

Authentic tastes of Poland

After a decade of running Piast Meats & Provisions on River Drive in Garfield, the Rybak family has a new flagship — a

GARFIELD two-story castle, which looms large over its production center next door.

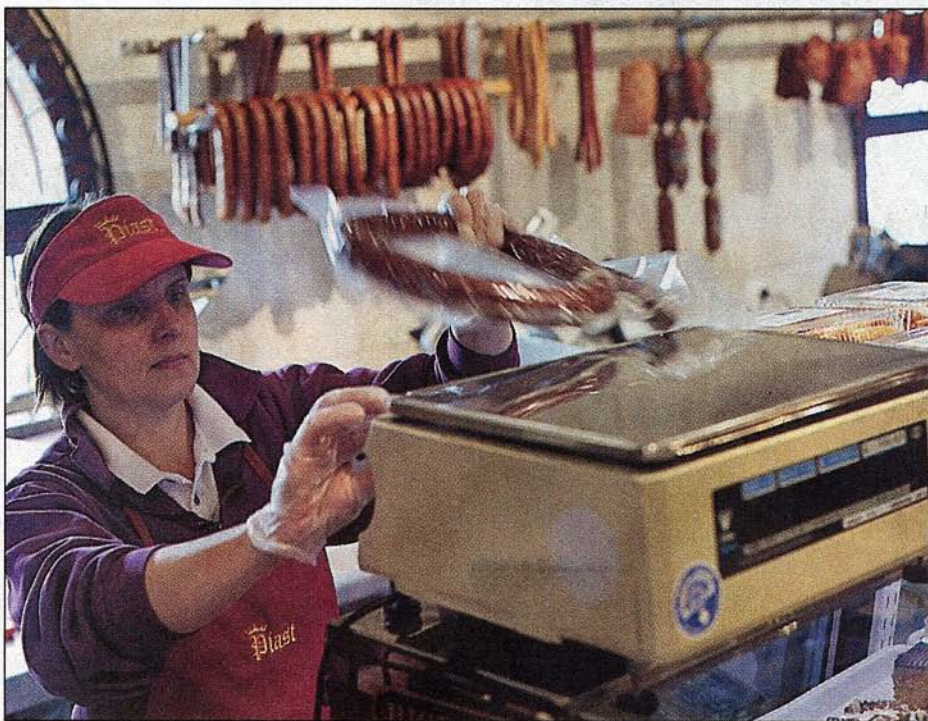
This expanded market, in the former home of the Pescador seafood restaurant, boasts a warm wash of regal red and is decorated at its entrance with a selection of red-and-white Polish soccer jerseys for sale. The Rybaks sought to invoke “clean, traditional, old-world elegance,” said manager Martin Rybak. His parents, Henry and Maria Rybak, named their original market in Maplewood 15 years ago after the first royal dynasty of Poland that dates from the 10th century.

The Rybaks, immigrants from Tarnów, Poland, stocked the new store with a dizzying array of Polish imports, house-cured meats and fresh baked goods. The ground floor is home to a butcher shop, deli, dessert case, coffee counter and a takeout counter that serves such ready-to-serve dishes as roasted kielbasa, cheese crepes and pork chops.

“This is the first time we’re really able to put all the pieces together,” said Martin Rybak of the sprawling Passaic Street store, allowing customers the ease of one-stop shopping, whether they need smoked mackerel, oversized jars of sauerkraut, hot pierogies, homemade sausage, tripe or fruit preserves.

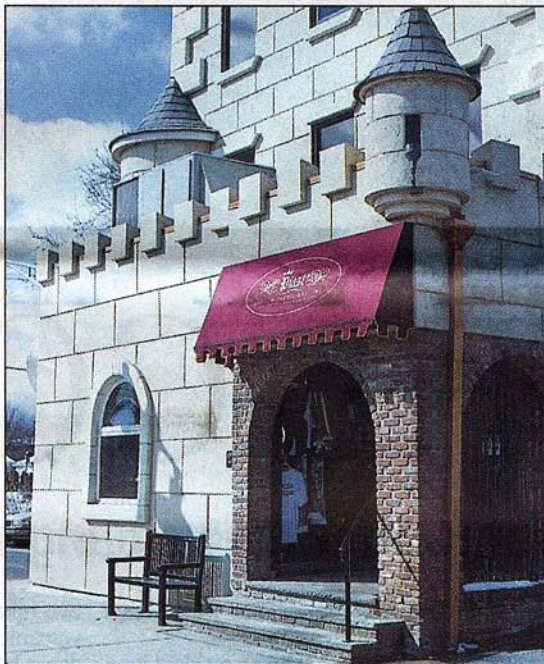
The second floor has shelves of candies, teas, pastas and a beauty counter with an ample supply of Polish magazines, cosmetics and skin products. The location, on River Drive, still attracts its own clientele. The two spots see about 10,000 customers weekly, Rybak said.

Piast Meats & Provisions is at 1 Passaic St., Garfield; 973-614-1315; piast.us. A second is at 800 River Drive, Garfield; 973-340-4722.



NICK BRANDRETH/SPECIAL TO THE RECORD

Above, Elzbieta Kobylarz weighs sausage for a customer at Piast Meats & Provisions in Garfield. The market, in a castle on Passaic Street, serves traditional Polish treats.



— Amy Kuperinsky