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BAYSIDE Times

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BRING THE HOSTAGES HOME

Halal smash burger spot opens on Bell Blvd.

BY IRYNA SHKURHAN

Last month, a new halal burger joint opened its doors on the busting Bell Boulevard in Bayside.

Hitit Burger, named after the pressing technique used to create smash burgers, offers a simple but easily customizable menu of burgers and fries. Their patties are 'hit' on the griddle until extra thin and seared before being topped with a slice of cheese and loaded with toppings inside a brioche bun.

Matching with the simplicity of the menu, the spot's interior is minimalistically modern, with stone gray walls and intimate booths that can seat a duo or group of four.

It is also conveniently located in the center of Bayside's commercial district, between 39th and 40th Avenue, steps from new and old dining establishments.

The new spot opened its doors to the community two weeks ago by offering free burgers to everyone who lined up over the weekend

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Bayside native Clare Stokolosa has seen many of her artworks featured in exhibits in Italy and Brooklyn. Photo by Mark Glodberg

Bayside artist shines

Local's artwork featured in Italy solo exhibit & Brooklyn dual showcase

BY ETHAN MARSHALL

Bayside-based artist Clare Stokolosa recently had some of her paintings featured in Cortona, Italy, for her own solo art exhibit, "Passeggiando per Cortona Estate 2024." Now, some of her works are part of two different exhibits in Brooklyn.

Stokolosa's exhibit in Cortona was shown in the performing arts theater Saletta Teatro Signorelli. Her works there consisted of paintings of the Tuscan hill town. Now, with the July exhibit having wrapped up, Stokolosa's works are available for purchase on her web-

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Burger

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in anticipation. The long line stretched down the block for the soft opening before officially opening for paying customers on Tuesday, July 16.

Patrons can choose between three types of burgers: Classic Smash, Jalapeno Thrill, and Veggie Smash, all available as a single, double or triple.

The smashed beef patty in the spicy Jalapeno Thrill burger is topped with pepper jack cheese, grilled onions, thinly sliced jalapeno peppers and drizzled with a homemade green jalapeno rush sauce.

For the hand-cut fries, there are also Cajun spiced or topped options, with elements of the smash burger ingredients layered on top of the fries.

Since the smash opening, the burger spot has already garnered dozens of positive reviews online. Many expressed their delight in a smash burger spot opening in the neighborhood.

The Bayside Business Improvement District (BID) also recently spotlighted the new establishment on their social media.

Hitit Burger is open daily from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and until midnight every Friday and Saturday.



Hitit Burger joined a long roster of food offerings on Bell Boulevard.
Photo by Iryna Shkurhan

Artist

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site, clarestokolosa.com.

"This collection captures my journey and the special connection I've formed with this picturesque town of Cortona, reflecting its rich history, beautiful landscapes and warm, welcoming spirit," Stokolosa said.

Stokolosa has been a member of the "Circolo di Gino Severini" since 2017. This club was founded in Cortona to celebrate the 19th century Italian painter and Cortona native Gino Severini. Another solo exhibit of Stokolasa's is featured at the space for the Circolo di Gino Severini.

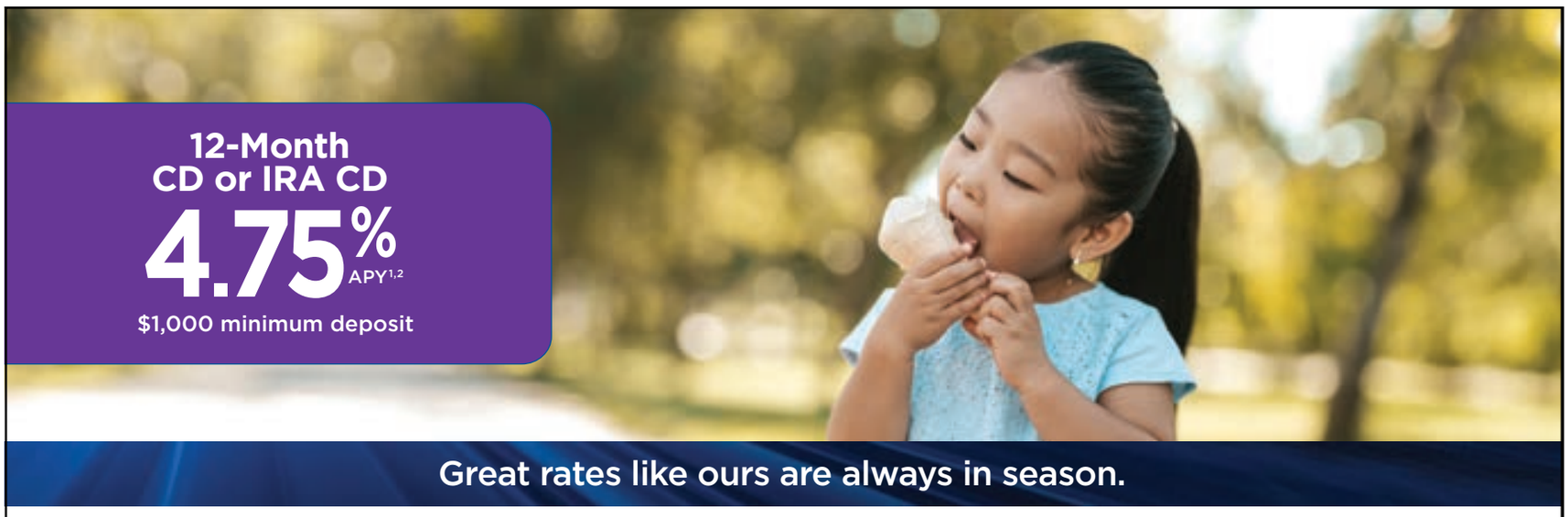
In addition to painting from her studio in Cortona, Italy, Stokolosa also works from her other studio in Long Island City. The art she creates come from a variety of different styles and mediums.

Stokolosa has created a series of larger-than life portraits of commuters in the city, dubbed "NYC Faces." The series is currently on display at the Pfizer Plant at 630 Flushing Ave. in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. She planned this exhibit as the artist-in-residency at the Creative Opportunities Promoting Equality, (COPE NYC) located within the building.

Four more of Stokolosa's works are also featured as part of the "Resilience in Color and Form" group exhibit at the Charles P. Sifton Gallery in the Brooklyn Federal Courthouse. Her featured works will remain on display there throughout the summer. This exhibition was initially launched by the New York Branch of the National League of Pen Women in March 2024 to celebrate Women's History Month.



offerings on Bell Boulevard.
Photo by Iryna Shkurhan



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