

# GRANDBUSINESS

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## Sammy's Pizza and Restaurant doubles capacity with renovations



PHOTOS BY EMILY CARLSON | HERALD REVIEW

Patrons of Sammy's Pizza and Restaurant in Grand Rapids will be pleased to know that renovations to the building have been completed. Changes include a new bar area, private party room and an expanded buffet.

BY EMILY CARLSON  
HERALD REVIEW

Sammy's Pizza and Restaurant in Grand Rapids has completed renovations that have doubled the building's capacity from 140 to 280 people. The renovation process started two and a half years ago, but official changes to the physical structure of the building began May 2019. Closing the restaurant Nov. 12, Sammy's Pizza and Restaurant opened again Dec. 9, 2019

with everything completed.

"We grew out of our space," stated Tony Jerulle, co-owner of the Grand Rapids locations. "Because of that we started out with a design that matched some of our other stores."

The interior of the restaurant was designed to reflect a modern Italian style while keeping the history of Sammy's Pizza and Restaurant and an up-north feel visible. Changes to the building include 40% more space with the addition of a private

party room, new bar area and larger kitchen. The private party room seats 48 people and has its own buffet. The main buffet in the restaurant has also grown to include more vegetables and pasta.

When asked what else would be important to know about the restaurant, Santina Jerulle stated, "Family and community."

Tony and Santina wanted to recognize Maria Jerulle, Seth Childs, Jeremy Powers and Katie Sisco. With

more than 70 years of experience between them, they were instrumental in the process of transforming the Grand Rapids location. They also acknowledged the community's patience as the building was closed.

"We thank Grand Rapids for being so patient," said Tony.

To contact Sammy's Pizza and Restaurant, call 218-326-8551.

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## USMCA paves way for American small businesses to better compete globally

The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, which includes specific protections for small- and medium-sized businesses, was approved by the U.S. Congress. The Agreement passed the U.S. House of Representatives with bipartisan 385-41 vote on December 19, 2019. The U.S. Senate approved the Agreement today and it now heads to the White House for President Trump's signature.

The U.S. will be the second country to ratify the USMCA (Mexico already has); all three countries will need to ratify the Agreement for it to take effect.

"Today's passage of USMCA is a win for American small businesses and the nation's economy," U.S. Small Business Administration Administrator Jovita Carranza said. "USMCA includes the first-ever chapter dedicated to small business and will enforce new intellectual property provisions, bolster innovation, and support small businesses engaging in digital trade. Additionally, USMCA removes burdensome regulations, reduces

duplicative red tape, and lowers costs that will help the 30 million U.S. small businesses that employ half the private-sector workforce and create 2/3 of all new jobs, to better compete globally. President Trump continues to follow through on his commitment to modernize and implement free and fair-trade agreements that greatly benefit our nation. This is another example of the President's insight into our economy and his unwavering support of U.S. small businesses."

The USMCA's dedicated Small and Medium Enterprise chapter, which is a first for any U.S. trade agreement establishes a committee on SME issues comprised of government officials from each country. Additional provisions simplify customs and trade rules and reduce barriers and costs small businesses have faced. The USMCA specifically:

Cuts red tape at the border and encourages small business consideration when regulations are in development and implemented

Supports the 21st century economy with

strong digital trade detail supporting internet-enabled small businesses and e-commerce exports

Promotes small business participation in government procurement, offering another way to grow their customer base and expand

Protects innovators' intellectual property

Eliminates local presence requirements for cross-border service providers, benefitting small businesses by removing the burden of opening a foreign office to do business

"The USMCA follows on President Trump's priority to put America first and its strong protections specific to small businesses – job creators that represent over 99% of U.S. businesses – level the playing field and unlock opportunities for those that have yet to tap foreign markets," added SBA's Great Lakes Regional Administrator Rob Scott. "It will support thousands of new jobs, notably in the automotive, manufacturing and agriculture sectors which are key

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## MDI installs new doors to provide easier access

All facilities received ADA-compliant sliding doors for improved accessibility



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Miners family along with MDI staff outside new ADA-compliant doors in Cohasset.

Nonprofit manufacturer MDI recently installed new doors at all four of its facilities in Minneapolis, Hibbing, Grand Rapids and Cohasset, thanks in large part to private donors. While a seemingly small change, the new doors represent a continued commitment to create an inclusive workplace environment that allows people with disabilities to fully integrate and work beside their colleagues. The new doors are ADA-compliant and slide open on a sensor – an improvement from the previous manual, swinging

doors which required assistance to operate for some employees.

"This change has allowed our facilities to exude the positive, collaborative environments that live beyond our front doors every day," said Peter McDermott, president and CEO of MDI. "From transportation to self-sufficiency at work and home, this is just one more way that we can empower our employees and provide them a

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# USMCA

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industries here in this region.”

Small businesses represent approximately 98% of all exporting firms nationally, with roughly 82,000 small businesses exporting to Canada and 53,000 exporting to Mexico. In the Great Lakes Region, which includes Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin, 87%

of the businesses that export are small and amount to more than 68,000 total. Further, the region's total annual receipts for exports to Canada and Mexico exceed \$128 billion.

With two-thirds of the world's purchasing power in foreign countries, expanding markets through trade is one strategy for small businesses to generate

and sustain business and economic growth. In FY 19, the SBA helped approximately 900 small businesses that export by backing more than a total of \$1 billion in loans to them. Via SBA's assistance, small businesses can more easily find their next customers in Canada and Mexico and every corner of the world.

# SAMMY'S

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Sammy's Pizza and Restaurant in Grand Rapids, Minn.



# MDI

FROM PAGE 1D



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Contributor Denise McCormick along with MDI President and CEO Peter McDermott and MDI Director of Development Peg McQuillan Porter.

space where they can feel pride and purpose as they earn a living for themselves.”

The Cohasset facility upgraded its front doors thanks to local donor Jerry Miner. The Minneapolis location's doors were paid for by property owner Schafer Richardson, property manager Superior Third Party Logistics and MDI. The Hibbing and Grand Rapids upgrades were part of new facilities and capital upgrades, respectively.

MDI is a leader in manufacturing custom plastic packaging solutions, production assembly and environmental services. The organization is committed to improving workforce development by empowering employees through self-sufficiency, with a goal to positively impact 2,500 lives through meaningful employment and services by 2026.

To learn more, visit [mdi.org](http://mdi.org).

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