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A look inside the Frontier House, as renovations continue toward a planned summer reopening. Clockwise: A first-floor side room. • A future Fairbanks restaurant bar. • An historic fireplace. • Upper-level metal framing. • The first-floor staircase. See more photos online at www.wnypapers.com.

FRONTIER HOUSE EYEING SUMMER OPENING

Work progressing on new restaurant, apartment and rental units

BY JOSHUA MALONI
GM/Managing Editor

With interior renovations well underway, and aesthetic pieces soon to follow, the Frontier House team is expecting the Village of Lewiston's 200-year-old centerpiece will reopen this summer.

"The restaurant space, they're up and running," Ellicott Development Co. Director of Development Tom Fox said last Friday, as laborers worked on one of the new ground-level bars.

He explained the former first-floor tiles were removed and will be replaced with hardwood to match the upper levels. The outline of a new serving hallway is visible, and will connect the open

kitchen to new restrooms and a new wall of windows/new ADA-compliant porch entrance facing into the parking lot.

"It's really exciting," Fox said. "I've seen a lot of the restaurant finishes come together, with Michael P Design, and it's really going to be top-notch what they're working on here."

This main floor has a new staircase leading to the second floor. Through the main entrance on the Center Street side, guests will be welcomed by a hostess station. As they walk down the corridor, to the left, they'll see two side rooms with additional bar setups – these can also be closed and used for meeting or banquet space. On the

right is the main dining area and another pocket space.

"I know that they're looking at options to repurpose the fireplaces here, too," Fox said.

Custom railings are being made to match the historic balustrades, and will be seen with each level's staircase.

Fairbanks

When announcing the Fairbanks restaurant, Billy Club proprietor Daniel Hagen noted, "We are thrilled to bring our passion for food and hospitality to Lewiston. We have always admired the Frontier House for its historic charm and significance, and we are honored to be part of its revival. We hope to create a place that

will become a destination for locals and visitors alike, where they can enjoy great food and drinks in a beautiful setting."

The press release noted, "Fairbanks will feature a menu that changes frequently based on the availability and quality of the ingredients sourced from nearby farms, orchards and vineyards. The restaurant will also offer a curated selection of wine, beer and cocktails that complement the food and reflect the region's diversity."

"The restaurant's name pays homage to Joshua Fairbanks, who built the Frontier House in 1824 as a hotel and tavern."

"It's going to be such a transfor-

mation," Fox said. "It's really exciting to know what it's like now, what it was, and what it's going to be – it's going to be great."

Project timeline

Ellicott Development teamed with local developers in 2019 to purchase the Frontier House building and grounds, which have been closed to the public since McDonald's Restaurant declined to extend its lease in 2004.

The coronavirus pandemic and subsequent labor and supply shortages delayed Frontier House renovations, causing further frustration for residents and local leaders eagerly awaiting a grand reopening. However, the *SEE FRONTIER, continued on Page 8*



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