

New Seasons Market to Expand Reach

Construction of St. Johns store to begin this spring

Locally owned and operated New Seasons Market plans to open a 25,000-square-foot grocery store on North Lombard Street near Roosevelt High School in 2016.

The company announced the expansion plans last week saying the new store will serve the neighborhoods of St. Johns, University Park, Portsmouth, Cathedral Park and New Columbia, creating 150 jobs, with the goal of hiring as many staff as possible from the immediate community.

"Year after year, this has been one of our most requested potential neighborhoods. It took us a little while to find the right location, and it's exciting to say that now we have," said Wendy Collie, New Seasons Market president and chief executive officer.



An artist's rendering shows the proposed New Seasons Market scheduled for construction this spring in the St. Johns neighborhood of north Portland.

"We have long-standing partnerships with nonprofits and neighborhood advocates in this part of North Portland, and we know that

the communities who make their home on the peninsula are truly unique and share our value of building community, celebrating great local food and taking care of one another," Collie said. "We are look-

ing forward to deepening our relationships and serving our new neighbors."

New Seasons Market has worked for years with Village Gardens' Food Works and community gardens pro-

grams, as well as with the St. Johns Farmers Market, helping the nonprofits increase access to locally produced and nutritious food. New Seasons Market also sponsors the Sauvie Island Center summer camp series, which helps area children learn how to cook what they grow.

"Celebrating community is in our DNA. One of the things I am most excited about is the opportunity for New Seasons Market to become part of the fabric of the neighborhood," said Collie. "The store will not only be a place for great food; we hope it will also become a place where neighbors catch up over a cup of coffee, laugh together during book club or work together in a neighborhood meeting."

The St. Johns New Seasons Market has been designed with several sustainable features such as a continuous green canopy running along Lombard Street and a green roof over the outside deli seating area. Groundbreaking is expected to take place this spring.

George Fox Backs Down

continued ▲ from page 3

The exemption was approved before Marcus and his Portland attorney, Paul Southwick, could file a discrimination complaint against the school.

A Portland native and a Grant High School graduate, Marcus has been working closely with Southwick, who coincidentally is also a George Fox alumnus who has been working for social justice and the improvement of LGBT rights at George Fox through an alumni and student network called George Fox One.

Marcus and his family have called on their community to sign petitions, write and call George Fox, and spread the word of Jayce's story. But since the controversy went viral online, the school changed course two weeks ago and granted Marcus his desired housing.

Written into the school's new policies, however, are requirements that future transgender students, especially transgender students of color, may struggle to meet. Full genital reassignment surgery will be required of all future students seeking similar accommodations—a medical cost that the school's insurance conveniently leaves out of its student insurance policy.

The new policy, states: "Providing appropriate housing for transgender students continues to be a challenge at religious and non-religious institutions across the country. George Fox University has a two-year required, single-sex dorm

policy it has developed in light of its religious convictions. It has the discretion to assign all students to appropriate housing. Common residence halls are single-sex, defined anatomically. We are committed to residential access, and it is consistent with our beliefs and our community values that a presurgical transgendered person will be provided on-campus housing in appropriate alternative housing well-connected to the residential community. That person also has the option to live off campus."

It is important to note that the World Health Organization recently came out against such forced genital surgery requirements in a statement, citing that it forcibly sterilizes people who may want to retain their reproductive capacities despite transitioning from one gender to another. The school however has not responded to such concerns in its recent statements.

Marcus sat down with The Portland Observer just before the school came down with its latest decision, and shared some of his thoughts:

Portland Observer: Just as background, are students normally separated by gender at George Fox? What's normally the rule?

Jayce Marcus: There is a rule you can't live with the opposite sex while at George Fox, at least while you're not married.

Portland Observer: How has this been at school?

Jayce Marcus: I have found a lot of support on campus through students and faculty.

Portland Observer: Some people might just transfer to another school or give up, but you haven't. What made you want to pursue this case?

Jayce Marcus: This is a bigger issue than myself. I am not the only transgender person that will attend George Fox and I am not the only transgender person struggling with discrimination. Also this issue spans outside of transgender issues. This is an issue of discrimination. This is a gay issue, this is a Lesbian issue, this is a bisexual issue, this is a transgender issue, this is a race issue, this is an issue for anyone with a marginalized identity. And this is why I have continued the fight.

Also I am a person of faith and a person of the LGBTQ community. I think it's important that we have a conversation about religion and LGBTQ issues. This conversation needs to take place. Both the LGBTQ community and the faith community need to learn to be open-minded. As a member of both communities, I think they can coexist as they do for me.

Portland Observer: Do you feel you've made any progress at the school recently?

Jayce Marcus: Continuing this talk at George Fox promotes this discussion, and although George Fox isn't moving as quickly as we want it to move, it's moving. If I were not there, Gender Neutral bathrooms might not exist. I need to be a part of this community to help it continue

this conversation.

Portland Observer: Do they have text from the bible that backs up their policies?

Jayce Marcus: I do not believe there to be anything in the bible about being transgendered.

Portland Observer: What kind of advice would you give to students in similar situations throughout the country?

Jayce Marcus: The first thing is, you don't have to do what I'm doing. You don't have to go to the media. There is a lot of stuff that you can do behind the scenes that has just as much potential to create change. And if you do choose to do it, to fight against your oppressor, try to keep a level head. Go into it with an open mind. Be open to conversation.

Upholstery Cleaning • Sofa/Loveseat • Pet Stains • Flood Restorations



503-705-2587

2 Rooms + Hall

Extra rooms \$10 each with coupon. **\$59⁹⁵**

Complete House

Up to 1000sq feet with coupon. **\$109⁹⁵** With Free Deodorizer



We Also Do Janitorial Services

Licensed • Bonded • Insured

Carpet Cleaning

Spot/Stain Removal • 24 Hour Flood Service
Upholstery Cleaning • Area Rug Cleaning • Dry Time 2-4 Hours
Free Estimates • Available Weekends