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With business booming, ABC to expand

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The Amherst Brewing Company, a full-service brewery, bar and restaurant is planning to expand its popular downtown location and open earlier on Sundays for brunch.

Media Credit: Caitlin Coughlan/Collegian
The Amherst Brewing Company is buying out the space next door, formerly Mystery Train Records, to expand seating and decrease weekend crowds.
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Pending town approval and building permits, the ABC will connect the vacant space next door to its present location at 24 North Pleasant St. in Amherst.

The space became available when the Mystery Train Record store relocated to 178-A North Pleasant St.

John Korpita, owner of the ABC, expects the estimated $100,000 project to start in mid-October and finish sometime in December.

Korpita said the construction will not disturb the existing location. The biggest change, however, will be moving the main entrance to the empty record store's previous entrance, as to eliminate the bottleneck that can occur on Friday and Saturday nights, according to Korpita.

Extending above the new entrance, they will construct a more permanent awning to replace the old one above the outdoor patio seating area.

"The new awning will really dress up the place," added Korpita.

The new space adds about 40 seats to the existing 150-seat restaurant downstairs and 100-seat lounge and game room upstairs. As part of a design to reassemble the upstairs, most seating will be benches or booths and the addition will be equipped with televisions to create a "lounge feel," according to Korpita.

"The downstairs dining room is not an appealing place to hang out compared to the upstairs and we want to bring that comfortable feel down here," he said.

Korpita hopes the new space will attract guests, especially if there is a line for the upstairs or if it is crowded.

Initially, the plans were to connect the new area by knocking down the entire wall. However, they have decided for now to have two regular doorways, allowing large groups to sit together but still have their own privacy.

Continued...

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