

Posted on Tue, Aug. 16, 2005

BITS OF BUSINESS

T.G.I. Friday's expects to open in mid-September

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Don't let the gray exterior and plastic-covered windows fool you.

T.G.I. Friday's is further along in the building process than it looks.

Barring any major disasters, Friday's should be open Sept. 12, said Maureen Gallagher, executive marketing director for restaurant franchise owner Northeast Restaurant Group.

"Once the windows get in, you'll get a different feel for it," she said.

She said that the kitchen is starting to go in and, other than the windows, all that's left to do is the signage, siding and interior. But that all moves along pretty quickly, Gallagher said.

Interested in a job at Friday's? A hiring trailer is behind the restaurant to fill the wait and bar staff, kitchen and other positions. Gallagher expects the restaurant to hire 100 to 120 part- and full-time employees.

Quaker Steak ready soon

The curiosity about the interestingly named Quaker, Steak & Lube now has an end date.

January 18:

That Wednesday will mark the opening of a 10,000-square-foot restaurant, owner Larry Salone said.

The restaurant -- the first of five he's opening-- is family-friendly, he said, and its children's menu was voted the top in the country in 2004.

"We want you to start eating there as a kid with our world-famous kids' menu and continue eating wings there when you're 70," he said.

Construction crews will be on site this week to work, Salone said, with an official groundbreaking scheduled for Aug. 30.

Home sellers get custom help

Thinking of selling your home yourself? A new Web site launched by information technology and marketing company Lymarc Inc. may help.

"With the decision to sell property 'for sale by owner' becoming increasingly popular, our services allow homeowners to compete more directly with large real estate firms from a marketing standpoint," states Glenn Lytle, president of Lymarc.

The company created www.thepropertywizard.com, which offers services such as online picture galleries and property descriptions, professional yard signage and flyers, and PropertyCast, a toll-free service offering a property description and the seller's contact information.

The initial service launch will be focused primarily in State College and the surrounding area.

Benner Pike shops coming

For those of you clamoring for more info on the Benner Pike Shops, you're in luck. I've managed to secure some dates for you. Keep in mind, as with any construction project, these are general time frames.

- Ross Dress for Less plans to open on Sept. 30.
- Bed, Bath & Beyond is aiming for a mid-October opening.
- Fashion Bug, Dress Barn and Mattress Warehouse should open Nov. 1
- Burlington Shoes and the state store are aiming for December.

Leasing representative for the shops, Jason Stryker, has promised to keep me updated as additional shops sign on and openings are announced.

Shops from 1,200 to 10,000 square feet are still available.

He said there is still hope to get a restaurant into the location and a number of different national chains have checked it out, but no one has committed yet.

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