

According to an announcement, On September 3rd, 2020, Jeff & Melanie Gambino, owners of **The Parrot Patio Bar & Grill** Restaurants, signed a contract to purchase the property at 2407 Bee Ridge Rd, formerly known as Smacks Burgers & Shakes from the Geckos Hospitality Group. The closing on the property is set for the first week of October 2020.

The original Sarasota **Parrot Patio Bar & Grill** location on the corner of Webber & Beneva offers guests an upscale-casual atmosphere featuring large TV's showing all your sporting events, great food and service, and of course the acoustical live music played on their large outdoor patio that has really made it a local hotspot in Sarasota. The second location in Bradenton located on State Road 70, has also been very well received since its opening in Dec 2019. That location is currently in permitting to add a brand new 4,000 sq foot patio that will add an outdoor bar and additional outdoor seating and provide the room for live acoustical music as well. This project should be completed and open in Fall of 2021.

Mr. Gambino said the purchase of this new property will be their 3rd Parrot location. However, according to Mr. Gambino, this Parrot will have different colored feathers -so to speak.... it will be named **The Parrot Express!**

“Like all area restaurants, **The Parrot Patio Bar & Grill** had to make rapid adjustments to the dining areas and operations in general to accommodate our guests and guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic. Limited seating, safety concerns and the need for everyone to watch expenses during the pandemic, were just a few concerns that had to be addressed. These adjustments forced us to look at our Sarasota location differently. We were not able to offer our customers what they wanted in this changing environment - the ability to order on-line, different delivery options, and curbside pickup. We realized most restaurants offered these services and it's not that we didn't want to offer them, we just knew we couldn't handle any additional volume out of our existing Sarasota location due to size, parking constraints, etc. Simply put, we were at our limit at that location. We realized we needed to expand our Sarasota presence due to demand, but we also wanted to do so in a manner that fit into the changing trends in the restaurant industry. We feel these two Sarasota locations will complement each other as they will offer the same great food and service, but two very different concepts.”

This led us to the idea of introducing a fast-casual “Parrot” concept. **The Parrot Express !** It will be showcasing an elevated, fast-casual menu. Therefore, in addition to favorite Parrot menu options, such as *Beef on Weck, Parrot Burger, Buffalo Shrimp and Shanghai Salad*, to name a few... **The Parrot Express** will be adding additional healthy *selections to include* more vegan and gluten-free choices and options for special dietary needs to our existing menu.

Additionally, **The Parrot Express** will offer a contactless ordering experience during dine-in or take-out services. Online ordering will also be available. In an effort to be more environmentally conscious, and keeping with safe practices, we will be using all digital menu boards and all food will be served on disposable biodegradable tableware while eating in, and take out will also use biodegradable fold-pak boxes that do not leak, with compostable flatware. All are made in the USA.

The emphasis and vision for **The Parrot Express** is on touchless ordering, quick-serve, high quality, fresh food with curbside pick-up at reasonable prices. The Gambino's plan is to completely renovate the former Smacks building, enhancing the décor to mimic the Parrot's family of restaurants. Seating will accommodate approximately 75 guests recognizing social distancing requirements.

Conveniently located at 2407 Bee Ridge Rd, on the corner of Shade Avenue. **The Parrot Express** is conveniently accessible from Siesta Key. For more information regarding the opening of The Parrot Express, refer to the website www.TheParrotPatioBar.com/ParrotExpress or Facebook @ParrotExpress. Email: info@TheParrots.com