Robert Gonzales, \$114,000.
- 20 Arnold Place, Lawrence J. Desiderio; Carl Hr Ellement to Fannie Mae, \$106,794.
- 30 Krakow Street, Paulette Rozwood; Stephen Rozwood to Susan M. Zeis, \$75,000.
- 3219 South Park Avenue, Frank V. Podpora to Tom Mazaris, \$55,000.

### ORCHARD PARK

- 36 Hillsboro Drive, Jadab K. Bhattacharyya; Malabika Bhattacharyya to Marc A. Romanowski; Leah T. Ward, \$475,000.
- 29 Saddlebrook, Clare M. Marks to Patricia A. Fisher Revocable Trust 100214 Tr, \$447,000.
- 40 Saddle Brook Court, John T. Koch Jr.; Lisa J. Koch to Courtney L. Charland; Daniel A. Charland, \$400,133.
- 3 Chase R, Keith A. Young; Trisha M. Young to Anne R. Wadsworth; William T. Wadsworth, \$357,900.
- 113 Stepping Stone Lane, Mary Lou Buster to Peter Pawlik; Sally Pawlik, \$225,000.
- 4290 California Road, Jane M. Grady to Jane M. Colern, \$205,000.
- 32 Hastings Drive, Cynthia J. Young to Gina A. Orsini, \$190,000.
- 7987 Ellicott Road, Joyce M. Kalinowski; Michael J. Kalinowski; 7987 Ellicott Road LLC to Mark Musone, \$186,000.
- 4468 Duerr Road, Mary Jane Andrews; Robert H. Andrews to Courtney M. Wahowski; Justin R. Wahowski, \$178,000.
- 106 Bridle Path, Sandra L. Connors to William T. Pearl, \$170,000.
- 105 Princeton Place, Jean A. Monson-Murphy; Jean Ann Monson-Murphy; Jean Monson-Murphy to Pennymac Loan Services LLC, \$167,087.
- Orpk 5289-b Chestnut Ridge Road, Joseph V. Moran; June P. Moran to Margaret E. Honer, \$148,000.
- 23 Hearthstone Terrace, Brompton/caesar Associates Joint Venture to Forbes Homes Inc, \$114,000.
- 10 Carriage Dr #1, Rita Spinelli to David A. Dillon; Yvonne A. Sorrentino, \$93,000.
- Vacant land Ellicott Road, Barbara Kruszka; Chester Kruszka to James B. Ball, \$63,400.
- 4817 Bussendorfer Road, Joseph L. Maciejewski; City of Buffalo to Joseph R. Schaffer; Lisa Schaffer, \$60,000.