

THE COUNTRY STORE

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

Tastebud and Interstate Pizza race to open as construction resumes

One can never have enough pizza, especially wood-fired Mediterranean style pizza. Two pizza restaurants are getting close to opening within a block of each other.

Work has started again on Tastebud which is located next to Bishops Barbershop in Multnomah Village (Capitol Highway at 35th Avenue). Owner Mark Doxtader has recently organized a fundraiser to help finish the restaurant.

"Multnomah Village is an area that we have kept an eye on for a long time," said Doxtader. "It's where we live, where our kids go to school, and where we've enjoyed so much support from friends and neighbors."

According to plans, the restaurant

will be rustic-cozy and center around a gigantic 72-inch Mugnaini wood oven—the only piece of cooking equipment in the kitchen.

Complete with pizza, bagels, and chicken dinners, the eatery will hold about 45 seats along with small, fully stocked bar.

Doxtader has been a Hillsdale Farmers Market fixture for many years. If last summer's Multnomah Days was any indication, there will be a line and people will have to wait.

"Between all the farmers markets, catering events, construction on the new space, and a Kickstarter campaign," Doxtader wrote, "we are busy as all get-out!"

"We've always found a way to satisfy our customers, and that won't change," Doxtader said, "unless gluten is outlawed. We don't really have a Plan B for that." Tastebud plans to open this fall.

Down the block in the French Quarter, Interstate Pizza is once again progressing along after some necessary building improvements.

Co-owner Matt Johnson said that the building where they are located has had to convert from being an old automotive center to a full sit-down restaurant.

"The city put a stop to all activity inside the building which affected several merchants," Johnson shared. "Until certain requirements are met, the city is keeping the area closed."

Interstate Pizza is walking through the numerous

permits, licenses, and construction issues that are required to open a business. They have applied for a liquor license. The large pizza oven, which weighs over 6,000 pounds, is due to arrive any day.

"We plan to have 40 seats and sell local crafted beers and wines," Johnson said. When asked by this reporter about the competition up the street, Johnson replied that competition is good and one can never get enough pizza. Johnson said he hopes to open by Labor Day weekend..

City closes French Quarter for structural, parking reasons

Businesses inside the French Quarter boutique mall (Southwest 35th Avenue and Multnomah Boulevard) are temporarily closed until further notice.

Yves Le Meitour, the property owner, has been working with the city to make required improvements to the former automotive center in order for businesses to re-open.

The city has asked for a variety of requirements including structural improvements and parking before businesses, including Le Meitour Gallery, can operate legally.

Le Meitour attended the July 14 meeting of the Multnomah Neighborhood Association to provide these updates. He then disclosed that he has organized a group of property owners to oppose future adverse



The city of Portland has closed the French Quarter boutique mall in Multnomah Village temporarily until structural issues and parking problems are resolved. (Post file photo by Don Snedecor)

development in the village.

"I am entering into a covenant with several owners," Le Meitour announced. "We have agreed to keep any of our future plans in line with the quaint character of the village."

He also proposed improving Evans Street which is behind the French Quarter. Currently the unimproved street has potholes, dust, and a culvert full of garbage.

Le Meitour has spoken with the Multnomah Village Garden Club to landscape and add angled parking. He also proposes filling up potholes on 36th Avenue.

"I need parking," Le Meitour said. "The city does not want to fix the street. I will ask them to vacate their right-of-way."

But before any of that happens, Le Meitour wants the blessing of the neighborhood association.

"Please give it some thought and get back to me," Le Meitour told the attendees. "I will return in August to hear your thoughts."

Le Meitour said that Paul Davidson, of MVP Volvo, is planning on a classic car show at his lot next door during Multnomah Days.



Debbie Taylor and Robert Lilly wait to open up personal account at the new OnPoint Community Credit Union in Hillsdale. Taylor said she is pleased to have a branch closer to her business down the street. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

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