

Duxbury Neighbors

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Why the Higgins -Howes CAME TO DUXBURY

PHOTO BY MICHELLE MEMMO,
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THE OYSTERMAN OF DUXBURY OPENS ITS DOORS

By Mary McKenzie

DUXBURY IS KNOWN FOR ITS OYSTERS. With over 30 oyster farmers in town, it's the state's top producer of oysters and the oysters are sold far beyond Boston's South Shore daily.

Which is why Duxbury resident Dermot Loftus thought an oyster bar and tavern might be a good fit for town. "I thought there was a niche that could be filled here in Duxbury" said Loftus, who also co-owns the popular Porter Cafe in West Roxbury.

Loftus has completely renovated the spot that was originally Duxbury's railroad station. The renovation and reopening of this building is part of a bigger plan by Plymouth-based Juliano Enterprises Inc. (JEI) for renovating the Millbrook area. JEI has dubbed the renovation Millbrook Station.

The project extends to several other retail establishments and includes plans for housing above storefronts along St. George Street. The building is cozy, so seating will be limited to 49 people - 13 at the bar and 36 at the tables. The raw bar is at the far end as you open the door, a full bar featuring 20 craft beers on tap is on your left side and seating on the right with an upholstered bench extending the length of the room.

If you see something that looks different about the bar, the old railroad tracks that developer Mike Juliano (principal at JEI) found in the back of the building have been repurposed as the foot rail for the barstools.

The wood itself might look unique, and it is. The bar was built with the repurposed wood from a barn at back of the building.

The walls at the Oysterman will showcase the work of local photographer Amy Demos. "This is going to create an 'all about the town' feeling when you walk in," Loftus said. "From beautiful pictures of the Powder Point Bridge and Bug Light, to oysters at



the raw bar and to the building itself, which is part of Duxbury's history. This place is all about Duxbury and all it has to offer."

Loftus said he wants The Oysterman to become a casual place for both locals and visitors to enjoy a meal in a relaxed atmosphere.

With all the construction now finished, a vacant building and lot have a new purpose again. "I like that we are bringing life back to a spot that has been vacant for over two years", said Loftus, who moved from Boston to Duxbury two years ago with his wife and two children.

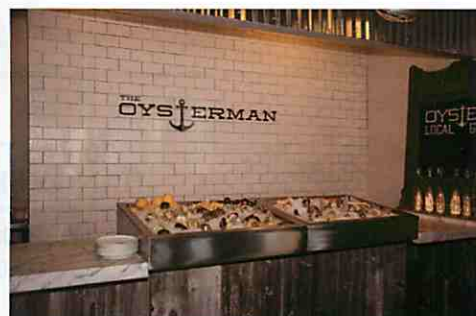
"It's a great location and pretty central to the schools and on the way to and from the beach".

Beyond oysters, the restaurant will feature a scratch kitchen, where all dishes are cooked to order.

The Oysterman will be open for dinner seven days a week with plans to add lunch and brunch later in the year.

It is fully licensed to serve alcohol and Oysterman customers will be able to choose from a rotating list of 20 craft beers, contemporary cocktails and a modern wine list.

Chris Schweiger, who will be general manager, said the restaurant will also feature a late night menu for those looking for a quick bite after 10PM. Schweiger comes to The Oysterman with years




of experience working at the Hill Tavern, Scampo and most recently Orta.

With the restaurant now open, both Loftus and Schweiger have been overwhelmed by the positive response and are enjoying meeting and getting to know members of the community. "We are humbled that The Oysterman has already become part of the town," said Loftus. ■

To find out more about The Oysterman, visit the tavern's page on Facebook or website: www.oystermanduxbury.com call 781-934-2900 or email: info@theoystermanduxbury.com. Opened October 2016. Hours: 4pm to 12midnight, Sunday through Wednesday. 4pm to 1am Thursday through Saturday.

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