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# WESTCHESTER

## DINING IN

### A Taste of the South in Mount Vernon

**W**hen staffers at North General Hospital in Harlem want a catered soul food lunch, they don't go to nearby Sylvia's or Amy Ruth's. Instead they call Howard Feigenbaum, owner of Mom's Homestyle Cooking, Baking & BBQ in Mount Vernon. "I have customers from the north end of Manhattan, Queens, and up through the Bronx and Westchester to Connecticut," says Feigenbaum. And we're hardly surprised. Ever tasted Feigenbaum's Carolina pulled pork, Memphis ribs, or Texas brisket? What about his apple, coconut cream, or sweet potato pies?



Feigenbaum has toiled in the food business since age 14, eventually landing a job starting as director of operations for Horn & Hardart. It was during his years with the famed and now defunct Automat company that Feigenbaum got the idea to open a soul food business. "On business trips down South I ate the best meals and would ask chefs and restaurant owners for recipes and advice on cooking great barbecue." When the last Horn & Hardart Automat closed in 1991 (at its height, there were 45, including one in Mount Vernon and one in Yonkers), Feigenbaum moved from Manhattan to Mount Vernon and opened the Fleetwood Deli Café. "I had the idea for the soul food business floating in my head but hadn't perfected exactly how or where I would execute it." It wasn't until September of 2006 that the perfect location became available on Mount Vernon's main drag.

While he currently lives in Eastchester, Feigenbaum has a special fondness for Mount Vernon and wouldn't move his business anywhere else. "It's so diverse and reminds me of the Washington Heights neighborhood I grew up in."—*JBT*

#### MOM'S HOMESTYLE COOKING, BAKING & BBQ

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