

ENTERTAINMENT
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UP CLOSE

PENNY DAZE CANDY SHOP 2032 JERICHO TURNPIKE EAST NORTHPORT



By Iris Wiener

There's nothing like the good ole days...that is, there was nothing like the good ole days until Penny Daze opened in East Northport last month. A gourmet candy and gelato shop, this cozy treat is a mouthwatering piece of heaven that makes everyone relive their glory daze.

Owners Chris and Elena Galluzzo have always dreamed of bringing their love for nostalgic sweets to a fun family business. After running Take a Peek Antiques for two years they were ready to try something new and exciting. Together with Elena's brother Douglas Broglia, formerly of Citi Habitats Real Estate in New York, the Galluzzos brought the candy store of yester-years to life.

Gourmet chocolates, homemade fudge of myriad flavors, real Italian gelato, assorted nuts, and sugar free candy are just a few of the eccentric items offered at Penny Daze. The Galluzzos and Mr. Broglia also boast their extensive collection of invitations for all occasions, party favors and items, college care packages, ribbons, gift baskets, goody bags, and melting chocolate.

"People cannot believe the amount of candy we have, it's not just chocolate or one style," says Chris excitedly. "We have everything, they just can't get over that we sell actual penny candy- really, I'm serious!"

It's no surprise that the Galluzzo's

have such a passion for old-fashioned candy. Douglas and Elena used to summer in upstate New York where they had gone to a fantastic penny candy shop. Over the years, they became very



nostalgic and wished to open the same family owned and operated business. They searched for over a year for the ideal location and they believe they have found it. East Northport is the perfect spot, centrally located between five very friendly communities: Commack, East Northport, Dix Hills, Elwood and South Huntington.

At any time, you can go in to visit the Galluzzo family, usually found behind the counter working. Ranging from grandparents to children (Alex, 18, Chris, 14, Diana, 12, and Carly, 10), there's always a smile to be found at Penny Daze. Even the Galluzzo's youngest niece at five years old has

been known to work the cash register.

"As a family owned business, we take the extra steps to treat each and every customer like part of our family," Chris says with a warm grin adorning his face. He even goes so far to say that if there is a candy type of which you have a fond memory, just tell him or his family and they will be happy to try their best to find it and order it.

Customers say the Penny Daze experience is comparable to visiting the Willy Wonka chocolate factory. Not only does Elena have the original film playing on a loop throughout the day, but a famous quote from the film greets customers on their way in: "We are the musicmakers, we are the dreamers of dreams!" Plus, Penny Daze might just rival Wonka when it comes to choices in yummy treats.

Thanksgiving is the perfect time to remember this shop, as you'll not only be surrounded by a happy family when shopping, but you'll easily be able to find a special treat for the dessert table. You can even order a chocolate cornucopia filled with candy and/or cookies to make the holiday extra sinfully delicious.

If you have a sugar craving, or even just a need for some wistful memories, Penny Daze, is the place for you. Visit the Galluzzo's Sunday through Wednesday 9am to 9pm or Thursday through Saturday 9am - 11pm. You can reach them with any questions at 462-5710.