

Granby Social Club to Take Over Old Parlor Spot in the NEON

February 3, 2016 By Jesse Scaccia

The first thing you need to know about Guy Derenoncourt, the owner/manager of the Granby Social Club, which is taking over 765 Granby Street, is that the karaoke song he would sing to get into heaven is The Cranberries' "Zombie."

Yes, this "Zombie":

"That's my jam, man," he said. "I cut my teeth on that song."

Zombie, zombie, zombie ei, ei, ei, oh do, do, do, do, do, do, do, indeed.

Okay, this probably isn't the *first thing* you need to know about Guy, a native of Haiti who relocated to Hampton Roads in 2009 with the military. But it strikes me as something of an important fact. Prior to this project Guy was the managing director of the beloved West Ghent karaoke bar Cruzers. Any man willing to belt out such an absurd song in front of a giant screen showing a perfectly random collection of video clips has to be an okay dude.



“I wanted to save that place so much,” he said of Cruzers, whose building has since been taken over by [Torch Bistro](#). “You felt comfortable there. You didn’t care about people looking at you. You had fun — people greeted you like they knew you.”

Guy will bring a similar spirit to the Granby Social Club, which will feature an extended bar area, a 15-foot communal table, and karaoke downstairs, with pool tables, Skee-Ball, and a TouchTunes jukebox upstairs. Guy is drawing from many of the former employees of the Parlor to staff his new establishment, including Bobby Phillips from Electrognic, who is also a part owner.

“The Parlor was good for the community,” Guy said. “It was sad to see the space sit empty.”

Not for much longer. The goal is to be open by April 3rd, in time for [Virginia Arts Festival](#)’s Fringe Festival. Guy claims the food, which he describes as “American street food,” will be out within 90 seconds of ordering.



“This won’t be the kind of place you go for a three course meal,” said Guy, who is also a co-owner of one of my favorite local restaurants, [Island Krave on 21st Street](#). He is keeping his day job as a maintenance coordinator at NAS Oceana.

“The most exciting part of this new venture is the local community aspect,” said Phillips. “We designed this place to be somewhere you can hang out at all night, make a quick stop just for food on your way home, or a destination on your nightly adventures around town as you support the area’s music and art happenings.”

At a recent NEON District meeting the consensus was that what the neighborhood needs the most right now is more things to do. Singing, pool, a quick meal, and a social atmosphere seems to hit that mark perfectly.

“I’ve seen it developing fast,” Guy said of the NEON. “It’s been blossoming. We want to fill a void in the arts district and be a good neighbor.”