

The Main Street Collectors Mall

10909 SE Main St., Milwaukie
503-659-7632

The Main Street Collectors Mall is set on the quiet streets of Old Town Milwaukie; the only thing that indicates the delicious food awaiting you within is a small sign that reads "Soda Fountain."

When you first step in, you'll find rows and rows of collectibles old and new. Most notably you will be greeted by a Millennium Falcon that's easily four feet wide. Once you've finished browsing, why not stop and get a delicious sandwich and a cold soda?

Straight back from the front door is a counter that looks to be from a '50s diner. A glance at the menu will take you to the \$5 sandwich combo: a sandwich with your choice of meats, cheeses, breads, condiments and other toppings. It doesn't end there though: you also get your choice of chips or a cookie and a soda made in ye olde soda fountain style, meaning if you order Coke they mix the syrups in front of you, and if you order vanilla Coke, they add the vanilla themselves by hand.

I ordered pepperoni and provolone on white with mayo, lettuce and tomato. The meat and cheese were fresh, flavorful and not in the least dry; the veggies were crisp and tasted like they came right off the plant. The drinks speak for themselves; the mixing skills of the employees must date back generations as the soda is so well-balanced in terms of flavor and carbonation it's almost a shame to drink it. If handmade soda wasn't enough of a nostalgia trip for you, John F. Kennedy has eaten there; you can still sit in his chair.

Overall it's an interesting place with great food and a wonderful, quiet atmosphere. A great spot to dine with good friends, this place earns full stars.

- Michael Bonn



Singer Hill Cafe

James Cummings-Duncan Clackamas Print

Crossroads Coffee Cafe

250 Princeton Ave., Gladstone
503-657-2999

If you're looking for a little slice of heaven, the Crossroads Coffee Cafe is the place to be. The cafe is average in size, but the space is wonderfully used. It feels very open but is still comfortable. It's contemporary and modern but still classy and homey. The staff does the place proud; they are super nice and extremely helpful. They make you feel welcome and at home, and if that wasn't good enough, then try the food!

I had a BLT, iced chai latte and an Italian soda. The BLT I had was to die for. It was perfectly cooked, with just a hint of mustard that gave an unexpected tang to the dish. My iced chai latte was incredibly flavorful, perfect for the coming sunshine. Have you ever had an Italian soda, and towards the end it loses its taste and is really just disappointing and bitter soda water? Well this one was tasty all the way through and had a perfect blend of flavor; this drink was made by a genius.

Surprisingly, Crossroads food is actually very affordable, especially since you get such high-quality meals. Most restaurants would charge an arm and a leg for this kind of melt-in-your-mouth goodness, but not Crossroads; their prices are affordable for any college student.

In addition to excellent food, the restaurant also has live music on weekends, starting at 7 p.m.

If anyone has a free moment and is in the mood for amazing food, the Crossroads Cafe has great service and live entertainment well worth checking out.

- Brittany Anderson

Singer Hill Cafe

623 7th St. Oregon City
503-656-5252

On the corner of 7th and John Adams Street in Oregon City, there is a small cafe that goes by the name of Singer Hill Cafe. It's fairly well-known to natives, and for good reason.

Walking into the warm cafe, I was immediately aware of the homey atmosphere. Singer Hill is divided into three rooms, separated by doorways all cohesive in design. In the first room there are armchairs, large tables and a belly bar that continues into the second room. You can also find the coffee bar and the menu there.

As per usual with coffee houses, they offer a variety of hot and cold beverages from chai teas to mochas and can pretty much make any custom drink you want. What sets them apart from others is the food menu. They serve breakfast until noon every day, and they also serve hot and cold sandwiches.

I ordered my fallback when trying out a new coffee place: a caramel mocha and raspberry strudel stick. Both were very good and the mocha was expertly made and was not too hot. It was served in a mug that reminded me of the show "Friends," but without the colors.

Though the staff is very polite and accommodating, remember to ask for your receipt if you're the kind of person that hangs on to those. I did not and as such did not receive one. Another thing, remember how I said the three rooms were divided by doorways? There are also steps. There are, of course, signs posted cautioning guests to be careful, but as a first-timer it was a bit unexpected.

All in all, I would probably go back. The coffee was good, and there are many items on the menu that I'm curious about, especially the quiche, which is one of their most well-known dishes.

- Kayla Calloway

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