

weekend picks | Shop and drop in for a quick meal

After a busy day spurring the local economy with holiday shopping, you may be ready for a sit-down meal instead of a quick slice. Here are some reliable choices near three of Long Island's major malls.

Close to Roosevelt Field in Garden City is **L.L. Dent**, a satisfying spot for Southern cuisine, where the food both comforts and energizes. Try the Southern-fried chicken, smothered pork chops, chicken

and waffle, pulled pork, fried okra poppers, and a bowl of grits.

L.L. Dent, 221 Old Country Rd., Carle Place; 516-742-0940, lldent.com \$\$

Zan's Kosher Delicatessen is a destination close to Smith Haven. Go for the matzo ball soup, mushroom-barley soup, stuffed cabbage and overstuffed sandwiches, among them pastrami, corned beef, dried salami, and turkey breast. *Zan's Kosher Delicatessen, 135*

Alexander Ave., Lake Grove; 631-979-8770, zans-deli.com \$\$

Walt Whitman Shops in Huntington Station has several notable restaurants nearby. A new addition is **Emilio's Fine Italian Cuisine**, which lives up to its name with very good pastas, grilled calamari, striped bass marechiaro, sausages with broccoli rabe and pork chops. *Emilio's Fine Italian Cuisine, 315 Walt Whitman Rd. (Route 110), Huntington Station, 631-824-6774;*

emiliosrestaurant110.com \$\$-\$\$\$

On Jericho Turnpike is **Rincon Criollo**, the suburban offspring of the Jackson Heights original. Savory Cuban cuisine is the specialty, from a Cubano sandwich to cod fritters, black bean soup, smoked pork chops, grilled lobster and stuffed cassava.

Rincon Criollo, 16 W. Jericho Tpke., Huntington Station; 631-271-2277, rincan-criollo.com \$\$

— PETER M. GIANOTTI



A Cubano sandwich at Rincon Criollo in Huntington Station

MARISOL DIAZ