

Will Bellevue's newest taco restaurant be allowed to serve booze?

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By Melissa McCart / Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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Will a new taco restaurant in Bellevue have a bar?

202 Hometown Tacos is on track to open in just over a month in Bellevue, at 407-409 Lincoln Ave. from childhood friends David Caligiuri and Marc Seiavitch.

Named as a reference to Bellevue's Zip code of 15202, it's a restaurant and possibly a bar that will be open for lunch and dinner. But the liquor license status is still a work-in-progress because of census issues.

The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board has determined Bellevue can have two liquor licenses based on its population, but 202 Hometown Tacos would make three. The partners heard arguments both for and against it serving alcohol during a public hearing on Feb. 12, in advance of the borough council's decision on Feb. 26 on whether to allow it.

"Their idea is to hire locally. They want to enhance the community and to be an asset," said Sidney Sokoloff, of Specialty Group based in the North Hills, who would handle the transfer of the liquor license if it's approved.

"I think when some people hear 'liquor license,' they may fear that someone's opening what could become a nuisance bar. They don't think of the positives. It can also mean a family-friendly, local business," he said.

Since Bellevue lifted the ban on alcohol in 2015, which had been in effect since Prohibition, restaurants are now serving drinks such as the newly opened Revival on Lincoln and Grille 565. Specialty Group transferred the first liquor license into Bellevue with Grille 565.

Before becoming a restaurant owner, Mr. Caligiuri, a resident of Morningside, said he had flipped houses, started food trucks (412 Foods and Pittsburgh Potholes), and managed sales and delivery for a bakery, according to his profile on Honeycomb Credit (They ultimately did not need to use the lending service, says Mr. Seiavich, who's from Squirrel Hill.)

Mr. Seiavich, a lawyer, most recently was a commercial real estate advisor at SVN/Three Rivers Commercial Advisors, Downtown.

As to how the duo came up with tacos, they asked Bellevue residents during a municipal meeting after buying the building in 2017. The menu [online](#) shows the place will serve chips and dips, carnitas, jackfruit and shrimp tacos among others, and rice and beans among sides.

After rehabilitating the property and fixing up the upstairs residences, Mr. Caligiuri and Mr. Seiavich concentrated on the retail space: joint properties with garage-style doors and three sliding barn doors to separate the bar, allowing for a more flexible space with the potential for events.

202 Hometown Tacos will be open lunch and dinner — as to whether they'll use that bar, the owners are hopeful. "Let's go!" reads the latest Instagram post from the restaurant. "Big meeting coming up on February 26th @ 7pm. Come support if you can!"

The folks who opened Off the Hook will open Napa Prime Chophouse in Marshall

Glenn and Lisa Hawley, who opened Off The Hook in Marshall about five years ago, are gearing up to open Napa Prime Chophouse in mid-March at 101 Fowler Road, also in Marshall, with executive chef John Dober heading the kitchen.

"While Off the Hook is high-end fish, this is fine-dining steak," Mr. Hawley said.

The restaurant, with seating for about 130 in the dining room and 40 at the bar, will partner with single-ranch sourced Prime beef producers. and will feature a dry-age locker for meats along, Among other amenities, the restaurant will have private wine lockers, and a cigar bar and lounge for patrons. The wine list will showcase California and U.S.-produced varietals, including 350 Cabernets.

The founding owner of Monterey Bay Fish Grotto in Mount Washington, the Hawleys have been in the restaurant industry for almost 30 years.

A new cafe has opened in the Ryan Center in McKees Rocks

Love Rocks Cafe has opened in McKees Rocks in the Ryan Center, a new spot from Jackie Page-Heidelberg at 420 Chartiers Ave. The cafe offers eggs, pancakes, waffles omelets and fresh fruit for

breakfast at \$6 per order, and plates like tacos and quesadillas for \$7 per order. The cafe is open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily.

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