News

Patriot Place, CBS Scene beef up employment rolls

BY MATT ROCHELEAU SUN CHRONICLE STAFF — Tuesday, June 17, 2008 2:54 AM EDT

Construction at Patriot Place in Foxboro, where retail development is bringing plenty of jobs to the area. (Staff photo by Tom Maguire)

FOXBORO - Local workers pinched by the slowing economy and rising unemployment can seek relief at upcoming job fairs at Patriot Place near Gillette Stadium in Foxboro.

Tenants have begun interviewing for the remaining 1,600 full- and part-time jobs created by the retail center.

The CBS Scene Restaurant & Bar job fair started Monday with about 500 interviews scheduled. The three-level, 15,000-square-foot restaurant and entertainment venue plans to hire about 160 employees through Friday, general manager Michael Seznec said.

"We'll be hiring people from a wide range of hospitality, retail and restaurant backgrounds," he said.

Seznec was one of five managers interviewing candidates and said he did not notice an above average number of unemployed applicants. This despite the national unemployment rate rising for the fifth month in a row during May by 0.5 percent, the largest jump in 22 years, to 5.5 percent. "It's really a mix," he said of those who applied.

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The state unemployment rate is 4.1 percent, ranking as the 19th lowest in the U.S., according to CNNMoney.com.

Patriot Place stores already have added 400 jobs at recently opened businesses, including Bass Pro Shops, Staples, Circuit City, Christmas Tree Shops, Off Broadway Shoe Warehouse and Bed Bath & Beyond.

About 275 of those jobs were filled by local residents during job fairs this past August from Bass Pro Shops, which opened in November, said promotions manager Thomas Keating.

"It's a great way to get people staffed," said Keating of the job fairs. "We had no trouble filling spots."

Employees at CBS Scene can expect training to start July 21. The restaurant's grand opening is tentatively set for the weekend of Sept. 6, the same weekend the Patriots have their home opener.

Many other Patriot Place tenants plan to hold job fairs over the next two months.

Patriot Place will feature more than 70 shopping, dining, and entertainment locations. Over half of these are expected to be open for the start of the football season in September.

"We're excited to be providing an opportunity at a time when so many people are either job seeking or looking for a part-time job to supplement their income," said Brian Earley, the mall's general manager.

"Over the last year, more than 1,000 tradespeople have been at work building Patriot Place," he said. "We are glad to be in this position in the current economic climate."

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Post Your Comments

dogsrule wrote on Jul 1, 2008 12:46 PM:
" Connemara - Do you mind sharing if you have heard from CBS Scene? I had an interview last week and I'm wondering if they hired all they need. Thanks - "

Connemara wrote on Jun 17, 2008 3:21 PM:
" Thank you for your best wishes. I do understand what you are saying about the jobs available at Patriot Place -but I think there is a great need for part-time employment in this area also. There are many people in this area who are looking for part-time jobs to supplement their income and not necessarily high-level full-time jobs. I think there will be many opportunities for parents, for example, that want to work either nights/weekends - or when the kids are in school. "

realist wrote on Jun 17, 2008 1:46 PM:
" Connemara -- I wish you the best of luck. Between CBS Scene and Bass Pro shops, it's becoming quite a destination that will attract people even from outside the local area. I'm just lamenting that, except for a few senior level positions, many of these jobs won't pay a mortgage or send kids to school. The good jobs from places like the Foxboro Company or One Beacon Insurance are gone and nothing has really replaced them. "

Connemara wrote on Jun 17, 2008 11:21 AM:
" Realist: I had an interview for a position at CBS Scene last night. Hopefully, I'll get hired - it's going to be beautiful. I think Patriot Place is going to be a spectacular addition to the local area. With the cost of gas as it is - it will be great for local people to not have to travel far for this type of shopping/entertainment. I don't know about the majority of people looking for jobs at Patriot Place - but I'm looking for a 2nd job to make some EXTRA cash. "

realist wrote on Jun 17, 2008 9:46 AM:
" Ah retail jobs. Where the average workers might actually make enough to transport themselves to and from work and maybe get lunch at a complex designed to remove more wealth than it brings to an area.

I hate to sound cynical and I don't fault the Kraft family - but couldn't they use their influence to bring more real jobs in the area? "

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