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FOOD & DRINK

Odessa Cafe Closes After 33 Years, “American Brasserie” on the Way

BY **BILLY GRAY** | 8/27/13 7:45AM

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After 33 years at **117 Avenue A**, the bar and vaguely Ukrainian diner **Odessa Cafe** will serve its last pierogi on August 31st.

Rumors of the closing picked up steam in May when a tenant going by **117 Avenue A Food & Drink LLC** **applied** for a new liquor license with **Community Board 3**. Odessa's building went up for sale the following month. Now, after a closing date first reported as August 15th and then September 6th, the Alphabet City stalwart will pack it up over Labor Day weekend.



Odessa Cafe (Credit: EV Grieve/Michael Sean Edwards)

Details are scarce regarding the new business, but EV Grieve **pointed out** that 117 Avenue A Food & Drink LLC shares an address with **9300 Realty**. That controversial landlord is owned by the divisive **Steven Croman**, the owner (and some have said slumlord) of downtown residential buildings. The CB3 filing described a “full-service American brasserie restaurant” that would replace Odessa, one of few remaining vestiges of the East Village's time as a haven for Eastern European immigrants.

While the loss of the dimly lit Odessa Cafe represents yet another blow to the East Village's funky past life, old-timers can still get their share of American and Slavic fried goodness at **Odessa Restaurant**, the greasy spoon at **119 Avenue A**.

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