Chefs Aid Food Finders For Nutritious Cause

BY STEPHANIE STUTZMAN
STAFF WRITER

It’s foodies to the rescue. That means it’s Long Beach Food Finders’s third annual Chefs to the Rescue event, and it’s raising money for a cause.

“We have local chefs making appetizers and small plates out of food that might usually be thrown away,” Patti Larson, executive director at Food Finders, said.

The charity event raises money for Food Finders, a nonprofit food bank and food rescue program that picks up donated foods from grocery stores, restaurants and bakeries, and then uses that to feed those in need.

“Our entire mission revolves around food and using what others might throw out,” Larson said. “But that food is still good and healthy.”

Larson said that the idea for the event was inspired by a similar program in New York City called City Harvest. The organization hosts similar events where chefs and teams donate time — and food — to raise money for a good cause.

This year, chefs indulging attendees will be Alfonso Ramirez from Catal Restaurant in Downown Disney; Jason Mercado from the Salvation Army Hospitality House in Santa Ana; Raquel Jubran from Lasher’s Kitchen (5295 E. Second St.); Maralyn DiPiazza from DiPiazza (5205 E. Pacific Coast Hwy.); and Tia Baker from The Federal (102 Pine Ave.).

Other chefs from the Long Beach area will be joining the kitchen to serve small plates and cocktails. They are: Raquel Jubran, Lasher’s Kitchen (5295 E. Second St.); Austin Harrell, Parker’s Lighthouse and Queensview Steakhouse (435 Shoreline Village Dr.); AC Boni, RICE & SHINE Pop-up Branch in Long Beach and Los Angeles; Philip Pretty, Restauration (2708 E. Fourth St.); and Pejmon Noori, Proper’s Pickles (4137 Norse Way).

And in addition to the meal, guests will have the opportunity to participate in a silent auction.

Tickets are $45 per person and will include drinks, appetizers and dinner. All proceeds will benefit Food Finders’s Food Rescue Program.

The third annual Chefs to the Rescue will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 9, at the Los Cerritos Lodge Free & Accepted Masons 6674, 3610 Locust Ave.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, go to foodfinders.org/event/ and select “Chefs to the Rescue Fall Fundraiser.”

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Shore Super Mex Wins Bid For Bar Seating

Last Thursday, Sept. 20, the Long Beach Planning Commission unanimously approved a Conditional Use Permit to allow seating at the Super Mex in Belmont Shore.

The chain won a full liquor license primarily to serve margaritas, they said — in 2014. Then the owners embarked on an extensive renovation. That work, completed in October 2016, included a cantina-style bar area.

To better use the interior space, Manuel Orozco and his partners decided to add bar seating to what had been a service bar. That required a Conditional Use Permit (CUP), and elimination of 144 square feet of patio area to stay within parking requirements.

In other business last Thursday, the Planning Commission:

• Asked staff to return with a plan to allow a CUP for a Seventh Street restaurant that had been operating an un-permitted drive-through.

• Approved the Site Plan Review for a seven-story, 97-unit apartment complex in the 1100 block of Locust Avenue.

• Approved the Site Plan Review for an eight-story, 120-unit apartment complex in the 1100 block of Long Beach Boulevard.

• Unanimously approved updates to zoning and land use codes for religious assembly.

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