



Hush Puppies, hot dogs now served under same Brunswick roof

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The opening of the city's first seafood restaurant -- an Arthur Treacher's at 3753 Center Road -- was the brainchild of the father-son team of Frank (left) and Michael Chestney.

BRUNSWICK - The city of Brunswick, it would seem, was destined to be part of Frank Chestney's future whether he liked it or not.

"When we moved here in 2004, Brunswick wasn't even on our radar, but we fell in love with this area," said the owner of the city's first seafood restaurant — a partner franchise between Arthur Treacher's Fish and Chips and Nathan's Famous Hotdogs that opened Feb. 28.

As the lease at Chestney's Parma Heights Arthur Treacher's location ended after 10 years, he again turned to his adopted home town.

"We looked at a lot of sites, but my son, Michael and I had always said this was the perfect size and location – even back when it was Mr. Chicken," Chestney said. "Michael said we needed to do a Scooby Doo on the owners and convince them the building is haunted."

Though Chestney and his wife, Mary, passed on specifically taking 14-year-old Michael's approach, a stuffed Scooby Doo does currently reside at the restaurant.

On a more practical level, Frank Chestney said the estimated 38,000 cars that pass by the 3753 Center Road location, along with its drive-through, were ultimately the reason the site was chosen from among the others.

"That, and it's close to home," he said. "And that's not just because of the short drive, but because we want to be a part the Brunswick community."

Chestney, who actually had the keys to the building Oct. 1, said he saved an estimated \$50,000 to \$75,000 in construction costs by doing much of the work himself – with Michael close at hand.

"When we were finished he was proud to be able to say 'hey, I helped you with the lights'," Chestney said. "I told him he has a much better attitude about that sort of thing than I did at his age."

The branding agreement with Nathan's — its menu all-American hotdogs, coney dogs, hamburgers and fries creating a unique culinary balance with Arthur Treacher's British fare — was also designed to bring a larger cross-section of customers, Chestney said.

"There will be something for kids and adults," Chestney said.

At the grand opening event Feb. 28, the Herman family — Kelly, Andrew, Emma, Lisa and Megan couldn't have agreed more, raving about everything from the fish to the lobster bites.

John Herman, a CPA at Brunswick-based Lou-Ray Associates — said the restaurant has great food and will be a great place for family's to go.

"Especially in the summer time," he said. "Where else can you go for a hotdog and a funnel cake outside of a carnival?"



Customers kept business booming on the first day of business at the new Arthur Treacher's/Nathan's Famous Hotdogs on Center Road Feb. 27. Owner Frank Chestney said 15 new employees have been hired, from an estimated 75 applicants.