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Single mom whips up Avenue Kitchen, Main Line's newest hip dining spot

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By **Caroline O'Halloran**
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All you really need to know about Dana Smith Farrell is displayed across the top of her Facebook profile page.

Instead of the requisite photo of the family or prized vacation spot, topping Farrell's page are two white words on a blackboard, all in caps: "DREAM BIG," which is precisely what this single mother of two has been doing for years.

Her first big dream, realized with then husband Tom Farrell in 1995, is practically a western Main Line institution: The Classic Diner in Malvern.



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While others dismissed the Old Valley Grill as a timeworn greasy spoon, the Farrells, with no restaurant experience (Dana worked in sales and Tom was a self-taught home cook), saw the "for sale" sign and envisioned a great restaurant. How right they were.

When the Farrells divorced, she sold Tom her share of The Classic Diner in 2008, and moved on.

Her next dream, a farm-to-table bistro, came to fruition in May 2010 when she and her new business partner, Dave Magrogan, owner of six Kildare's Irish pubs, opened Harvest Seasonal Grill and Wine Bar in Glen Mills' trendy Glen Eagle Square.

When the Harvest concept proved fertile, the two launched a second location in University City last September.

Farrell's third dream, Avenue Kitchen, opens Monday, May 6 in Villanova.

A 103-seat restaurant with full bar, Avenue Kitchen occupies half of the former Mixx (and, before that, Maia) space in a strip center on Lancaster Avenue between Villanova University and the entrance to the Blue Route.

It's Farrell's first solo restaurant venture. Continued...

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4h

josh grant @jt_grant

Movie by the pool and this guy is trying to offer kids cotton candy #chester #adam

