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## Silvis' Olympic Flame restaurant closing

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The Olympic Flame, the liquor retailer and restaurant specializing in authentic Greek cuisine at 1443 1st St., Silvis, will close Wednesday after nearly 38 years in business.

"We want to say a big, big thank you to each and every one of them who visited us and came for dinner and drinks over the years," said Helen Petaros, who opened the restaurant with her husband, Chris, at the location of the former Irish Inn in 1967. The couple expanded the business in 1975.

The restaurant has been sold and will reopen, though it will not feature Greek cuisine to the extent that The Olympic Flame has, if at all, Mrs. Petaros said.

She declined to identify the buyer, and could not say when the restaurant would reopen.

The couple sold the restaurant because they want to spend time with their five grandchildren in New York and Washington, D.C. They also look forward to visiting family overseas without the worry of the restaurant at home, Mrs. Petaros said.

Sunday she hosted a farewell dinner for friends and long-time customers.

"We used to eat there on a regular basis ... and they are just two delightful, delightful people. My daughter was a waitress for them, and they were just so nice," said Mary Teager, an auxiliary member of the Silvis Business Association who has lived in Silvis for 45 years.

Mrs. Teager and her late husband spent a few anniversaries at the restaurant known for steak and seafood, as well as specialties such as herbed Greek chicken, moussaka (lamb and eggplant), saganaki (flaming cheese), loukanika (sausage) and baklava.



**Photo: Todd Mizener**

Server Katie Spinks toasts Chris and Helen Petaros, owners of the Olympic Flame in Silvis.

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Mr. and Mrs. Petaros, both born in Greece, owned The Brown Owl in East Moline and a 24-hour sandwich shop in downtown Moline before opening The Olympic Flame.

"When I opened the door here, I felt like I opened the door to my house," she said.

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