



Penn Station employees grill a sandwich to order. The restaurant's menu comprises 14 sub sandwiches as well as fresh-cut fries and freshly squeezed lemonade, both made daily in the store.



Penn Station employee Corie Norrington rings up a customer at the new Monroe Street location. The sub shop opened on March 10 across the street from the Westfield Franklin Park Mall.

Fresh Start: Penn Station Subs Open Local Restaurants

BY KERRI RALLS
MIRROR REPORTER

If area residents have a taste for fresh-made subs, fries and lemonade prepared in five minutes, Penn Station is ready to cure the cravings.

Penn Station East Coast Subs franchises recently opened their doors on Holland-Sylvania Road in Holland and on Monroe Street near Westfield Franklin Park Shopping Mall.

Owner Jamie Talberth said his restaurants have something to offer that others don't: extreme freshness.

"It's all raw ingredients instead of pre-prepared, pre-portioned food," Talberth said. "We actually cook it all here."

Talberth himself can't resist the Penn Station cuisine.

Talberth's former position as a general manager with Marriott Hotels moved him and his family to Dayton, where they got their first taste of the subs.

"It was just a first reaction," Talberth said. "If we're ever going to do any-

thing, we're going to open a Penn Station."

Talberth said he and his wife had the thought in mind, but not enough financing to support it.

A few years later, Talberth started DBT Acquisitions, Inc., named using his son's initials, to open the stores.

He gathered the money and signed a multi-unit deal with Penn Station. He currently has the rights to Lucas County and northern Wood County.

The Holland location opened in August 2004.

"In there, from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., you can't find a seat," Talberth said.

Based on the success of the Holland store, Talberth was ready to expand.

The Monroe Street location opened on March 10.

"The first day at the Monroe location beat the best day at the Holland location," Talberth said.

Penn Station boasts a menu of 14 sub sandwiches, including a chicken cordon bleu, Italian, tuna salad, veggie and a build-your-own



A new Penn Station East Coast Subs location opened on March 10 on Monroe Street near Westfield Franklin Park Mall. Store owner Jamie Talberth says the sub shop offers extreme freshness.

MIRROR PHOTO BY KERRI RALLS

option, among others.

For those watching their weight, any sandwich can be made as a salad.

Orders are prepared fresh as you wait, with employees manning the grills to serve hot sandwiches.

Also, at Penn Station, the secret really is in the sauce.

In addition to specially made Penn Station bread, sandwiches are topped with

a secret sauce, ingredients unknown even to Talberth.

If sandwiches aren't your thing, the restaurant also offers freshly squeezed lemonade and fresh-cut fries, made daily in the store.

Managing owner Nick Faris said the store goes through about 1,200 pounds of potatoes and 500 pounds of lemons per week.

The reason for those large numbers?

According to Faris, "once you eat it, you're sold."

Faris, who has 11 years experience in food service, said most people get stuck on one sandwich.

But he encourages customers to try them all. Faris said his favorite is the Philly cheese steak.

"The cheese steak is actually raw, fresh steak," Talberth said. It's grilled and prepared before the customer's eyes.

It is also the most popular Penn Station sub, accounting for 27 percent of all sales around the country.

Both locations also offer kids' meals for the little ones. The meals feature smaller versions of the sandwiches, fries, a drink and a lollipop for \$3.79.

event, Faris said.

Additionally, each month finds a new featured sub, offered to customers at a reduced price. This month's sub of the month is the chicken teriyaki.

First-time customer Drew Hersch, 21, said he came for the Philly cheese steak and was happy with his dining experience.

"It's good," Hersch said. He also noted the clean dining room.

Talberth, a Perrysburg resident, and Faris are looking into further expansion.

Talberth said he would like to open Perrysburg and Bowling Green locations.

The current two shops are located at 1266 S. Holland-Sylvania Rd. in Springfield Commons and at 4798 Monroe St. across from Bob Evans.

Store hours are Monday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

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