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NEWS

Westside Pizza expanding to new location



Westside Pizza has announced plans for an expanded restaurant in the Island Village Shopping Center. — Image Credit: Luciano Marano / Bainbridge Island Review



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by **LUCIANO MARANO**, Bainbridge Island Review Staff Writer
Dec 20, 2013 at 10:32AM

The shopping experience at Island Village is going to get a little more delicious early next year.

That's because the much-loved Bainbridge eatery Westside Pizza will be opening its new 2,700-square-foot location there Saturday, Feb. 1, in the space once occupied by Pizza Factory.

"At Westside Pizza, we're well-known for our deliveries to island residents at home or at sporting events like baseball and soccer games," said Tom Daniels, co-owner of Westside Pizza. "By expanding our presence to Island Village Shopping Center, we're looking forward to creating a warm new environment where our families and other families, teams, locals and visitors alike can sit down and enjoy a delicious, affordable meal."

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In addition to a larger location and an expanded menu, the new space will allow Westside to offer full dine-in service and an outdoor seating area on the island for the first time ever.

The new location will also feature several unique design elements, including historic photographs of Bainbridge Island.

The relocation of Westside Pizza is only the latest in a series of remodeling efforts at the High School Road location by the Seattle-based commercial real estate firm Urban Renaissance Group.

The firm officially announced Friday, Dec. 20 that continued site improvements are planned, as well as the addition of several as-yet-unidentified new retailers.

Urban Renaissance Group CEO and island resident Patrick Callahan said that there were “quite a few prospects” for additional retailers and that more details would be released “in 30 to 60 days.”

“It’s really only the beginning of what we have planned,” Callahan said of the Westside Pizza relocation.

“We’re very focused on the overall mix of uses in that center. Adding a pizzeria, an Italian-themed restaurant, was a great add for us. And we’re certainly looking for other uses that are not currently serving the island as it should be,” he said.

“In the retail business, the mix of uses is really important,” Callahan said.

Callahan and Daniels both agreed that the additions were important, and beneficial, changes for the area.

“We believe Island Village has a great location on the island and Westside Pizza is just the beginning of several important additions to the center,” Callahan said. “I am excited to be involved in the expansion of Westside Pizza. This is a relocation that allows them to expand their business and hire more people.”

Daniels said that the move was something that had been in the works for some time.

“Pat [Callahan] and I, and the Urban Renaissance group, had worked on it [the move] for a few months now,” he said. “We have three strategies: one is a unique and expanded menu, unique interior finishes and an expanded dine-in capacity.”

Several Island Village stores have conducted recent independent remodels, including the Rite Aid drugstore and Safeway supermarket.

In addition to these developments, Urban Renaissance Group plans to complete the renovation of the parking lot in the spring as well as add new signage and upgraded landscaping for the location.

Westside Pizza, which first opened on Bainbridge in 2001, is well-known for supporting local organizations including Bainbridge Little League, the First Robotics Team, the Bainbridge Historical Society and the Bainbridge High swim team. Daniels said that this move is one more way that the restaurant can better serve the community.

“My partner, Mike Lynch, and I are trying to give back, not just to our customers, but to the island,” he said. “And we’re trying to employ local islanders.”

Island Village is the largest shopping center on Bainbridge Island with more than 97,000 square feet of combined floor area.

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