

JAVA,

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Dylan and Elizabeth Antle, and Heather and Al Weaver, of Reel Java & Creamery, visited with the Jamestown City Council last week to give a status report on their move to Monument Square. (Photo provided)

Heather presented the council with a “mission statement” for Reel Java.

Heather said the business pledges to be “an active, productive, and responsible citizen of Jamestown and Russell County.”

“Our most valuable assets are our team and our customer base,” she said. “We will strive to create a work environment that encourages personal growth for each employee and treat them like family.”

“And in return, they will provide a one-of-a-kind experience for our customers that we serve,” Heather said.

Reel Java will “primarily serve” Jamestown and Russell Springs, but plans to market to “the influx of tourists at the height of boating and fishing season.”

The unique entity hopes to also tap into “surrounding communities” and “anyone within reach of our social media voice.”

Heather said what sets Reel Java apart from other eateries is “our distinction...of home-made items prepared using high quality ingredients, and presented to our customers with personal and friendly service.”

Reel Java intends to “review, reevaluate, and if necessary make appropriate changes to accommodate our community and customers’ needs.”

The business owners hope to see “collaboration opportunities with other, local businesses and the city in effort to bring growth to the community as a whole.”

The Reel Java presentation was met with a rousing, round of applause.

Al Weaver said he was appreciative of support from the local community, all the way up to state officials.

“It makes it feel like it’s worth it,” he said.

During a report on the project, Al said “we’ve hauled eight, 30-yard dumpsters out of there.”

“We pulled a lot of stuff out,” he said.

(The former People’s Department Store was most recently People’s Cafe.)

“We basically completely gutted the building,” Al said. “The four of us met a lot...and tried to come up with the best restaurant style that will fit the community.”

“One of the things is we’re trying to keep the building as historic as possible,” he said.

Renovation thus far has included removing layers of plaster to reveal exposed brick, extensive floor work, and addressing structural issues.

“When you finally get to come in there someday, it’ll be brick everywhere,” Al said. “That was original...I don’t even know when that was built, but there’s also this really cool arch that goes over the entrance into the kitchen. So, we’re going to try to keep most of that, if possible.”

Plans call for an additional bathroom in the main diner, and a new roof has been installed.

“Basically, we’re going to have a ‘new’ 100 year old building,” Al said.

The permit process for opening the facility “has been quite the roller coaster,” he said.

“That is one of our biggest frustrations,” Al said, “trying to get moving on that. We’re on about a four month hiatus waiting on a design and to get approved.”

Al said he received word before last week’s meeting the process has been “expedited.”

“Hopefully, we might be able to get back to work pretty soon,” he said.

Reel Java plans to eventually employ 35-40 employees, Al Weaver said.

“We’re going to try to hire most of our folks from right here in Jamestown,” he said. “We’re going to try to keep everybody local.”

Al said through “events” and promotion, other forms of retail can hopefully be brought to Monument Square.

He asked the council if they had considered providing more parking in and around the square, and even something as simple as signage could help.

Mayor Hinton said it was something that has been discussed in the past, and may be needed to address in the future.

“We need to see what we can do,” she said.

The mayor also suggested a sign at the Jamestown By-pass to inform travelers of businesses in the city proper.

Al Weaver hinted at what Reel Java will be like once opened.

The restaurant will provide “breakfast, lunch and dinner,” he said.

“We’re not a steakhouse yet,” Al said, “but we’re going to start off offering a 10 ounce sirloin. Then after we get

our feet wet, and open for about 30 days, we’ll probably throw our rib eye on there or something else.”

“We’re actually very excited about our menu,” Al said. “And our bakery should expand.”

Exact hours and days of operation have not yet been “set in stone,” he said, but the restaurant may possibly being closed Sunday and Monday.

“The restaurant business is very demanding and we all love it,” he told the council. “but it is good to have some dedicated days off.”

The Weavers moved to Russell County from Nebraska several years ago.

Known for their involvement with Timber Point Resort.

“Previously, we did run and own a restaurant for a lot of years,” Al said. “She (Heather) wanted to get back into it, so we started off with just a coffee shop, and in went into homemade ice cream and some bakery items.”

“Then she asked me to build a coffee shop, a bigger one, so I did,” Al said, “and then that turned into I want to serve pizza, and then I want to serve this, and then I want to add on a whole kitchen...so now, here we are!”

Each addition to Reel Java has been wildly successful, so the next step just makes sense.

“We’re very community driven,” Al said. “We love the community, we love small towns, and we just love Kentucky. It’s such a great place. We had looked and looked and looked in this area.”

When the opportunity came up to purchase the landmark on the square, Al admits he had reservations.

“I’ll be honest,” he said, “I said no way, it’s too much work.”

With a little encouragement from Dylan and Elizabeth Antle, “we took on the project,” Al said.

“They’re younger, Christian adults that are just great people,” Al said. “We asked them to be our partners, and they’re super excited about it.”

“I can’t wait for it to get open,” Mayor Hinton said.

Al encouraged people to watch social media for future announcements about the opening.

“We’d love to be open right now if we could,” he said.

BILLY,

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Russell County Animal Welfare League Treasurer Jo Castlen, left, presented a check to “Uncle James” Clark, right, of the DAV, for “rent” of the facility. The DAV is allowing spay/neuter clinics to be held at their facility.

McCalvin said she noticed Billy sometimes struggled.

“It was evident something was wrong,” she said. “He would try to walk... and he would fall, he would try to run, and he would fall.”

“I started out fostering him,” McCalvin, a member of the animal welfare league, explained.

Billy was sent to a neurologist who said the dog’s perilous condition was “because of all the breeding.”

Concerns arose about the pet’s brain and nervous system.

“So we dealt with it,” she said. “He loved life, and I adored him. He was happy to play with his toys and lay in my lap.”

“Not really knowing his outcome, I adopted him,” McCalvin said.

“I just couldn’t see sending him to another home to try to adjust.”

But over time, Billy’s condition deteriorated.

“It was horrific,” McCalvin said. “You couldn’t leave him alone, we tried two, different medications...and eight months after having him, he started seizing and couldn’t stop.”

Billy passed away.

“It devastated me,” McCalvin said. “My whole world turned upside down. I went from sadness to anger. He was, what we call in the animal world, a ‘heart dog.’ His medical problems didn’t need to happen...and that’s why I’m here today. I’m fighting for Billy.”

The weekend event was held in hopes of drawing attention to animal overpopulation, and to inform the community of efforts to combat it.

“Our group is very passionate,” she said of the animal welfare league, and its dedicated volunteers. “We have all had experiences that drive us regarding spay and neutering.”

“We know the roots of pet overpopulation is from a lack of high-quality, low-cost, spay/neuter options in our rural community,”

McCalvin said.

She said nearly 40 cats and dogs are already scheduled for the league’s first spay/

can help people, and animals, is by spay and neuter,” Foster said. “It’s going to be a big help in solving our problem.”



Russell County Animal Control Officer Skylar Luttrell, left, was presented with a chip scanner by the Russell County Animal Welfare League (AWL) this weekend. The device, demonstrated at an Open House Sunday by AWL Vice President Susan Rarey, will help lost pets be more quickly united with their owners. Luttrell was joined by Russell County Judge Executive Randy Marcum, center, and his lovey wife Wendy, right. Luttrell also won a door prize at the event.

neuter clinic next Tuesday, May 30, and 80 cats are set for a June clinic.

“Our goal is at least one clinic a month,” McCalvin said, “but we really want to have two. We’re going to push for two a month.”

She said education programs about spay/neuter are being planned, and encour-

The league expressed their appreciation to the local Disabled American Veterans (DAV) chapter for providing space for spay/neuter clinics at 155 Owenstown Rd. in Russell Springs.

Russell County Judge Executive Randy Marcum, and Russell Springs Mayor Eddie Thomas, who attended the event,



Lake Area Foundation Board Member Hershell Key, right presented Russell County Animal Welfare League President Connie Foster, left, a \$5,000 Lake Area Foundation Community Development Grant at the league’s Open House this past weekend. The grant is earmarked to assist local senior citizens with the cost of spay and neuter services.

ages the public to spread the word.

“We need your support to be successful,” McCalvin said. “We have done a lot in a short period of time, and I’m really proud of our accomplishments.”

Russell County Animal Welfare League President Connie Foster said it was a blessing to see the spay/neuter clinic “become a reality.”

“The best way we

both acknowledged the importance of, and need for the clinics, and pledged support for the animal welfare league.

More information about the league and upcoming clinics can be found on their entity’s Facebook page, by email at RussellCountyAnimalWelfare@gmail.com, or by calling (270) 321-1313.

(Content courtesy of Kate Daffron)