

getOUT!

GO **DUTCH**

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Cash in on your BIRTHDAY

Celebrate with free food and
desserts at local restaurants

By **VALERIE A. RUSSO**
FOR THE PATRIOT LEDGER

At the Abington Depot, you don't have to be a celebrity to get your name printed on the menu or to receive a free entrée. Anyone can get the V.I.P. treatment on his or her birthday.

"There are close to 200 customer names in our birthday database and most of these customers come for dinner on their birthday. They look forward to it. We also have walk-ins," said owner Kathy O'Donovan.

Capt. John Dougan, public information officer for the Quincy Police Department, has celebrated his birthday at Abington Depot almost every year for the past decade.

"It's a nice place to go on your birthday and any time you want to sit and relax and have dinner," said Dougan, a regular customer.

"Everything on the menu is very good and the people who work there are very friendly — they treat you like family."

Dougan and Quincy Police Chief Paul Keenan share the same birthday, June 18. This year, the officers and their wives dined together at Abington Depot in honor of Dougan's 50th birthday.

The Abington Depot may be the only local eatery that prints the names of customers celebrating a birthday on its list of daily specials. But it's not the only restaurant offering birthday freebies.

For 20 years, 204 Washington in Walpole has offered a

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Abington Depot Restaurant
 Monday, June 14, 2009 Dinner Specials
 Happy Birthday to Sharon Donovan-Hart, Paul Keenan
 and John Dougan (50'!!!)
 Happy 15th Anniversary to Tim & Kathy O'Donovan!!!
 APPETIZERS:
 Chicken Cordon Altes Peppers 6.99

ANGLIA KUNHARDT/THE PATRIOT LEDGER

■ Celebrating birthdays at certain restaurants has its benefits. Free entrees are offered at the Abington Depot, far left, and The Charley Horse in West Bridgewater, center, when celebrants and another person dine. Above, from left, John Dougan, Tim and Kathy O'Donovan, and Paul and Karen Keenan celebrate John and Paul's birthdays at Abington Depot.

Free-styling your birthday

■ **BIRTHDAY**
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free entrée on a customer's birthday. For at least 10 years, Finian's in Quincy has done the same, and the new owners, Elias and Yianni Emmanouilidis, are continuing the tradition.

Below is a sampling of local eateries, from the Red Lion Inn in Cohasset to the Red Robin in Plymouth, that serve a free entrée and/or dessert to the birthday celebrant.

Keep in mind that requirements vary; some restaurants have price and menu restrictions, which can change. We've included phone numbers so you can get the latest information before you go.

■ **Brasserie Zapp** at the Red Lion Inn, Cohasset. 781-383-1704.

Free: Glass of champagne, any entrée and dessert on the menu.



THE PHOTO

■ You can get a free lunch or dinner on your birthday at the Main Street Bar and Grill in Weymouth.

Requirements: Come on your birthday; bring your ID and at least one paying dining companion who orders an entrée.

■ **Red Robin**, Plymouth, 508-746-1228.

Free: Sundae (two scoops of vanilla ice cream topped with hot fudge) and any entrée or burger on the adult or children's menu.

Requirements: Join the eClub for free at redrobin.com to register the birthdays of family members. Before each birthday, you will be e-mailed a coupon; no ID is necessary to redeem. Dine on your birthday or within a few weeks of your birthday, as specified on the coupon.

■ **Finian's Restaurant and Pub**, Quincy, 617-770-2592.

Free: Any lunch or dinner entrée and your choice of dessert (strawberry short-cake, chocolate mousse cake, cheese cake, carrot cake or hot fudge sundae). Requirements: Come on your birthday; bring your ID and at least two paying dining companions.

■ **Abington Ale House**, Abington, 781-871-6811.

Free: Any lunch or dinner entrée and birthday sundae (chocolate pudding topped with Oreo bits and whipped cream). Waiters will sing "Happy Birthday," unless you tell them you don't want it.

Requirements: Come on your birthday; bring your ID and at least one paying dining companion. If the restaurant is closed on your birthday, come the day before or after.

■ **Abington Depot**, Abington, 781-871-3232.

Free: Any lunch or dinner entrée and a "Happy Birthday" serenade. Requirements: Come on your birthday; bring your ID and at least one paying dining companion. You may bring a birthday cake, too.

■ **Main Street Grille**, Weymouth, 781-337-0801.

Free: Any lunch or dinner entrée, including specials. Requirements: Come on your birthday and bring your ID. No minimum party; dine alone or with friends and family.



■ Peppercornz On Main co-owner Linda Varraso also offers a free meal to customers celebrating their birthday.

■ **Peppercornz On Main**, Weymouth, 781-331-9931.

Free: One lunch or dinner entrée priced \$17 or less. If you order a more expensive entrée, \$17 will be subtracted from the bill.

Requirements: Before your birthday, dine at Peppercornz and join the free V.I.P. Program. Each V.I.P. member receives a birthday card/coupon good for a free entrée during his/her birthday month.

No minimum party.

■ **Not Your Average Joe's**, Norwell (781-616-6160) and Randolph (781-961-7200).

Free: Any lunch or dinner entrée and dessert. Requirements: Join the e-mail club to register your birthday. Then come on your birthday or any day, once per calendar year. No minimum party.

■ **The Charlie Horse**, West Bridgewater (508-583-7252) and Kingston (781-585-5550).

Free: Any lunch or dinner entrée on the menu and some specials.

Requirements: Come on your birthday; bring your ID and at least one paying dining companion who orders an en-

trée.

■ **204 Washington**, Walpole, 508-660-1400.

Free: Any dinner entrée.

Requirements: Come on your birthday and bring your ID. Dine alone or with friends and family; one promotion per table.

■ **Alumni Sports Café**, Pembroke, 781-829-9999.

Free: Any food item up to \$10. Requirements: Join the Royalty Rewards Program for free and you will be mailed a \$10 coupon, which can be redeemed at lunch or dinner during the month of your birthday. Entrée prices are less than \$10.

■ **Monponsett Inn**, Halifax, 781-293-2116.

Free: Any lunch entrée. Requirements: Weekdays only. Come on your birthday; bring your ID, at least one paying dining companion and the birthday coupon published in Community Values.

■ **Nathaniel's** at the Hawthorne Hotel, Salem, 978-825-4311.

Free: Your party's lowest-priced dinner entrée. Requirements: Come on your birthday; bring your ID and at least one paying dinner companion

who orders an entrée.

■ **Bobby Byrnes Restaurant & Pub**, Sandwich (508-888-6088), Mashpee (508-477-0600) and Hyannis (508-775-1425).

Free: Any lunch or dinner entrée. Requirements: Come on your birthday and bring your ID. No minimum party.

■ **The Nimrod Restaurant**, Falmouth, 508-540-4132.

Free: One lunch or dinner entrée priced \$16 or less. If your party orders more expensive entrées, \$16 will be subtracted from the bill.

Requirements: On Friday and Saturday, it must be your birthday to get the birthday promotion. On Sunday through Thursday, it must be the month of your birthday. Order from the regular menu or the gluten-free dinner menu (reservations required for gluten-free). Bring your ID and at least one dining companion; one birthday per table.

JUST DESSERTS

Many local restaurants will treat you to dessert on your birthday.

If you order an entrée, the Barker Tavern in Scituate, Atlantica in Cohasset and the Red Parrot in Hull will serve you a free puff pastry filled with ice cream topped with hot fudge and whipped cream. The Great Chow in Abington and the Outback Steakhouse in Quincy will bring you an ice cream sundae. And Papa Razzi in Hanover and the Scarlet Oak Tavern in Hingham will give you any dessert on the menu.

We found just one local eatery – The Squires in Hanover – that will give you an 8-inch single-layer birthday cake with white-cream frosting and a candle for free, with no entrée purchase required. You must order the cake at least 24 hours before your birthday. 781-826-3360.

Did we miss a good birthday freebie? If so, send us an e-mail at features@edger.com. We'll post the additional information on our Web site.



■ The Red Robin offers free sundaes as part of its deal.