

Local business transitions from store to café to sports bar

By Jillian Daley
The Southwest Portland Post

A coffee shop/sports bar on tap to open this month (May) in Southwest Portland is causing a stir.

Owner Carrie Goudge wants to create a neighborhood gathering place at Skippy's, 5435 SW Taylors Ferry Rd, said Goudge's husband, Jim Murphy, who spoke on her behalf.

According to Leonard Gard of Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., the establishment is located on the border between the Crestwood and Ashcreek neighborhoods.

The plan is for the business to serve as a café in the morning, a deli during lunchtime and a sports bar in the afternoon and evenings, Murphy said.

Skippy's, which will be able to accommodate about 30 patrons, will offer video poker and karaoke.

Some neighbors began voicing concerns after learning of the Full On-Premises Sales alcohol license Goudge applied for in February for Skippy's.

A full license permits the sale of beer, wine, hard cider and mixed drinks containing distilled spirits such as vodka, rum or gin.

Skippy's will be located in the building that previously held House Market, a convenience store that had an Off-Premises Sales alcohol license.

Such a license permits the sale of sealed containers of beer, wine and cider, said Christie Scott, public affairs specialist for the Oregon Liquor Control Commission.

The OLCC has authority over licens-



The owners of this building have applied for a liquor license for their new café & bar on SW Taylors Ferry Road, called Skippy's. (Post photo by Jillian Daley)



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ing; however, the local government and neighbors may submit recommendation or opposition letters.

The City of Portland in March told the OLCC it is neither for nor against the application.

The Ashcreek and Crestwood neighborhood associations in April submitted letters opposing the application for an expanded liquor license. Both neighborhood associations cited possible issues including noise and parking.

Ashcreek also expressed concern about traffic safety because Taylors Ferry is a busy street.

Ashcreek will not oppose the application if a good neighbor agreement can be reached with the owner, said Dean Smith, president of the Ashcreek

Neighborhood Association. Crestwood Neighborhood Association president John Prouty said his association supports such an agreement.

Murphy said Goudge, as of mid-April, had planned to sign that pact with neighbors when it is completed. He said all his wife wants is for Skippy's (named for a friend who died) to be a place neighbors will love.

Murphy said in the past three decades he has owned several sports bars and pubs, and his wife always supported him.

"Now, it's her time to shine," he said.

At press time, Skippy's hours had not been set, and a business phone number had not been established. A Facebook page is in the works.

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