

New Lewiston businesses SPRING FORWARD (cont.): **GATHER and GALLO**



Customers can expect a whole new Gallo Coal Fire Kitchen experience later this spring. (Gallo rendering courtesy of Fittante Architecture PC)

Last March, right after Michael Hibbard opened his second Center Street restaurant – Gather American Eatery – New York state closed indoor dining.

“We originally had opened, and we were only about two weeks in and we had to close because of the pandemic,” he said. “We were on to a good first couple of weeks. The response was overwhelming. But then it came to a screeching halt once COVID hit. So we were closed down for about three months in total. And we had to kind of just figure out what to do, next steps, and luckily the nice weather came and kind of changed things for us, so we were able to do the outdoor seating.”

Fortunately, Hibbard’s theory – that patrons were looking for something more affordable and family-friendly in this space – proved correct.

“All in all, it’s been a success, and the reception of the people, they really love the concept,” he said. “Just the freshen up of the place, I think, helped a lot, in just changing the menu around; and great food, affordable prices and a great bar atmosphere.”

At the time of the “PAUSE” order, Hibbard also had begun construction on a new, larger Gallo Coal Fire Kitchen restaurant at the corner of Center and North Fourth streets. Progress was halted with the temporary shutting of all things nonessential,



for three months of construction,” Hibbard said. “What happened with that is it backlogged all the contractors, too. So, we’re technically about six to eight months behind schedule of opening that location.

“But we have a really solid team, my construction adviser, which is Waterbourne Properties, Jim Carminati, he’s been a driving force in that project. If he wasn’t there, we wouldn’t be this far.”

When the new site does open, “We have the Gallo Coal Fire concept on the first floor, banquet facility on the second floor, and we actually are putting in a Gallo Pronto, which is our café concept – coffees, espressos, and quick-

The courtyard will feature local art projects.

“What we anticipate doing is just partnering with local (artists), which we’ve already been in talks with Castellani Art Museum, Artpark, and just the Lewiston community in general, to try to not only create a restaurant space, but an event space, a community space, and an art space there,” Hibbard said. “We have some really good ideas and some people helping me out with that.

“It’s one step at a time, but that’s really our ultimate goal.”

When speaking with patrons, Hibbard noted, “The feedback is overwhelming and everybody says the same thing. It took this long for somebody to realize that that project, and that corner, had so much potential; it’s just no one ever – I don’t know if they just

didn’t see a vision there, or just weren’t sure how to tackle it. But I think we’re able to achieve that. We, obviously, have some experience under our belt, too.”

Meanwhile, the original Gallo “has still been good,” he noted. “We have our regular clientele there. It’s funny, when I come into these places, I see the same people at both of them. We’re hoping that when we open up our other locations that same thing will transfer over. You know, Monday’s are a big night for us because we do the pizza deal. So, I see those customers on Mondays. And they come into Gather during the week, too. I always joke around that it’s my extended family, all of customers (laughs). I see them more than I do my actual family!”

not to mention a nationwide demand on materials and shortage of available labor.

“A lot of people, they have addressed that to me, ‘What is taking so long?’ And, really, people have to realize that our project, in general, we were closed down

serve to-go sandwiches, parfaits, stuff like that,” Hibbard said. “It looks like, just with timelines, construction schedules, we’re looking at mid- to late-May to be opened. I think that’s pretty ambitious – and I think we can make it happen.”

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
POWER AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

The Power Authority of the State of New York (Authority) will hold a public hearing as detailed below on a proposed form of Contract for the sale of hydropower to Amcor Rigid Packaging USA, LLC, Pine Pharmaceuticals, LLC, Plug Power Inc., and seven neighboring states, namely, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Copies of the proposed Contract forms may be inspected at the Authority’s office at the address below, or online at the Authority’s Web site, www.nypa.gov.

Those wishing to make oral statements at the hearing are asked to provide to the Authority, in writing, in advance of the hearing, their name(s) and the name of the organization or group they represent. Oral statements should be limited to five minutes. Speakers should also bring two hard copies of their oral statements to the hearing.

Hearing Date: May 6, 2021
Hearing Times: 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Hearing Location: 535 Washington Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Buffalo, New York 14203

Written statements provided to the Authority by close of business on Friday, May 7, 2021 will also become part of the record of the hearing. For further information, including the address of other Authority offices at which copies of the proposed Contract forms may be inspected, contact:

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