

THE COUNTRY STORE

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offer a demonstration of craft. "What I love about the Village is its authenticity," said Bocci, with a mild-mannered aside contrasting the district with "Trendy-third Avenue." "There's very little of the façade thing," she smiles. "Just real people, who love design and art."

Multnomah Antiques

Jim and Judy Tormey's master plan to knock down the building that has housed Multnomah Antiques for decades is still very much in process. "It's one thing after another," admits Judy Tormey.

The original idea for a 3-story apartment building went by the boards after recent housing market downturns and the high cost of required appliances were considered.

The plan now is for a 2-story brick building which comports with the existing design ethic of the Village. The second floor will offer business space for rent, while the ground floor will be dedicated to a re-imagining of the venerable antique store.

"I'm really looking forward to having my front door at sidewalk level," said Tormey of the existing step-down entry which can dissuade window shoppers, especially seniors and the disabled.

Tormey elaborated on the process by which she seeks to redevelop the property. "You really have to have

your ducks in a row when building commercial." Everything from procuring a loan to architectural plans, to choosing a builder is on her to-do list.

She plans to build green (sustainable) as much as possible, including the possibility of water-permeable asphalt for the parking lot. What doesn't seem to be on Tormey's list is retirement. "Antiques people never retire," she summed up laughing, "they just drop in their tracks."

Anastasia's Salon

When last we visited Anastasia's Salon there were still quite a few items on the remodel punch list. The salon opened on schedule in January 2007, and last month we sat down with owner Luke Huffstutter to conduct a year in review.

Huffstutter admitted to many 60 hour work weeks over the last twelve months, down from 80 during the remodel and grand opening period. His goal is to work a 50 hour week.

"If you recall," said Huffstutter, "the challenge was to move from our Hillsdale location to the Village without ever having to cancel an appointment." Long story short, they did it.

Buzz about talented stylists, quality product lines and top-shelf customer service have since helped the salon consolidate a position in the new marketplace.

"Looking back," Huffstutter recalled, "it went as smooth as I could have hoped." Another milestone passed when Anastasia's stylists

achieved better than national average annual salaries.

Community outreach is always a considered element for Huffstutter and his crew. The business has participated in fundraisers to support local schools, including a salon services auction which delivered over \$2000.00 to such entities as Wilson High School and The Jewish Academy.

Involvement in First Fridays and Multnomah Days helped Anastasia's reach out in positive ways to the community. Free styling and skin analysis offers paid dividends in terms of keeping loyal customers and attracting new ones.

"We want to offer our guests an exceptional experience," said Huffstutter, "and a large part of that is having the most educated and capable staff possible." Huffstutter reported no second thoughts about his move to the Village, and even uttered the word "fun." Could it be that his first 50 hour work week is just around the corner?

Journey's Pub

"The real challenge for us was waiting for approval for our OLCC licenses," said Bob Anthony, co-owner of Journeys Pub, which opened in the spring of 2007. Anthony and company planned to completely refurbish the Craftsman bungalow on Capitol Highway, with an eye toward creating a friendly neighborhood gathering place with an international vibe.

This plan reflected Anthony and his partner Shannon Park's sense of the universality of good food, great

spirits, and friendly people. Given that vision, until their license was approved not a hammer could be lifted on the project.

In the end the application went through, facilitated by a favorable recommendation from the Portland Police Bureau and in no time the mellowed wood of the Journeys bar was seeing plenty of elbow action, and the tables were maxing out on many nights.

"Our primary first year goal was simply to focus on our customers and become a positive addition to the Village," said Anthony, adding that those efforts have been rewarded by great customers who often "tell us how happy they are that we are here."

Anthony took a moment to offer praise about the district events for which Journeys was a first year participant, citing First Fridays, Multnomah Days,

Multnomah Outdoor Cinema, and Halloween.

"I think Journeys offers the kind of non cookie-cutter place villagers are looking for," he said, "where folks can stay local and socialize." A big step in that direction came when Journeys opened its patio area last April in response to guest requests to be outside.

That patio will open again this month and the Journeys staff hopes customers both loyal and new will come enjoy balmy spring and summer evenings and the pet-friendly seating.

Asked for any final thoughts about Journey's 2007 debut and eventful first year, Anthony doesn't have to think too long. "This is exactly the kind of place where I want to live and work."

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