

The Craft Factory opens creative space for children in Multnomah Village

THE COUNTRY STORE

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

From the second floor space above **Topanien** and **Sweets, etc.** (7832 SW Capitol Hwy), a child factory, of sorts, has opened. No, not a sweat shop, but a creative craft space for children and adults alike.

Designed for toddlers, as well as the child in all of us, the Craft Factory has successfully produced a place where everyone can be creative.

As owner Melissa DeMartini explains, it was the idea of her and husband, Ed Biden, after being inspired by the creativity of their two children, Lola and Finn.

“Lola and Finn would turn beach litter into memorable pieces of art from their trips to the coast,” DeMartini said.

The Factory’s space is newly remodeled. The most recent office tenant was Head Start, which moved to the old interior design space at the east end of Multnomah Village.

Upon arriving upstairs, the charm of an old factory complete with adding machine, work tables, galvanized air ducts, and conveyor belts, greets the visitor.

Encouraged to “punch in” using timecards with a time clock, the “workers” gather their supplies and equipment after selecting a base. (Punching in allows for credits for future visits.)

Armed with a glue gun, creativity

is unveiled. Part art studio and part hardware store; there are a variety of objects to choose from: old door knobs to buttons; PVC pipes to wire; plastic dinosaurs to feathers. It’s all here, and all recycled and repurposed.

Partnering with the ReBuilding Center, on Mississippi Street, items have been donated and pulled from old building projects. Community members are encouraged to donate any old small craft items they wish to remove from cupboards or closets.

“Crafting is traditionally done by girls and women,” DeMartini explained. “But here, the rules are bent.” As she spoke, a seven-year-boy fiddled with a display of circuitry making a robot, while an older girl was busy with wood and bolts.

It repurposes discarded items; it’s a safe place to create and hang out; and parents can drop their kids off on First Friday and visit the Village. And stay tuned for Adults Only evenings!

Finally, the Craft Factory partners with other family-friendly venues in the village. Discount coupons for Nectar and Thinker Toys are shared. Annie Blooms Books will be sponsoring a book-of-the-week story time for toddlers to kindergarten every Friday from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. followed by a short craft project.

The Craft Factory is open 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Birthday parties are available in evenings and weekends by appointment. A portion of all profits benefit beach clean-ups.



Craft Factory owner Melissa DeMartini is ecstatic to be able to offer creativity to local children in a factory-type setting complete with timecards, timeclock, and work buckets. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

Korkage Wine Bar transitions into new Hillsdale location with Sunday brunch

With a remodel, hundreds of bottles of local wines, and a new dining room, Korkage Wine Bar has re-opened for business at the former location of Three Square Grill (see footnote, 6320 SW Capitol Hwy) after needing more room than it had across the street.

According to co-owner and executive chef Earl Johnson, the foot traffic and visibility is better in the Hillsdale Shopping Center. The bigger location allows for a full menu which is something that the owners had wanted to do for some time.

Established in 2010, Korkage prides itself on providing 90 percent local wines with sampling, pairing with Northwest cuisine, and purchases all in one.

“The ‘wine friendly’ menu consists of small bites,” said co-owner, Tamairah Boleyn. “Our servers and chef are experts in suggesting pairing the right wine with the right meal.”

Beginning Sunday, Oct. 6, brunch will be served from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. “We are so happy to remain in Hillsdale,” explained Boleyn. “I quite my day job of 20 years in marketing to fulfill a dream come true!”

Boleyn is no stranger to Hillsdale. In July 2013, Hillsdale Main Street awarded her Volunteer-of-the-Year



Server Lori Brennan strikes a pose in the new Korkage Wine Bar. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

for her years of devoted service on Main Street committees and chairing the annual Wine About Winter event held in January.

Korkage is open every day except Monday. Happy Hour is from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., and private parties and events are always welcome.

After 18 long, glorious years, Three Square Grill is no more. With a new baby and path, Chef David Barber decided to close its doors last Mother’s Day. For those who still want to keep up on Barber’s whereabouts, check out the Bingo sandwich and Picklopolis stand at the PSU Farmers Market or visit www.picklopolis.com.



Fall Sale

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