

New Douglassville eatery nears completion

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News photo by Donna Rovins Construction continues on the new Black Jax American Bar & Grill on Route 422 in Douglassville. The owner is hoping to have the new eatery up and running by late August or early September.

David Walsh's newest restaurant, Black Jax American Bar & Grill, Douglassville, is nearing completion and said July 18 that he should be ready to open in August or September.

The owner of The Brick House restaurant, Pottstown, purchased the former restaurant building that has been known over the years as Borelli's Family Restaurant, Gregory's, and Havana Joe's, at 668 Benjamin Franklin Highway East, and is expanding and renovating the building into a 6,200 square foot restaurant.

“My goal is certain criteria to be a successful restaurant - with additional rooms, a separate bar, smoking access outside, and a deck on the other side,” said Walsh.

The bar and restaurant will be separated by a hallway, which will provide restaurant access without going through the bar.

Walsh appeared before the Amity Township Board of Supervisors on July 18 with the request for additional parking to accommodate all of his guests at the restaurant, sports bar, and in the nightclub.

He anticipates opening the nightclub in December.

Walsh said he owns the lot adjacent to the restaurant and plans to expand his businesses in the area and along the Route 422 corridor with a building for his embroidery business that makes uniforms, possibly a dog park in the rear of his two land parcels, and a storage building.

“Development has been coming down Route 422 for quite some time,” Walsh told the board.

He anticipates 225 to 350 patrons on Friday and Saturday nights and said securing additional parking now is vital to opening the restaurant.

“I don’t want to have to say no to anyone when we reach capacity in the beginning,” said Walsh.

He said occupancy will shift after 9 p.m. from the restaurant to the sports bar and nightclub.

The nightclub will feature comedy nights, bands, and country line dances.

“I want to be a live entertainment venue because there is nothing like it around, and safety is the number one concern,” said Walsh.

Township Engineer John Weber said zoning requires that commercial properties be paved.

The board recommended that Walsh design an erosion and sediment control plan and submit it to the township and state Department of Environmental Protection for approval, in preparation for opening the nightclub.

Walsh said that would give him adequate time to pave the entire parking area.

Walsh opened The Brick House Restaurant in March 2008 with 156 seats and 5,165 square feet in the former First Fidelity Bank building that was built in 1880.

The restaurant has high ceilings and big windows evocative of an old bank, but, he said, the biggest problem is that rooms can’t be separated for private parties.

He said that ability is included in his expansion plans for his newest restaurant in Douglassville.