

Vail Daily

Village gets grocery store, theater back

Closing of these businesses sent 'wrong messages' to locals and visitors, developer says

Edward Stoner

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VAIL - Developer Bob McNichols is making sure central Vail has a grocery store and a movie theater.

McNichols, who is building One Willow Bridge Road across the street from Crossroads, has opened a grocery store called Crossroads Market in the old Clark's Market space.

And McNichols is reopening the Crossroads Cinema, which closed its doors in April. Owner Steve Lindstrom then cited slow business and a deteriorating building. McNichols said he reached an agreement with Lindstrom in which McNichols will fund the operations of the theater.

McNichols said the closings of Clark's Market and Crossroads Theater were sending the wrong message to locals and visitors.

"We're starting to tell people, 'Don't show up unless you can provide these services yourself,'" McNichols said.

The theater, which will reopen July 14, will show first-run movies three to four weeks after their release, as well as vintage movies, McNichols said. The theater will also host live performances. He is working with the Vail Jazz Foundation as well as Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival to bring live performances to the theater, he said.

McNichols will make some improvements to the interior of the theater before it opens, he said.

Filling a niche

The new Crossroads Market serves two functions, said manager Peter Wilson.



It fills a niche in Vail Village and Lionshead that was left open when Clark's Market closed, and it also allows him to train employees for the market that will be on the first floor of One Willow Bridge Road, the condo and timeshare building across the street. That market is supposed to open later this year.

McNichols is still selling some of the timeshares for the project.

The future of the current Crossroads building hinges on a town vote Tuesday. Peter Knobel, owner of Crossroads, is proposing a complex with 69 condos, a three-screen movie theater, a 10-lane bowling alley, a public plaza, stores and restaurants.

If Crossroads is redeveloped, McNichols has pledged to open a convenience-store-

The Crossroads Market has opened up to replace the recently closed Clark's Market in Vail Village. **Preston Utley/Vail Daily**



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Bob McNichols

style shop in the new Crossroads building. That convenience store would complement his market in One Willow Bridge Road.

Tom Clark, owner of Clark's Market, closed his Vail store in April, citing a lack of commitment by Vail to small businesses. Knobel then approached McNichols about opening a grocery store in Vail.

The newly opened Crossroads market sells fruits and vegetables, deli items, breads, sandwiches and other groceries.

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Crossroads Market also is bringing in local small businesses to provide services. Verbatim provides newspapers and magazines, To Catch a Cook provides cooking supplies, HotHouse Flowers and A Secret Garden provide flowers, Mountain Dog provides pet supplies and Colorado Mountain Cleaners offers dry-cleaning services there.

McNichols is using his 1926 Model T Ford, which he bought as a collector's item, to deliver groceries. The store is delivering in the village now, and McNichols hopes to expand delivery to other parts of Vail.

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Vail, Colorado

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