

# New downtown restaurants get early approval

BY NORM CANNADA  
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — The Seneca Board of Architectural Review approved plans Monday for two new restaurants in the downtown area.

The board unanimously approved certificates of appropriateness for G's Pizza House at 403 E. Main St. and Uncle Julio's Mexican restaurant at 123 N. Townville St. at its meeting Monday night.

Father and son team Ken and Garrett Myers are putting G's Pizza House next door to the Keowee Brewing Company. Both are owners, but Garrett will run

the business and Ken said he will eventually "bow out."

The restaurant's owners got approval from the board in September, but came back for another appearance on Monday because they wanted more changes outside than previously planned.

"The façade of the building has changed more substantially than just changing the awning," Ken said. "As we got into it more, we really needed to go further than that. We discovered the opportunity to make bigger windows."

The larger windows

SEE RESTAURANTS, PAGE A6

## RESTAURANTS: Set to open later this year

FROM PAGE A1

will be "flip-out windows," which they said would allow for dining on stools outside near the front of the building. There are also plans to have outside dining in the back. Ken said they are trying to preserve the brick as close to its original state as possible.

Garrett lived in Rome for several months and got some of his ideas for the restaurant there. The menu will include thin-crust, Italian-style pizza, with salads, sandwiches and gelato. He said he hopes to open Memorial Day weekend during SenecaFest and plans to live in a one-bedroom apartment being renovated above the restaurant.

"We should have the facility looking the part and ready (by Memorial Day weekend)," Ken said. "The wild card will be how soon we can get the state approval to actually provide food."

David Shipley, owner of Shipley's Furniture that is also located downtown, said the new Mexican restaurant is not part of the chain of Uncle Julio's restaurants in 12 states, but added he

is modeling the Seneca site after it.

"Julio's started in Texas, and they're friends of my family," he said. "I'm basically going to model my business off of theirs, but I'm not in any way associated with Uncle Julio's. I'm going to be an independent. I'm not a franchise."

The restaurant will also feature outdoor seating, and plans call for separated bar and restaurant areas. He hopes to open in mid-to-late summer.

"We're going to get there before Jazz (on the Alley) is over," Shipley said. "With not being in the restaurant business before, I'm learning and I don't want to do anything quickly without knowing exactly what I'm doing."

While continuing to own the nearby furniture store, Shipley said he is looking forward to a new challenge.

"I've been doing furniture for 30 years," he said. "I'm still young enough to try something else, and I've got good people working for me at the furniture store and had the opportunity to buy the building."

own &  
country  
ENTERPRISES, LLC

| & Trimming

Removed