

RESTAURANT

Continued from A1

outside its doors on Halloween, also has life-size “Chucky” doll sitting in the corner near the bar. He’s wearing a sombrero.

The menu features a wide variety of Mexican dishes. But Ramirez is particularly proud of anything with carnitas.

“I’m originally from Michoacán, Mexico. It’s known for las carnitas, which is pork, smoked pork,” Ramirez said. “I hope people try our carnitas burrito. It’s got all the right stuff in it. Rice, beans, lettuce, cheese, our special sauce we put on top of it, and of course the pork. It’s a banger.”

Burritos are one of several new additions to the menu at La Cocinita. They come thanks to one of the cooks working away in the little kitchen the restaurant takes its name from.

“He did the whole menu. It’s all his menu. The burritos, the sausage, rice dishes and cheese dip. It’s all him,” Ramirez said.

Salsas and dips are another thing that the folks behind La Cocinita

are proud of. The Paisa queso dip is as rich as it is spicy, and is another popular menu item. They’ve also made 4 different sauces. A green sauce, a smoky red sauce, and a very spicy red sauce, and an enchilada sauce that Ramirez says has a chipotle kind of flavor.

They’re more than happy to embrace the heat with their cuisine and let customers do the same. Communications with customers is something Ramirez says is an extremely important part of running a restaurant. It’s a factor she thinks differentiates La Cocinita from its competitors.

“I think it’s the way we communicate with our customers. We want them to feel at home. We try to have a conversation with them, show them what we have on the menu and see if we can find something they like,” Ramirez said.

Ramirez has been in the restaurant business with her family since she was 13. She’s worked a variety of jobs in the field, even spending some time work-



BLAKE VICKERS — RR

The new wall mural painted inside of La Cocinita.

ing at a McDonald’s at one point. La Cocinita is the first time she’s taken the reigns as owner of a restaurant. While she notes that it’s a tough business, it’s one she loves.

“It’s in our blood... I like to meet people and talk to them. Really get to know them and make them feel

like they’re at home. Not every customer is an easy customer. But when you get the ones that are gentle and nice, and appreciate you — some even stop by just to say ‘hi’ — it means a lot,” Ramirez said.

Regardless of name, the folks at La Cocinita have been in downtown

Richmond for nearly 4 years now. The experience has been a positive one for them. It’s not just meant building relationships with the community, but the other restaurants downtown too.

“You find this little community of businesses and really get to know each

other. We try to support each other. Support local businesses, because that’s what really makes the city. Not all of those big corporate groups. It’s all about being local,” Ramirez said.

La Cocinita is at 236 West Main Street in downtown Richmond.

8 Soldiers at White Hall: Madison County Veterans from the Revolution to WWII

White Hall America 250 exhibit celebrates local heroes.

Blake Vickers  
Richmond Register

There are countless treasures and stories inside the walls of White Hall. Cassius Clay’s estate has reopened under new management from the City of Richmond, and longtime curator Mathew Parrish

sites, White Hall will be creating a new exhibit to celebrate America’s 250th anniversary. Parrish decided to dive headfirst paying tribute to the county’s rich military history.

The display features eight Madison County veterans across cen-

Philippine-American War, World War I, and World War II.

Parrish worked with local historians like Judy Green Baker, Sharon Mitchell and Bill Williams to research these veterans and build their stories. They wanted to focus on the people who’d been overlooked. Given the sheer number of veterans in the community, choosing the eight proved to be a daunting task.

“There were a couple of times I was already researching one person and then realized I might want to switch it to another person. It mainly had to do with how much information I could find on these

people,” Parrish said.

According to Parrish, local cemeteries proved to be a big help in finding them. But even then, their research had to go very deep.

“There’s a ton of veterans buried at Richmond City Cemetery. But unless you go really deep with your research, it’s almost

impossible to find any details about what people have done. Especially with African-American veterans out there,” Parrish said.

He noted that Green Baker and Mitchell were both wells of information on African-American veterans — with their work telling the stories of the

people buried at Maple Grove Cemetery being invaluable.

The oldest veteran in the display is a man of importance on many different levels. Revolutionary War hero Monk Estill was an enslaved man believed to have come to Kentucky

SEE SOLDIER ON A5



COURTESY OF MATHEW PARRISH

Monk Estill was potentially the first slave freed in Kentucky.

has been hard at work welcoming guests new and old to Madison County’s most famous residence.

Like many historical

turies. They served in Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican-American War, Civil War,

**It’s amazing what a difference a day makes.**

- Skilled Nursing Care
- Attendant Care
- Scheduling/Coordination of Medical Visits
- Administration of Meds
- Nutritious Meals/Snacks
- Shopping & Field Trips
- Door-to-Door Transport

**859-626-5226**

**forhorizon.com**

**IRVINE FAMILY DENTISTRY**

- NEW PATIENTS WELCOME
- INVISALIGN BRACES
- ACCEPTS MOST MEDICAID
- MOST DENTAL INSURANCE PLANS
- COSMETIC DENTISTRY
- IMPLANT CENTER

**Jason W. Gay, D.M.D**  
**David T. Monson, D.M.D**

**10 River Dr. • Irvine**  
**606-723-1000**  
[www.familydentistryofirvine.com](http://www.familydentistryofirvine.com)

**Morrow Rentals**

**Shade Tree Apartments**

1 & 2 bedroom Apartments  
range refrigerator, No pets  
starting at \$600 + deposit

**859-623-9156, 582-3304, 582-9104**

**CITY OF RICHMOND KENTUCKY**

**City of Richmond Request for Proposal**

The City of Richmond is requesting proposals for 2026 Chevrolet Silverado 3500HD 4WD Regular Cab work trucks and Ford 2026 F550 with a switch and go bed, 2026 Chevrolet Equinox all-wheel drive.

**Proposals are due no later than Monday August 3rd, 2026, at 1:00 pm est and should be sent to Richmond City Hall, attention Lisa Cassity, 239 W. Main Street Richmond, KY. 40475.**

**For questions about vehicle specifications please contact David Tipton at (859) 661-1808 or [dtipton@richmondky.gov](mailto:dtipton@richmondky.gov).**