

Downtown restaurant projects get city's go-ahead

BY ROBERT BENSON
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SENECA — Two downtown restaurants received approval Monday for important exterior work from the Seneca Board of Architectural Review.

The board approved a plan on behalf of the Seneca Improvements Corporation for the new Vangeli's restaurant at 119 Ram Cat Alley. Board members also signed off on a plan for a new pizza restaurant at 403 E. Main St.

"We can move forward with the design elements as

PROJECTS: New restaurant hoping to open this fall

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we included in the construction plans," city administrator Scott Moulder said of the board's 4-0 vote on the Vangeli's project. "We feel like it's going to be a nice addition — especially taking it from the old City Pool Room — into something a little more architecturally pleasing and putting it back to use again."

The Seneca Improvements Corporation owns the building on Ram Cat Alley, and Vangeli's will lease it for 10-12 years to cover the cost of the \$700,000 reconstruction. Monday's action by the Board of Architectural Review gives the green light for a newly designed front entry on the front third of the building, outdoor seating, full-length windows, painting the brick and new lights for the front façade.

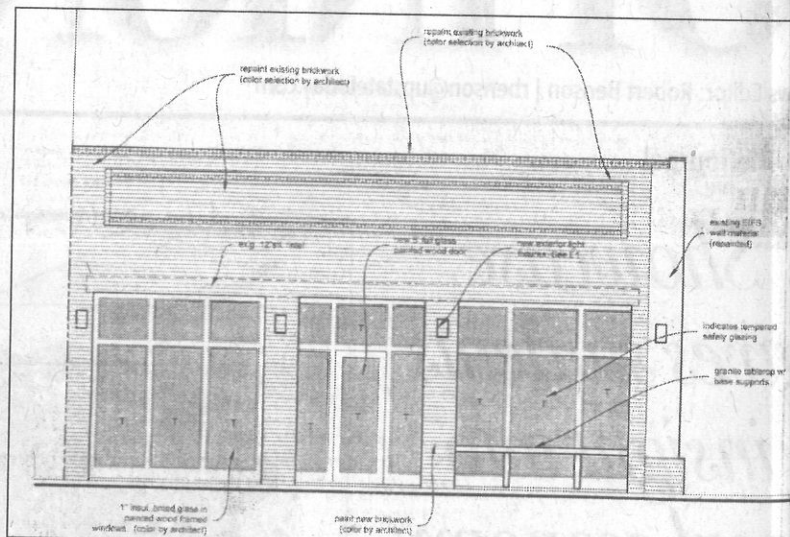
"It will be a newer look," Moulder told board members. The building was originally

constructed in 1965. Vangeli's was forced to close after its neighbor's roof became damaged. The new Vangeli's will occupy both its former space and the part of the building that housed the pool hall.

"We're adding a whole different element to the outdoor dining there on Ram Cat that's going to basically bring the indoors out and allow for patrons to feel part of the activities outside while they're having something to eat," Moulder said. "I think people will be pleased with it."

The Board of Architectural Review also approved exterior renovation plans for 403 E. Main St., including removing a stone façade from the building's exterior. Developer Ken Myers told the board his plan is to restore the "natural brick as close to original as possible" while cleaning up, repairing and restoring the entire building.

"We have to bring the whole



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This rendering shows what the front of the remodeled Vangeli's restaurant on Ram Cat Alley is set to look like.

building up to code," he said.

That process will include replacing an awning, removing tinted windows and paint and improving the rear deck and per-

gola. Eventually the unnamed restaurant will seat 18 indoors and an equal number outside. Myers hopes to open his new restaurant later this fall.