

Allston Brighton

home

news

events

discussions

search

GO

< Back to front page

Text size

ALLSTON BRIGHTON

Joshua Tree bar and restaurant in Allston closes; developer working to complete deal to buy property

Posted by Matt Rocheleau January 8, 2014 12:15 PM

794

98

0

1

Comments ()

E-mail story

Print story

Share

Facebook

Twitter

Pinterest

Share

Share

By Matt Rocheleau, Boston.com Staff

The Joshua Tree bar and restaurant in Allston has closed permanently and a deal is in the works for a prominent Boston development and real estate firm to buy the property.

The Mount Vernon Company is in the final stages of purchasing the location at 1314 Commonwealth Ave., according to owners on both sides of the transaction.

Bruce Percelay, chairman and founder of Mount Vernon, said his company has not yet picked a tenant to fill the space, but is in talks with several businesses. He said "ideally" the space will become home to a "specialty grocer."

The retail space is on the same block where Mount Vernon is constructing the final of three new high-end, eco-friendly apartment buildings, surrounded by several other residential complexes the company owns and has recently renovated.

The developer has dubbed the area the "Green District" because the company has focused on designing environmental-friendly buildings and encouraging tenants to follow certain sustainable living practices.

While the overhaul of that part of Allston has prompted some concerns over gentrification, many have said they welcome the changes, including the latest move to close Joshua Tree.

Before the developer began rebuilding the couple-block area a few years ago, much of the property housed a series of run-down, low-level warehouses and garages. The poorly-lit area drew some problems with loitering and graffiti, according to police.

Neighbors called regularly to complain about noise, especially in the early morning hours just after Joshua Tree would close, police said. The bar also drew some patrons who parked illegally on surrounding streets. The bar itself was cited by police several times for alleged underage drinking and other violations.

"We look at it as a big, big positive for clamping down on crime in that area," Sergeant Michael O'Hara, who runs the community service office of the Boston Police Department station that oversees Allston and Brighton, said of the bar's closure and the other changes in that area. "We had a lot of community quality of life issues down there."

Connect to Allston Brighton

Follow @YourAllstonBri 2,717 followers

Like You and 624 others like this. 624 people like this.

Tweets

Follow

Allston Brighton @YourAllstonBri 7h
Shaun White's Withdrawal from Slopestyle (BU News Service) bit.ly/1iDmijT

Allston Brighton @YourAllstonBri 13h
Somerville Receives Smallest "Pocket Change" Grant in Statewide Competition (BU News

Tweet to @YourAllstonBri

BostonShops »



Let the shopping begin. Get exclusive promotions and sales from your favorite retailers. And never miss a great deal again.

See a sample [SIGN UP NOW](#)

Also From Allston-Brighton

GALLERY



Harvard's new innovation lab

WATERWORKS MUSEUM

Joshua Tree closed its doors for good on Jan. 1, said Giuseppe Arcari, who co-owns the bar with Julian Bolger and Martin Murphy.

"Unfortunately, the business just wasn't there anymore," he said, citing increased competition from other neighborhood bars.

Arcari said he expects the sale to Mount Vernon to close by the end of the month.

The [Boston Restaurant Talk](#) blog first reported Wednesday on the establishment's closure.

Arcari said he and his ownership partners opened a bar at the space about six or seven years ago. The bar was called Tonic, at first, before the name was changed to Joshua Tree, he said.

In the past few years, the bar had undergone a series of changes.

In the summer of 2011, it [overhauled](#) its interior and changed its name to Barley Hall. Less than a year later, the name was [switched back](#) to Joshua Tree.

City and state land records show the 5,800-square-foot commercial property is assessed at \$2.3 million – \$1.7 million accounts for the value of the building, which has about 10,000 square feet of space on two levels, a basement and a ground floor.

Another Joshua Tree location in Somerville's Davis Square will remain open, according to Arcari. Some of the 50 employees from the Allston location now work at the Somerville spot, others were laid off.

E-mail Matt Rocheleau at matthew.rocheleau@globe.com.

--
For the latest updates about your community, follow some of our local neighborhood, city and town Twitter accounts, [here](#).



A look inside the new museum

NIGHTLIFE



A turbulent year for Allston businesses

TRENDS



They kick it in Allston like no place else

794 98 0 1

Share Facebook Twitter Pinterest Share Share

Comments ()
E-mail story
Print story

PREVIOUS STORY [City to discuss improvements to Town Field on Thursday](#)

FRONT PAGE

NEXT STORY [Revere casino advocates get the jump on February vote](#)

RELATED CONTENT

Sponsored Content by Taboola



14 Benefits Most Seniors Didn't Know They Had
Newsmax



If You Ever Want to Retire Look at This Chart
Money Morning



You Haven't Lived Until You Visit These 10 All-Inclusive Resorts
TripCurator



One of the Most Classic SNL Sketches of All Time

Yahoo Screen

5 Foods You Should Never Eat Again

My Diet

Jenny McCarthy Bares All

Ora.TV

FROM THE WEB

5 Major Signs if Your Parents Will Get Alzheimer's in Their Brain (NewsmaxHealth)

Little Known Way to Pay Off Mortgage (Weekly Financial Solutions)

Millennials are Drinking so Much Wine They're Changing How it's Sold (Parade)

4 Places You Should Avoid Using Your Credit Card (Bankrate)

Check Out the Surprising Car that Mark Zuckerberg Drives (Wall St. Cheat Sheet)

FROM BOSTON.COM AND PARTNER

Woman on flight from Florida becomes ill and is pronounced dead at Logan Airport (Boston.com)

Pierce Brosnan's daughter dies of ovarian cancer (Boston.com)

Student killed and 3 hurt in high school fight (Boston.com)

Red Sox intensifying search for trade possibilities (Boston.com)

Married couple, infant twin sons found dead in Arlington (Boston.com)

Promoted Content by Taboola



Loading comments...

[Home](#) | [Today's Globe](#) | [News](#) | [Business](#) | [Sports](#) | [Lifestyle](#) | [A&E](#) | [Things to Do](#) | [Travel](#) | [Cars](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Local Search](#)

[CONTACT BOSTON.COM](#) | [Help](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Work here](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Your Ad Choices](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [Mobile](#) | [RSS feeds](#) | [Sitemap](#)

[CONTACT THE BOSTON GLOBE](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Manage your subscription](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Boston Globe Insiders](#) | [The Boston Globe Gallery](#) | © 2014 Boston Globe Media Partners, LLC