

Business

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New restaurant opens in King's Centre

From staff reports

Russo's, featuring New Orleans-style cuisine, will have a ribbon-cutting and grand-opening ceremony at 11 a.m. today in the King's Centre, corner of South Roan and Main streets.

Veterans of the New Orleans restaurant business, co-owners Terry Russo and his wife, Lyz, relocated to Johnson City in late 2004. They refurbished the corner space on the ground floor of the newly remodeled King Centre and opened for business on Jan. 4.



Owners Terry and Lyz Russo in Russo's restaurant, which will hold its grand opening today at 11 a.m. (Tony Duncan / Johnson City Press)

The restaurant offers the food and festive atmosphere of New Orleans. "It's a real taste of the Big Easy, complete with great atmosphere and authentic Cajun fare," Terry Russo said.

Baskets stocked with shiny Mardi Gras beads await patrons as they enter the restaurant. "We are most excited about bringing New Orleans' festive atmosphere and signature dishes to a whole new community," Lyz Russo said.

Russo's lunch and dinner menus feature such New Orleans staples as Po' Boys, gumbo, jambalaya, red beans and rice, and their Russ-a-latta sandwich, a new twist on the world-renowned Muffuletta sandwiches of the Crescent City. With two children of their own, the Russos also offer a kids' menu.

"We see our restaurant as especially family-friendly," Lyz Russo said.

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“Russo’s is the kind of place where both kids and grown-ups can dine comfortably, and have a great time doing it.” She nods toward the Hands On! Regional Museum, located just across the street. “It’s our hope to offer even more opportunities for young people and their families in the future.”

“We feel very fortunate to have already received such a warm welcome from the Johnson City community and look forward to getting to know our guests and neighbors,” Terry Russo said.

As the weather permits, Russo’s will offer outdoor café-style dining. Special events have been planned for Mardi Gras week, culminating with Fat Tuesday (Feb. 28), which the Russos hope to celebrate with live music.

“Russo’s is the first in a series of new businesses that will enliven downtown Johnson City,” said Chuck Tessier, managing partner in Main Street Partners LLC, which recently purchased and renovated King’s Centre. “We believe Russo’s has all the quality, fun and energy to become a cornerstone of the downtown experience.”

Russo’s is open from 11 a.m. until 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 11 a.m. until 2 a.m. Friday and Saturdays. The restaurant is closed on Sundays. For more information, call 928-4441.

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