## CHELSEA PARTY LOFT

## Host stress-free birthdays at Chelsea party spot started by Ann Arbor parent

Michigan 🗸

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as seen in



Greg Gattuso poses at Chelsea Party Loft at 1115 S. Main St. in the Chelsea Village Plaza shopping center. The business opened on March 1. Photo Courtesy Greg Gattuso CHELSEA, MI - Teens and tweens can find a place to party thanks to a new Chelsea business.

Greg Gattuso opened an event space called Chelsea Party Loft at 1115 S. Main St. in Chelsea Village Plaza shopping center on March 1.

The business is located across the hall from the Secretary of State office and neighbors the popular Chelsea Treehouse. Gattuso said the shopping center is a spot many families from Chelsea, Dexter and Ann Arbor know and love.

Gattuso is behind the 1,400 square-foot-party venue where tweens and teens can enjoy birthdays, graduations, school events and other special occasions.

He describes it as "the school dance without the school" complete with a dance floor, prep kitchen, parent lounge and a 360-degree video selfie booth.

The space can hold up to 60 people, but Gattuso said the space more comfortably can serve parties of 30 to 40 people.

The Ann Arbor resident and father was formerly the PTO president at Ann Arbor's Slauson Middle School. He was behind organizing the first school dance at the middle school since COVID-19 restrictions were lifted in 2023.

This dance gave him inspiration for Chelsea Party Loft, he said.

"I thought to myself, what if we could recreate this experience on a smaller scale for birthdays and other special occasions and make it stress-free for parents to handle all of the details," he said in a statement.

After being laid off from his marketing copywriter job about a year ago, he decided to earn a certificate in entrepreneurship from Washtenaw Community College. That's when he decided to move forward with his dream business.

"We wanted to create a place where young people can come together, have fun and celebrate in a space that feels their own," he said in a statement. "We also want to provide value for parents who face the daunting task of creating memorable milestone events for hard-to-please tweens and teens."

Gattuso dedicates his evenings to the event space and works part-time at Bill Knapp's Bakery Outlet during the day.

Back when he was looking for a space, Gattuso checked out multiple locations in areas like Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti Township, Scio Township, Saline and Dexter.

"When we saw this place in Chelsea, it really clicked," he said, adding the location's layout set it apart from other spaces he looked at.

Gattuso took over the lease on Jan. 1 and spent two months renovating it by adding a tiki lounge and updating the main dancing area.

Anyone can reserve the space, but Chelsea Party Loft does not have a liquor license. Gattuso wants to be a spot for tweens and teens, but he is also hoping to attract various community groups as well.

Those interested in booking Chelsea Party Loft for an event can tour the facility during Gattuso's office hours from 4 to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Above everything, Gattuso said he's ready to be an event space that offers the complete package in Chelsea.

"My two goals are to make it fun for kids and easy for parents," he said.

Learn more about the business <u>online</u>, on <u>social</u> <u>media</u> or by phone at 734-562-2022.

## Come in for a tour or visit ChelseaPartyLoft.com



