

# WELCOME

# J & J

by Rob Preseren, ASSISTANT FARM PARK ADMINISTRATOR

# SPOT-LITE

**LAKE METROPARKS FARM PARK WELCOMES JOHN ROBERTO AND J&J CAFÉ** as Farmpark's new food service and catering provider. J&J will provide food service daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will be the primary catering service for all events held at Farmpark.

John has an extensive background as a restaurateur and recognizes the vast potential at Farmpark. "There are a lot of opportunities at Farmpark. They have so many exciting amenities available to help make our clients' events memorable," John says. The value-priced daily menu will provide guests with high quality food and the catering menu can be as diverse as any client wishes it to be. In the future, John hopes to offer a Sunday brunch and expand his services to include some evenings.

John started his career at age 15 as a dishwasher for The Turf in Seven Hills, which was later sold and renamed Sammy G's. During one Friday evening fish-fry, Sammy G's was extremely busy and short-handed. John was asked to work the line. As his first task, John was asked to flour and bread a 50 pound box of fish. As he gained experience, John realized he liked the food service business and by the time he was 17, he became a manager.

John recognized that he would need more formal training if he was to become a successful restaurateur. He graduated from the culinary program at Cuyahoga Community College, received

his Bachelors of Business Administration from Cleveland State University and joined the Cleveland Chefs Association. His membership in the

association allowed him to work with various chefs across the area.

John has been involved in numerous ventures including: Mountain Jack's, Great East Sider in Eastlake, Pacino's in Strongsville and Roberto's in Painesville.

In 1996, John partnered with Joe Gambitta and expanded the Great East Sider to include a catering business called J&J Catering (John & Joe). Along with their new catering duties at Farmpark, J&J also provides food service for Steris and the Perry Nuclear Power Plant.

One of John's newest ventures includes partnering with three other investors to open the Storm Cellar in downtown Painesville. While this establishment is meant to cater to Lake Erie College students, the menu and atmosphere draw residents from around Lake County and beyond.

John and his wife Tammy have three children: 12-year-old Jacob, 10-year-old Jenna and 8-year-old Megan. John loves to be around his family and especially enjoys watching his kids at their sporting events.

John is extremely excited to partner with Lake Metroparks and is looking forward to a long, healthy relationship with us. Next time you're at Farmpark, stop at J&J Café to enjoy a delicious lunch or snack. If you're planning any type of special event, consider Farmpark as your choice. J&J can handle all of your catering needs.



NOW AT FARM PARK