

New Orleans style

Big Easy does it in Destin

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If you live in Destin, New Orleans is moving closer — or at least its cuisine is.

The well-known New Orleans institutions Pat O'Brien's, Camellia Grill and Commander's Palace have all announced that they'll be opening new locations in Legendary's HarborWalk Village on Destin harbor. Clark and Blake Brennan, whose family own the Brennan's Restaurant of New Orleans, have opened the Brennan's Royal B Restaurant on Emerald Coast Parkway. Over in Walton County, another Big Easy restaurant, Fire, relocated earlier this year to Grayton Beach.

"The economy in New Orleans is just in such a state that I couldn't stay open," Fire owner Brenda Darr said in an interview. "After all of us living through Katrina, we thought this would be peaceful and the quality of life would be better. And it's not too far from New Orleans for us to go back home and visit if we want."

Keeping close to New Orleans was important,

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Rendering of completed HarborWalk

Village 'growing up' as plans take shape

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Every day it seems Legendary Inc.'s vision for HarborWalk Village — and for Destin harbor — comes into clearer focus.

Construction is a daily occurrence in the area as HarborWalk readies for its summer grand opening.

Please see **SHAPE** on **A10**

Log illustration by KATHY HARRISON



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THE FUTURE OF HARBOR RETAIL: Rik Bos, vice president of Legendary Inc., said the company's HarborWalk Village, slated to open in June, will bring the community together in a one-of-a-kind retail atmosphere.

SHAPE

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"We're growing up," said Legendary Vice President Rik Bos. "This is real-life development, and we're going through our growth phases."

With construction on the complex well under way, Bos has shifted his focus to the future of HarborWalk Village, particularly its introduction to the community.

"The opening of HarborWalk Village will be a new chapter in the history of Destin," he said. "We want to celebrate our community coming together in a true festival marketplace to enjoy and experience the best God-given piece of real estate in the world — the magical sunset over the Destin Pass. This summer, we want to be

able to start something that brings us all together."

Even though this "grand opening of a lifetime" is months off, Bos said he has been hard at work bringing first-class restaurants and merchants to HarborWalk Village.

"This is going to be a first-class retail community. Retail in this market is bigger than the beach now. The beach brought them here but people come down here to shop," he said. "HarborWalk Village has a chance to bring specialty retail to Destin. Our goal is to bring new retail merchants to the harbor."

Some of those retailers will gather for the HarborWalk Village Holiday Trunk Show on Dec. 13 in the Emerald Grande ballroom. The event, sponsored by HarborWalk, Commander's Palace and Tee-na Haven, will feature jewelry by New Orleans-based jew-

elry designer Mignon Faget with a portion of the proceeds going to the Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation.

As Legendary plots out its plans for the harbor, the city of Destin decided to go forward with its harbor redevelopment plan, when the Community Redevelopment Agency board approved the Tetra Tech/EDSA harbor design for implementation in late October.

Bos said the harbor's success will hinge largely on the ability of its myriad property owners to work together for the greater good of the harbor's future.

"Our ability to network with other property owners will be vital to our ability to bring people down to the harbor," he said. "At the end of the day, it's about building a new economy down on the harbor and that benefits everyone."