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From left, owners Sumit Bhatnagar, Anjan Solipuram and Dwarak Gabbi Reddy pose under the #17 stock car that hangs from the ceiling at Foster's Grille in Herndon.



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Foster's Grille opens in Herndon

Herndon

By Gregg MacDonald

Source: Fairfax County Times

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There's a new trio of computer software experts in town – and they're serving up CharBurgers.

Foster's Grille of Herndon, 905 Herndon Parkway, near the intersection with Elden Street, held its grand opening celebration on Tuesday, Nov. 27.

Foster's Grille, a family-style restaurant, is a local franchise that originated in Haymarket and now has seven locations, including Vienna and Chantilly.

The Herndon store is owned by three longtime friends who all previously worked in the information technology field and decided to collectively leave it to go into the restaurant business together.

The three have been friends for nearly 10 years but say this is their first business venture together.

"We looked at different franchise ideas and decided on this one," said Dwarak Gabbi Reddy.

Two of the three live in Fairfax County and one in Loudoun.

Anjan Solipuram now lives in Clifton but used to live in Herndon. He said he is impressed by the recent revitalization of the south Elden Street area where the store is now located.

"I left Herndon in 2002," he said. "Back then, the streets were narrow and the town seemed stagnant."

Solipuram said that in the last few years, there has been a noticeable difference in the landscape and "feel" of the town that attracted him to open a business here.

"Herndon is growing," added partner Sumit Bhatnagar.

Like Herndon, the franchise is also growing. Since opening its first location six years ago in Manassas, Foster's Grille has proven itself to be a neighborhood favorite nearly everywhere it has opened.

The menu features "The CharBurger," a half-pound char-grilled burger that's made to order with fresh hand-cut fries, as well as buffalo wings and other flame-broiled sandwiches.

Initially, the company's growth has been centered on the suburbs of Northern Virginia, but that changed in 2005 when the chain decided to pursue a national market, according to its Web site.

"We opened a single mom-and-pop style neighborhood grill and it was so popular that a year later we opened our second store and now we have seven company-owned locations," Shawn Foster, CEO of Foster's Grille, said in a release.

Herndon Mayor Steve DeBenedittis, Town Manager Art Anselene and four town council members -- Dave Kirby, Harlon Reece, Bill Tirrell and Charlie Waddell -- all attended the grand opening event at the Herndon location.

Waddell described the food in one word: "Good."